

--[Intro to Sociology]--

- +The sociological perspective
  - +Sociological Imagination
  - +Focuses on the social context in which people live
  - +how are people influenced by their society?
  - +Society: a group of people who share a culture and territory

+Social Location

- + "The corners in life that people occupy because of where they are located in society"
- +Examples:
  - +age
  - +gender
  - +race
  - +occupation
  - +income
  - +education

+C.Wright Mills

- + "The sociological imagination enables us to grasp the connection between history and biography"
- +History: Each society is located in a broad stream of events
- +Biography: Each individual's specific experiences, or external influences, become part of our thinking and motivation

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+Origins of Sociology

- +People have always asked questions about social life
- +Ancient peoples answered them with myths and superstition
- +Sociology is the application of science to these same questions
- +Seriously emerged in the middle of the 1800's

- +Grew out of social upheaval
- +Major social changes occurred in during the end of the 1700's and the beginning of the 1800's
  - +american revolution
  - +french revolution
- +Ideals that individuals hold inalienable rights
- +Fall of "Traditional" Governments

- +Industrial Revolution
  - +mass movement into the cities
  - +changes in work and family
  - +loss of many traditional roles and interaction rituals

- +Founders
  - +Auguste Comte (1798-1857)
    - +What creates social order, instead of anarchy and chaos
    - +First to propose the application of scientific method to the social world
  - +Positivism
    - +idea that human behavior is subject to causal laws like physics
  - +called the new science "sociology"
  - +greek: logos, study of
  - +latin: socius, companion or being with others

- +Sociologist should discover knowledge about society, and should apply it to social reform
- +his form of science...
  - +closer to being an Armchair Philosopher
    - +(Armchair as in observing society.)
- +drawing his conclusions from informal observations
- +his conclusions have been abandoned

- +because he coined the term "sociology" he is often credited with being the founder of science

- +Herbert Spencer
  - +1820-1903
  - +Disagreed with Comte about the role of sociologists as reformers
  - +No one should intervene with the evolution of society
  - +Societies evolve from lower (barbarian) to higher (civilized)
  - +The most capable members of society survive, while the less capable die out
  - +Coined the phrase: Survival of the fittest
  - +Because of similarities to his contemporary researcher, his theories are referred to as:
    - +Social Darwinism
  - +His ideas were social philosophy
  - +Ideas have since been discredited

- +Karl Marx
  - +1818-1883
  - +Exiled from Germany for proposing revolution
  - +most significant contribution:
    - +Materialist version of history
      - +land
      - +wealth
      - +resources

###Unfinished Section. Week ends here.###