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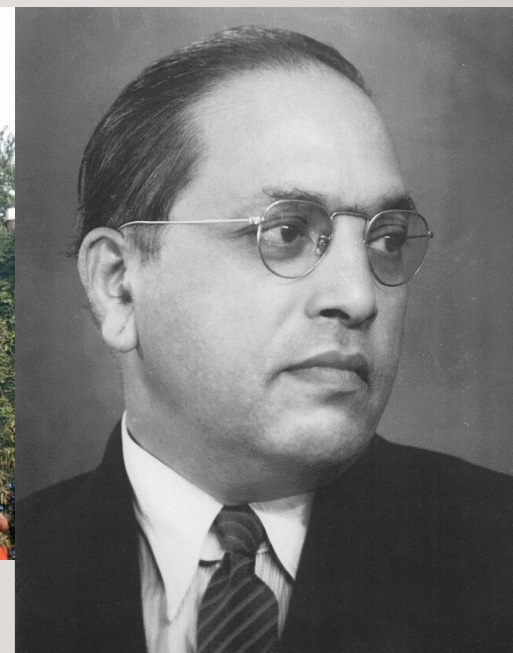
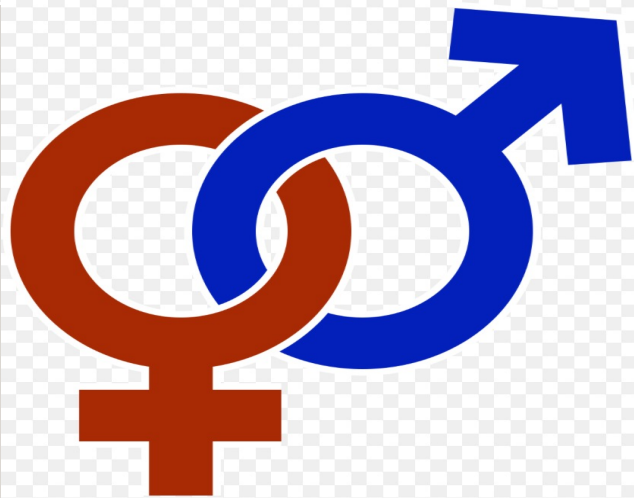
2

HS 307 S2: Introduction to Sociology

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Course Grading

- Quiz 1 (MCQ) - 10 % (**28 August 2023**)
- Mid Semester Exam (MCQ + Descriptive) - 40 %
- End Semester Exam (MCQ + Descriptive) - 50 %



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5

common sense



FAILS

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Sociology and Common Sense

6

- *Common sense* is a poor guide to reality (Coser Lewis 1957)
- Common sense: Heterogeneous beliefs people arrive at not through critical reflection, but encounter as already existing, self-evident truths (e.g. popular belief).
- Common sense is not common to all culture.
- Common sense is not only **localised**, being bound by time, place, class, community, gender etc. it is also unreflective since it does not question its own origins and presuppositions, or at least does not do so deliberately and methodically.
- Common sense is based on a limited range of experience of particular persons in particular places and times.
- Common sense easily constructs imaginary social arrangement (Andre Beteille 1996).

Is
common
sense
common
and
sensible?

7

Why do we have common sense?

- Men did not wait on the coming of social science to have ideas about law, morality, the family, the state or society itself, for such ideas were indispensable to their lives. It is above all in sociology that these preconceptions ... are capable of holding sway over the mind, substituting themselves for things. Indeed, social things are only realised by men: they are the product of human activity (Durkheim 1895).
- Common sense is never question nor interrogated but the practical way of doing things.
 - ‘Don’t put all your eggs in one basket’, ‘time is money’



8

- **Big gurus of sociology:** common sense was not enough to reach the understanding they sought, and that they had to fashion new tools of enquiry and analysis to attain their objective.
 - Durkheim's work on suicide (suicide rates varied systematically between societies, and between religious, occupational and other groups within the same society).
- Sociology has a body of concepts, theories, methods and data, no matter how loosely held together.
- Sociological knowledge aims to be general if not universal, whereas common sense is particular and localised (Andre Beteille 1996).

9 ➤ Sociology is a systematic study of society.

➤ Sociology is the science of society or the study of social life and group interaction and social behavior.

➤ Sociologists are interested in the study of the organization and the functioning of the societies or social groups.

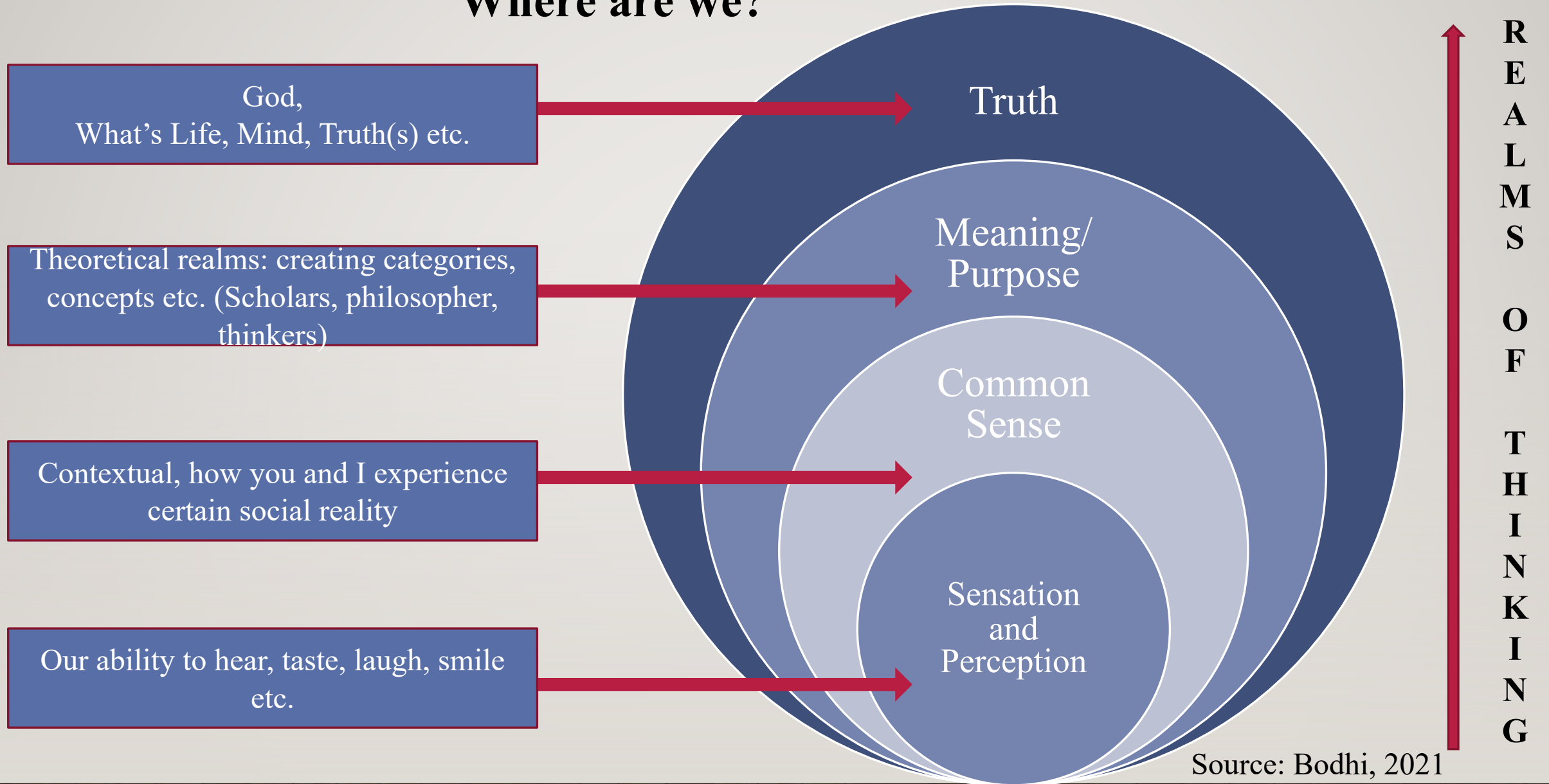
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***Society:** a group of people who live within some type of bounded territory and who share common way of life. A chain of social relationship.

Where are we?



Perspective: the way we look at thing/ a point of view

Theory: Set of principle of science, method & art. Intelligence explanation, rational based ...

Fact:
Things that known to be true.
A real state of thing.
The reality as it is

Belief:
Its an idea, though, image, proposition.
Correspond to objects in the world.
It can be wrong or right

Reality:
Underlying structure + things which we cannot see but its there.
Its not just apparent or appearance

Rigor:
Detailing of data, persistent, systematic.
Verification principle

Culture:
Common way of life shared by a society or a group

- 12 ➤ The **sociological perspective** stresses the social contexts in which people live.
- It examines how these contexts influence people's lives.
 - At the center of the sociological perspective is the question of how groups influence people, especially how people are influenced by their **society**—a group of people who share a culture and a territory.
 - Sociologists look at how jobs, income, education, gender, race—ethnicity, caste, tribes, and age affect people's ideas and behavior (Henslin 2019).
 - 'The sociological imagination [perspective] enables us to grasp the connection between **history** and **biography**' (Mills 1959).
 - At the center of what you do and how you think is the society in which you grow up and your particular location in that society.

13 ➤ When did Sociology Begin?

- Even in ancient period, people ask questions.
- Often based their answers on superstition, myth, or even the position of the stars.
- They did not test their assumptions.
- Science, in contrast, requires theories that can be tested by research.

➤ Event that set the stage for sociology

- Industrial Revolution
- Political Revolution
- The Imperialism
- The scientific method



Photo credit: Henslin



Photo credit: Harry Folin



Photo credit: Alpha History



- What holds society together?
- Why do we have social order?
- When society is set on a particular course, what causes it to change?
- We apply the scientific method to understand the social world.
 - Comte called this new science social physics/sociology (study of society).

Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

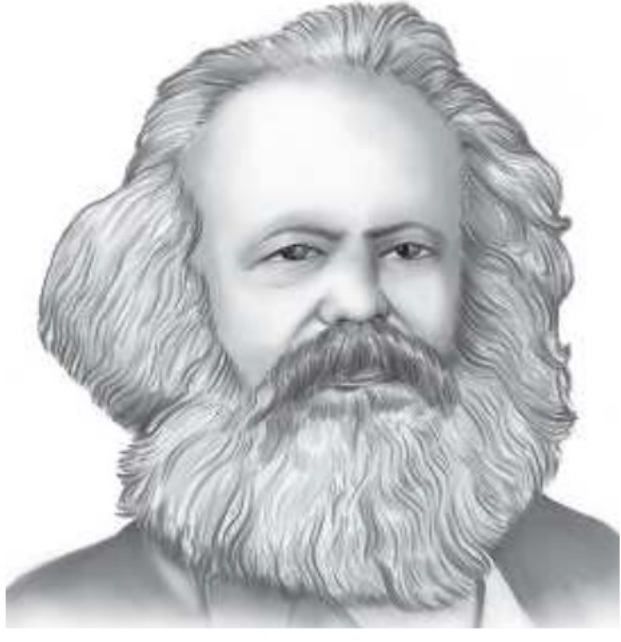
- Purpose: Not only to discover social principles but also to apply them for social reform.
- ‘The statical study of sociology consists in the investigation of the laws of action and reaction of the different parts of the social system’ (**social statics**)
- ‘The laws of social dynamics are most recognizable when they relate to the largest societies. Society developed and changed through time’ (**social dynamics**).



Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)

Social Darwinism

- Principles of Sociology (1877).
- ‘The science of sociology has to give an account of (how) successive generations of units are produced, reared and fitted to co-operation’
 - The family, politics, religion, social control, and industry.
 - The sociological study of associations, communities, division of labour, social stratification, the sociology of knowledge and of science, art and aesthetics. The whole society as unit of analysis.
- ‘We have to deal with facts of structure and function displayed by societies in general dissociated, so far as may be, from special facts due to special circumstances’.
- Societies are evolving from a lower form to higher forms. As generations pass, a society’s most capable and intelligent members (the fittest) survive, while the less capable die out.



Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Class Conflict

- Considered one of the greatest modern thinkers.
- Gave birth to political philosophy of *communism*.
- Social change through revolution.
- The engine of human history is class conflict (bourgeoisie and proletariat)
 - **Bourgeoisie** (the capitalists, those who own the means of production- money, land, factories, and machines).
 - **Proletariat** (the exploited workers, who do not own the means of production).
- Conflict theory: the relationships of production and exchange are the basis for all other relationships.



Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

Social Integration

- Sociology part of history and economics until Durkheim.
- 1887: University of Bordeaux appointed him position in sociology.
- Show how social forces affect people's behavior.
- **Social integration:** the degree to which people are tied to their social groups.
- 'Human behavior cannot be understood only in terms of the individual; we must always examine the social forces that affects people's live.'

- Patterns of behavior: recurring behaviors or events.
- Social facts: patterns of behavior that are capable of exercising some coercive power upon individuals (legal systems, institutionalized norms and laws in a society, written and unwritten codes of conducts, best practices, religious dogma, morals, values, religious beliefs, currency etc.).

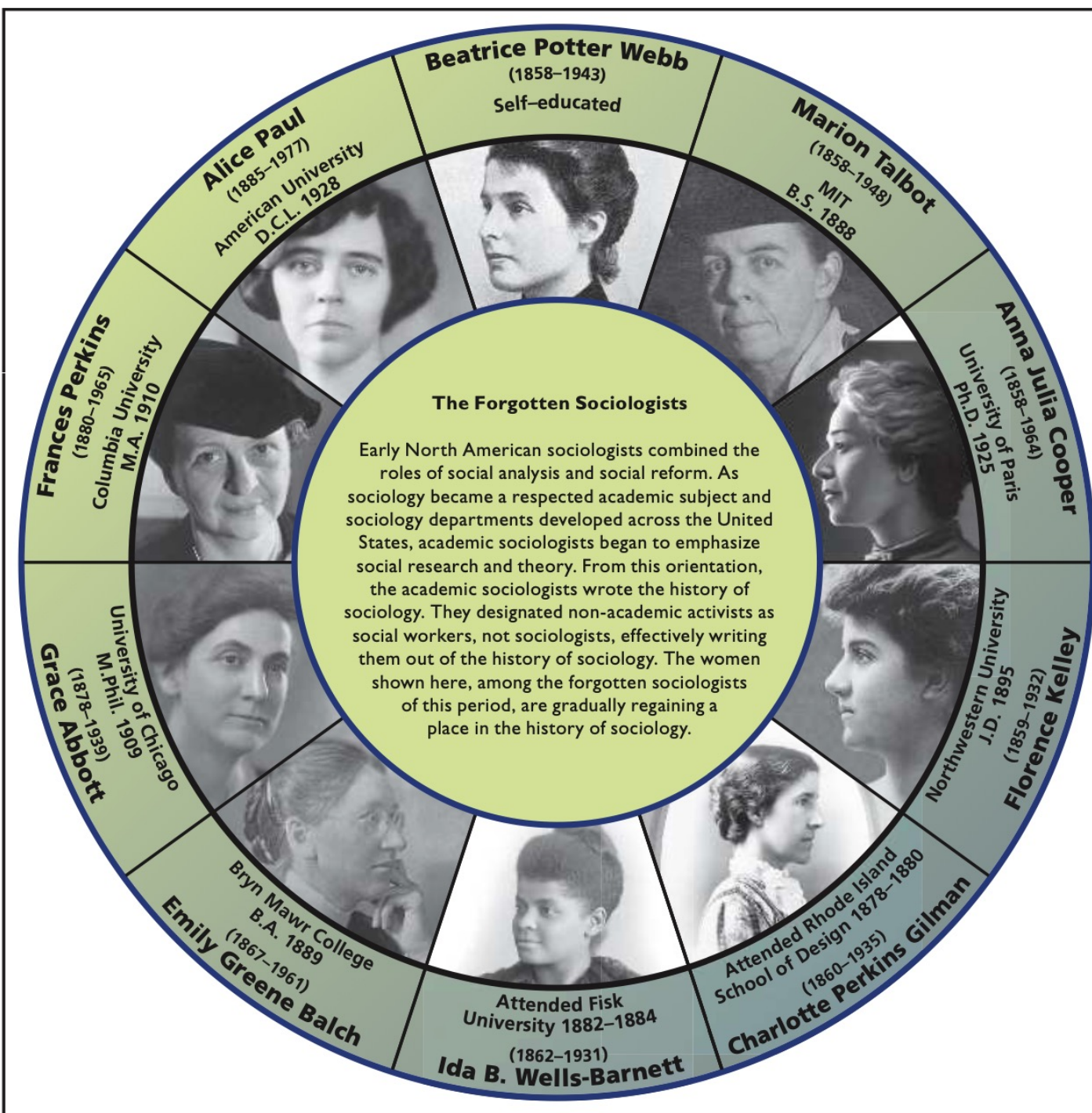


Max Weber (1864-1920)

Protestant Ethic

- Held professorships in the new academic discipline of sociology.
- Weber disagreed with Marx's claim that economics is the central force in social change.
- For Weber, **religion** is the central force.
- The Protestant belief system encouraged its members to embrace **change**.
- Accumulation and investment of capital by protestant brought about the birth of capitalism .

- The spirit of capitalism: The desire to invest capital in order to make more money.
- Weber compared the extent of capitalism in Roman Catholic and Protestant countries.
- 'Capitalism was more likely to flourish in Protestant countries'



Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)

The Forgotten Sociologist

Source: James M. Henslin 20018