

IHS SOCIOLOGY MODULE



What is it to understand sociologically?

- Katherine Mayo's Mother India

Seeing is not understanding!







Peter Berger: The Art of Skepticism

It is not practice but an attempt to understand

Questioning the taken for granted

Sociological Aptitude:

- Value-free: an intellectual training for controlling biases
- Example of espionage: being the good spy!
- ‘looking behind scenes’/ ‘the art of mistrust’

According to Peter Berger: Sociologists occupy themselves with

- The **unofficial**
- **Unrespectable**—not only how law constructs criminals but how the criminal looks at law.

William Foote Whyte

- matters that others regard as too sacred or as too distasteful for investigation

- **Debunk**
- **Relativize**
- Leading to a **cosmopolitan** imagination—plurality of meaning.
Sociologist must probe into layers of meaning and analyze how social reality is constructed.

- It makes us see everyday things in a new light.
- Not what you see, but how you see!

- Peter Berger: An Invitation to Sociology