

LEC 01 - What is Sociology

Key Terms:

Sociological Imagination / Sociological Perspective: “The ability to see connections between individual lives and experiences to broader social and historical issues and forces.” - C. Wright Mills (*don't need to memorize author*)

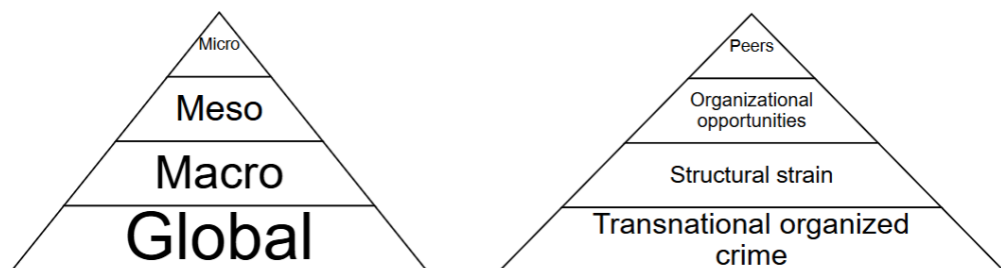
- Ex. personal issues versus public issues
- Moving beyond the individual and looking systematically at the historical factors that shape the social world
- Some factors are individual identity, globalization, socio-economic status, social structure

Why do people commit crime?:

- People can't keep up with costs (theft)
- Lack of emotional control / impulse control
 - Affected by upbringing (being taught self control)
- Lack of positive influences
- Exist in a culture that emphasizes a particular kind of success defined materially
 - Education is valued less than wealth etc.
- Principles / morals
- Retaliatory

Structure and Agency:

Structure: Ordered sets of recurring patterns of behaviour and institutions that make up our society



Micro: Student interacting with prof at office hours

Meso / Macro:

Global: More global trade and migration causes competition with education that causes a more standardized education system (educational rankings)

Agency: An individual's capacity to think and act independent of larger social structures (free will)

- Ex. Coming from a long line of dentists and deciding not to be a dentist