

## LEC 02 - Sociological Theory I

### Major Theories in Sociology:

**Theory:** A set of testable ideas designed to explain something observed about our social world.

- Structural functionalist theory
  - Conflict theory
  - Symbolic interactionist theory
  - Feminist theory
  - Postmodern theory
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### Differences Between Structural Functionalist and Symbolic Interactionist Approach:

- Will be able to be answered after LEC 03
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### Structural Functionalism:

Society is a complex system of parts working together to promote social solidarity and stability

**Social Solidarity:** The degree of a group's cohesion based on shared values, beliefs, and interactions.

**Anomie:** A negative individual state produced by absent or poorly-defined norms in society.

#### **Functions:**

**Manifest:** Visible and intended purposes of social structures

**Latent:** Invisible and unintended purposes of social structures

**Dysfunctions:** Elements of social structures that create instability in a social system

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### Conflict Theory:

- Made by Carl Marx
- Contradictions, conflict, and change
- How people earn their livelihood
- Two key groups:
  - Bourgeoisie → Owners and profits

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## **LEC 02 - Sociological Theory I**

- Proletariat → Workers and wages
- What about now?
  - Industrial capitalism vs market capitalism
  - Ideology, influence, and the status quo
    - Will be covered further in Mass Media lecture