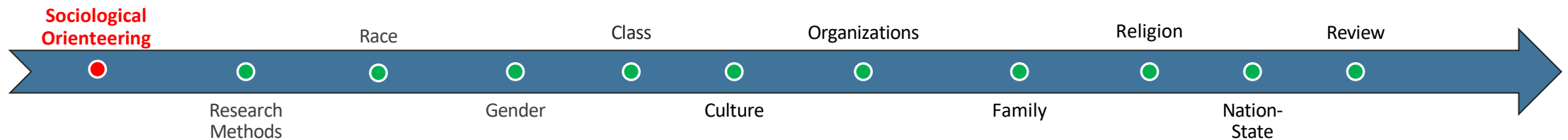


WEEK 1

Sociological Orienteering

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

- ❑ the study of human identities, interactions, and institutions.
- ❑ is interested in the influence that society has on people (social terrain) and on how people participate in shaping society (cultural map & personal compass).
- ❑ why do sociologists study society?
 - to promote understanding among groups (social order)
 - to reveal structures of power and inequality
 - to understand how people create meanings



The hawker centre as a site of social order, inequality, and meanings.

Locating Sociology



- ❑ Sociology is one of the major disciplines in social sciences.
- ❑ The scope of sociology is broad and each subfield in the discipline operates close to the boundary of another academic discipline.
 - political sociology, economic sociology, historical sociology, etc.
 - medical sociology, legal sociology, sociology of business, etc.
- ❑ The boundaries of sociology from other fields are defined by:
 - the use of theories and methodologies
 - intellectual traditions (scholars and literatures)
 - sociology as an **analytical approach** or theoretical perspective.

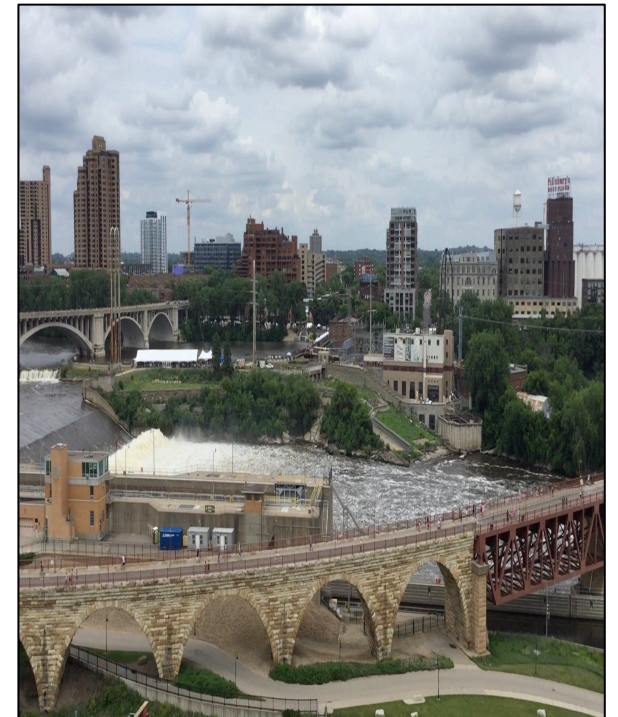
Covid-19 and the Social Sciences



<https://youtu.be/tyZU2iKYfAA>

How did Sociology Develop?

- ❑ **The Industrial Revolution** - the rapid economic transformation that was defined by the increasing **mechanization** of production.
 - mechanization refers to the process of replacing human & animal power with sources derived from water & in burning fuels.
- ❑ it involved the large-scale application of science and technology, the creation of factories, and the migration of people to urban areas.
- ❑ it resulted in a host of new and serious social problems that attracted the attention of many social thinkers (early sociologists).
- ❑ it led to the emergence of the **modern** period.



Minneapolis, USA

Sociology and Modernity



- The emergence of modernity is characterized by four revolutions:
 - industrial revolution (mechanization, urbanization)
 - intellectual revolution (enlightenment, the rise of science)
 - democratic revolution (French revolution, rise of nation-states)
 - development revolution (anti-colonial struggles, modernization)

Engaging Society: Industrialization & Modernity

1. Which part of Singapore (or which city) are you from? How long have you been living there?
2. How did industrialization affect your community? How did it affect you and your family?
3. When you hear the word “modern”, what immediately comes into your mind?
 - a) Old
 - b) New
 - c) Advanced technology
 - d) Highly developed country



From Industrialization To Globalization



- ❑ Globalization – the pervasive flow of knowledge, products, and people across national borders.
- ❑ Globalization as industrial (digital technologies, knowledge economy), intellectual (neo-liberalism, common prosperity), democratic (localism, the rise of social media), and development (free trade, regional blocs) revolutions.

The Pioneering Sociologists

□ Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

- functionalist approach
- **industrialization** created a new division of labor typified by “organic solidarity” – social relationships are based on informal roles and specialized functions.

□ Karl Marx (1818-1883)

- conflict approach
- **industrialization** brought about the conflict between social classes (bourgeoisie and proletariat).

□ Max Weber (1864-1920)

- interpretive approach
- **industrialization** resulted in the rationalization of society.



Other Notable Pioneers

- ❑ August Comte (1798-1857) - Positivist who coined the term “sociology”.
- ❑ Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) - First methodologist with *How to Observe Morals and Manners* (1838).
- ❑ Jane Addams (1860-1935) - Cofounder of Hull House (a social work center) and advocated for “sympathetic knowledge.”
- ❑ W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963) - African American scholar who pioneered the study of race relations in the US.

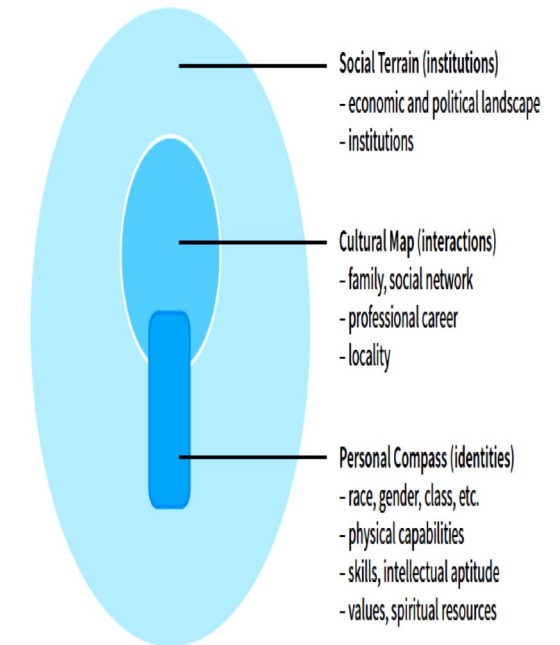


Harriet Martineau

Sociological Orienteering

- ❑ The analytical and experiential process of finding one's way through society.
 - **Personal compass** – physical capabilities, practical skills, intellectual aptitude, and spiritual resources.
 - **Cultural map** – socio-economic background, professional career, social network, and other interactions.
 - **Social terrain** – economic, political, social landscapes.
- ❑ For sociologists, sociological orienteering allows for a more holistic approach to the analysis of social issues, accounting for different factors at the individual, community, and societal levels.
- ❑ This approach can also be used by any individual to get a better sense of their “location” in society and take a more active role in it.

FIGURE 1.1
Sociological Orienteering



Sociological Orienteering: How the Pandemic Changed My World



<https://youtu.be/-oNtUR2KG6I>

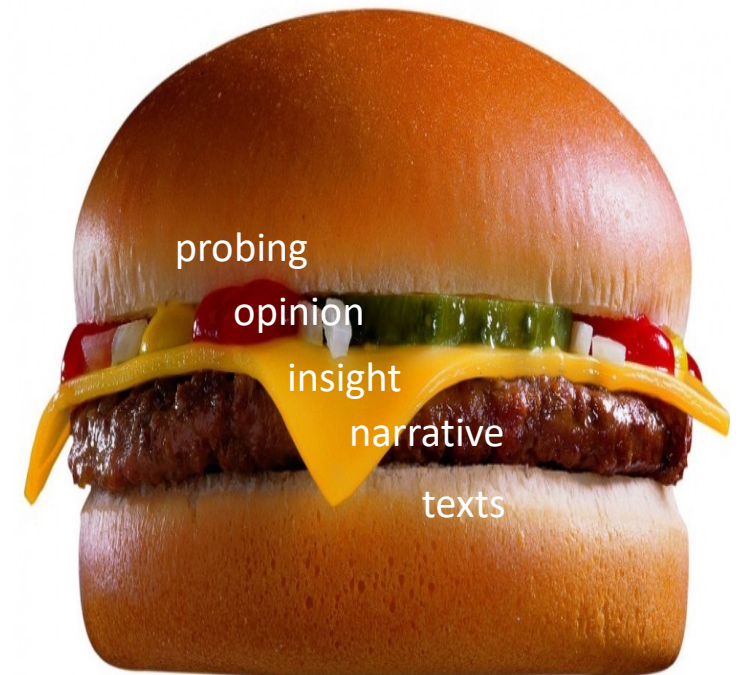
Midterm Essay: Sociological Orienteering

- ❑ This assignment helps students develop critical thinking skills by using the concept of “sociological orienteering” in understanding the fundamental connection between self, culture, and society.
- ❑ Visit a library to find a copy of The Straits Times or any national daily that was published on your **DATE OF BIRTH** (not on your birthday). Select an article from any section of the newspaper (front page, sports, obituaries, etc.) that you find most interesting and would be a good piece to analyze.
- ❑ Use the concept of “sociological orienteering” (Antolihao 2022: 4-7) as an analytical framework in writing an essay about the news article’s relevance to your own life story.
- ❑ **Read the course syllabus for details.**
- ❑ Your paper should comprise between 1200-1500 words. Please submit a PDF copy via Canvas on **03 March 2023, before 5 pm.**

Assessment

The POINT criteria:

- P** – probing: the amount of useful research that was undertaken
- O** – opinion: the incisive analysis of relevant social issues.
- I** – insight: the formulation of creative ideas or a compelling argument.
- N** – narrative: good composition skills and careful editing.
- T** – texts: theory, effective use of the concept of “sociological orienteering”



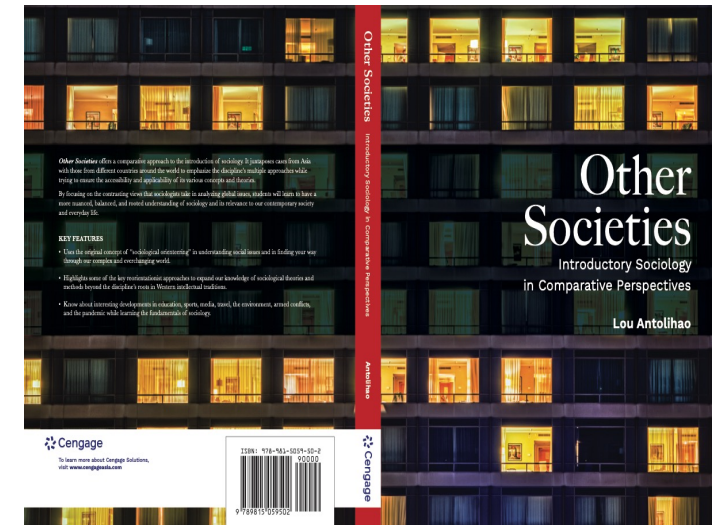
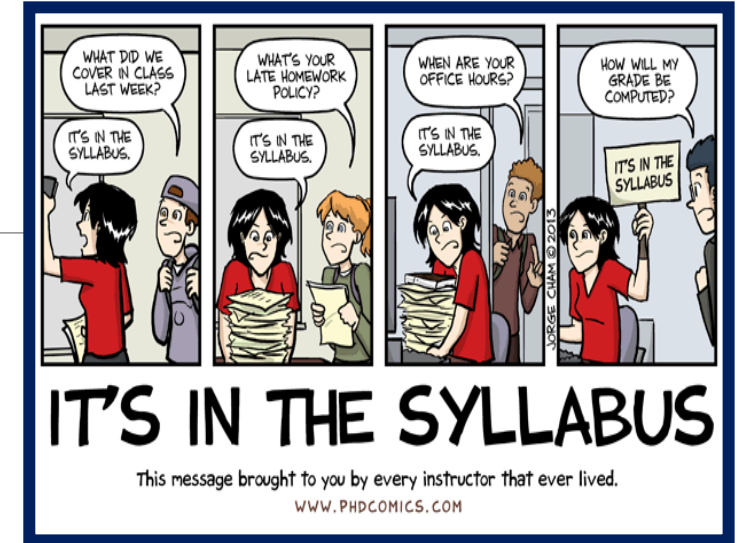
Course Syllabus

□ Assessment

- Class Participation – 15%
- Tutorial Group Report – 15%
- Midterm Essay – 30%
- Final Exam – 40%

□ Textbook – Antolihao, *Other Societies: Introductory Sociology in Comparative Perspectives* (2022). Supplementary Readings – download from Canvas.

□ Tutorials – from Week 3, sign up online through ModReg (for queries email: socbox3@nus.edu.sg).



Conclusion: Why Study Sociology



P (position) – helps us assess both opportunities and constraints in our lives.



T (tolerance) – helps us live in a diverse world.



A (alertness) – helps us assess the veracity and intention of information.



H (headway) – helps us to be active participants of society.