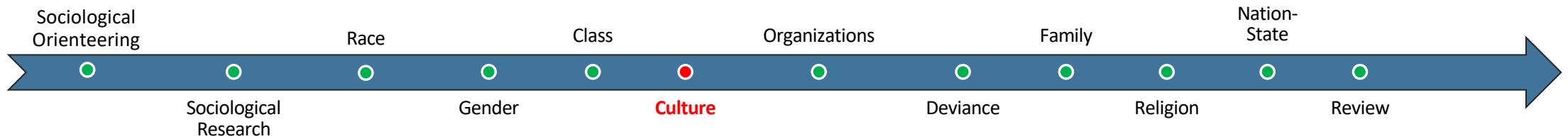
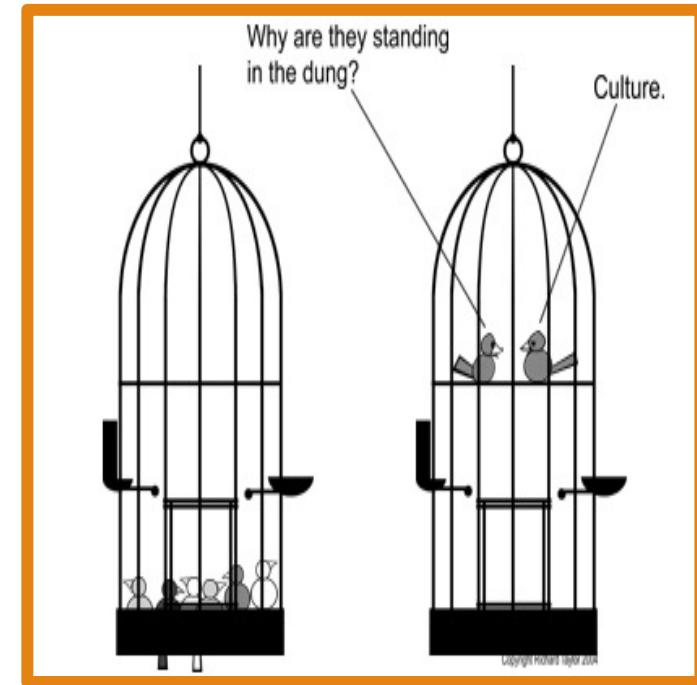


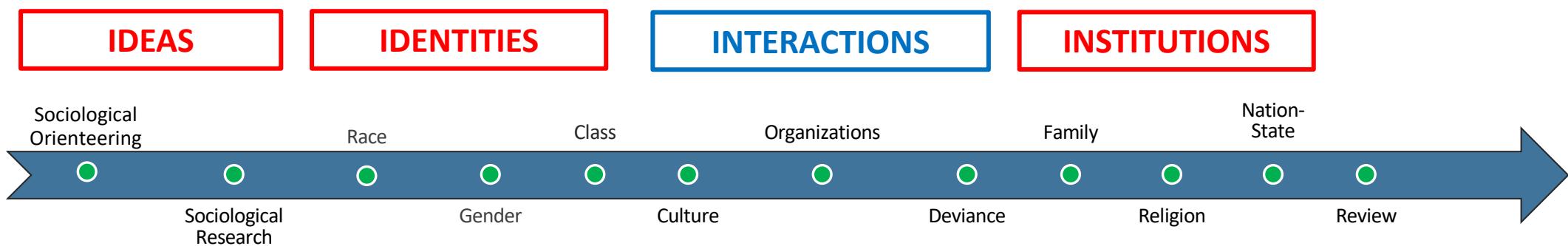
WEEK 6

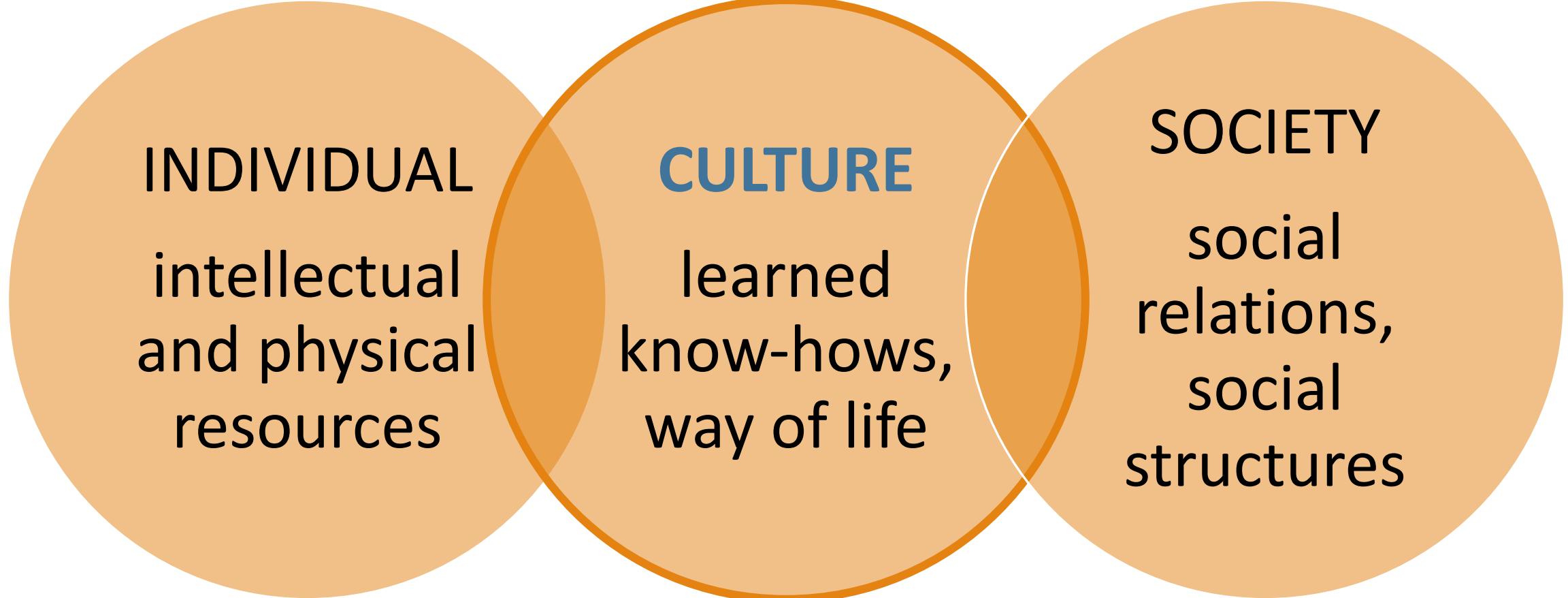
Culture & Socialization

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SC1101E Making Sense of Society



SC1101E MRT Line





- ❑ The sets of knowledge and strategies people use to navigate their physical and social environment (Antolihao 2022: 105).

CULTURAL UNIVERSALS

- things all cultures have in common.
 - globalization
 - Westernization



CULTURAL PARTICULARS

- specific responses or practices put in place to handle inevitable challenges of being human.
 - Localism
 - fundamentalism

there is a constant tension between the 2 things University as a Western concept but NUS has its own localness (and try to

Block A has allowed me to meet many unique personalities where everyone embraces each others individuality and brings out the crazy and creativity in each other. From costume runways to exciting block events, I have made memories with the people here that i deeply treasure. No one goes unloved here and everyone is included in our one big fAmily, and being presented the opportunity to “Father” and take care of block A is one of my largest takeaways from my time here in Sheares.

Inside Cultures

For **Block E**, we had several interesting events like a food eating competition, and a gambling night, with fake money, every CNY to celebrate the festive season. These events were also a good platform for everyone to meet more people. Block E is a family block.

Learning Culture



Block B! We call ourselves Beekers, our block mascot is actually a seal, and we're the only block in Sheares to have our own pond (in the shape of a letter b no less)! When I first came into Sheares, I was apprehensive at the prospect of meeting so many new people and being introduced into the hyper-social hub of activity that is hall life. Luckily, the Beekers whom I met were nothing less than welcoming and forthcoming in making me and the rest of my batchmates feel right at home. This inclusivity and family-like spirit is what I believe makes Block B unique, and it is safe to say that Block B is an amazing place to make lifelong friends and have the time of your life!

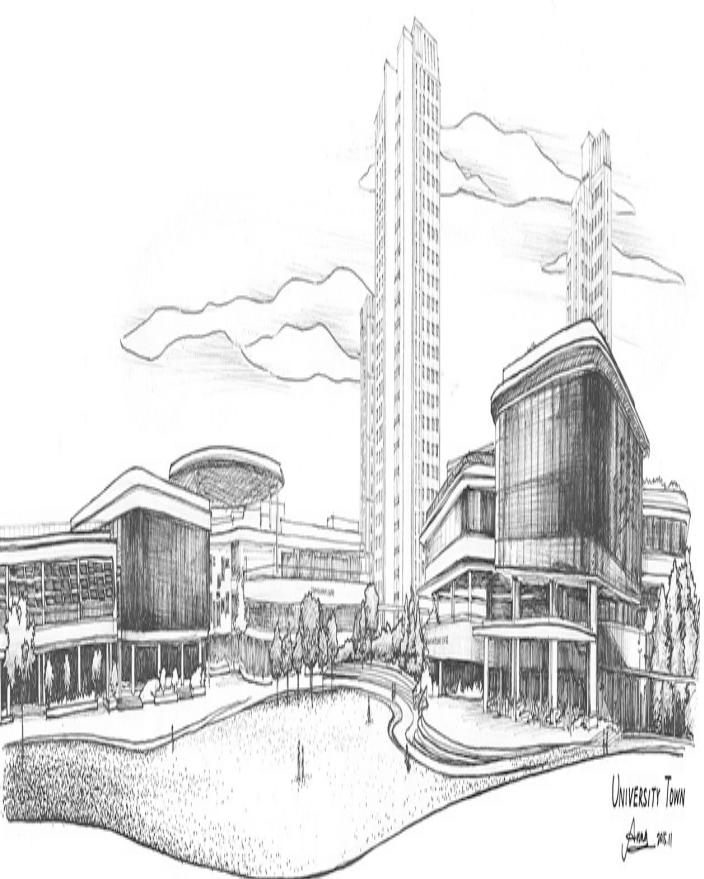
Locating Culture

Block C prides itself not in the results that we can achieve, but more of the memories we create together. Through avenues like our weekly Block Events and other highkeys (STJ, JTS and NO77s), CMEN get to experience events the BLOCK C STYLE where the unpredictable is expected and the normal is uncommon! Taking our activities and event to the next level is what we strive for, and fun is guaranteed here in Block C! CMEN are here for a good time and a long time because ‘Once a CMEN, always a CMEN’!

Cultures of Learning

Block D is known to be the sports block in Sheares. With 7 consecutive Inter-Block Game (IBG) wins and numerous athletes across different sports, it is no doubt that our Deeblockers excel greatly in the athletic field. However, that is not just what Block D is known for. Block D houses many culturally talented Deeblockers with dancers, singers, and musicians that showcase their talents during our very own concerts such as the Good Luck Concert. Deeblockers are also known to be very friendly, inclusive and welcoming.

Between Cultures

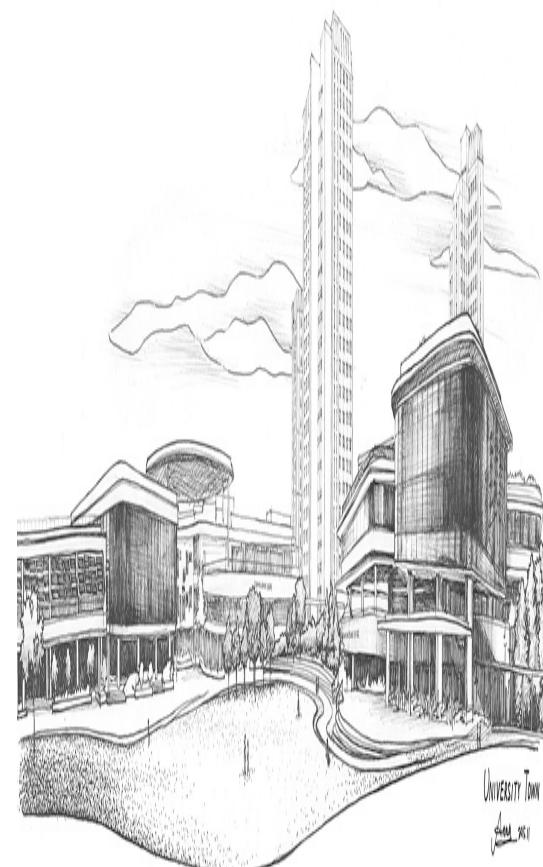


Elements of Culture

- Material Culture – tangible objects that people create, use, and share (e.g., NUS ID, shirts).
- Non-Material Culture – ideas that people create to make sense of the world.
 1. Symbols – objects, signs, gestures, and words which convey meanings that are recognized and shared by members of society. (e.g., NUS logo)
 2. Language – a system of shared symbols that enables people to communicate with each other (e.g., Singlish, jargons)
 3. Beliefs – the principles that members of society hold to be true. (e.g., science, development)

Non-Material Culture (cont.)

4. Values – the ethical standards that are set to define the ideal principles in society. (NUS Values: innovation, resilience, excellence, respect, integrity)
5. Norms – the established rules of conduct through which society is structured (e.g., Code of Conduct, university traditions)
 - formal norms (laws, regulations) or informal norms (etiquettes)
 - Mores – norms that embody the most valued moral principles that are essential to the stability of society (e.g., taboos, no cheating rule)
 - Folkways – norms that are not morally significant but can be important for social acceptance. They dictate appropriate behavior in everyday interaction (e.g., dress codes)
 - **Sanctions** – mechanisms of social control that rewards appropriate behaviors or confer penalties on inappropriate ones.
 - formal (e.g., fines, suspension), informal (e.g., stare, canceling out)



Culture in Masks



https://youtu.be/5ZquAQ_E71c

Unmasking Culture

□ Which statement **BEST** explains why you wore a face mask in public during the height of Covid?

- a) you have faith in medicine and public health (beliefs)
- b) you are a responsible person (values)
- c) you follow the rules (norms)
- d) you think that wearing a mask is cool (symbol)



Locating Culture (Geography & History)

South Korea	Ghana	Singapore
Korea's geographic terrain is harsh, limiting the types of crops that can be grown. Preserving vegetables became important.	Ghana's shrubland topography and tropical climate are ideal for the cultivation of plantain and cassava.	Singapore's location as a crossroad of trade and migration has shaped its local cuisine and food culture.
Hangul (writing system) was an example of Korean ingenuity and set itself apart from the larger Japanese and Chinese influences in the region.	English as the national language, legacy of British colonialism, serves as a good compromise for its multi-ethnic, multi-lingual population.	Derided and discouraged as "bad English", Singlish is now seen as part of Singaporean identity and heritage
Low patterns of intermingling between people led to a homogenous society with very rigid social mores.	Colonial history, the presence of different ethnic groups and immigration have led to a diverse and multi-cultural society.	Long history of immigration has led to the emergence of a diverse and multi-cultural society.

Inside Cultures



□ Subculture vs Counterculture

- **Subculture** - groups that share in some parts of the dominant culture but have their own distinctive values, norms, beliefs, symbols, language, or material culture (e.g., punks, hippies).
- **Counterculture** – groups that challenge, rejects, and seeks to replace the dominant culture (e.g., utopian movements).

□ High Culture vs Popular Culture

- **High culture** – the cultural ideals and practices of a society's highest classes (e.g., golf, gourmet burger)
- **Popular culture** – the cultural ideals and practices widespread among the masses or in mainstream society (e.g., football, BigMac burger).

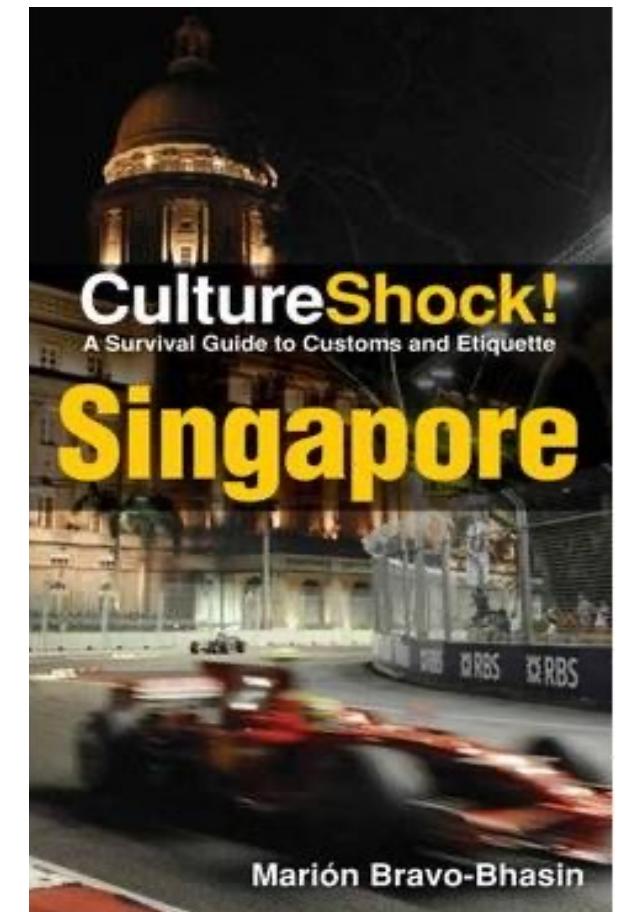
Between Cultures

❑ Culture Travels

- Cultural diffusion - the process by which ideas, products or other aspects of culture spread from one society to another.
- Diasporas – the dispersion of people from their homelands to other places due to political, economic, and other social reasons.
- One can encounter **culture shock** or **reentry shock**.

❑ Other Cultures

- **Ethnocentrism** – the belief that one's own culture represents the ideal and is superior to other cultures.
- Cultural Relativism – the belief the other cultures should be viewed and judged based on their standards.



Learning Culture

❑ Socialization

- The lifelong process through which people develop self-awareness, take on social roles, and learn the necessary physical, mental, and social skills to navigate society.

❑ Agents of Socialization

- Family
- Social and Mass Media
- Church, Sports, School
- PEER GROUPS



Cultures of Learning



friends
with
academic
benefits

by janice mccabe

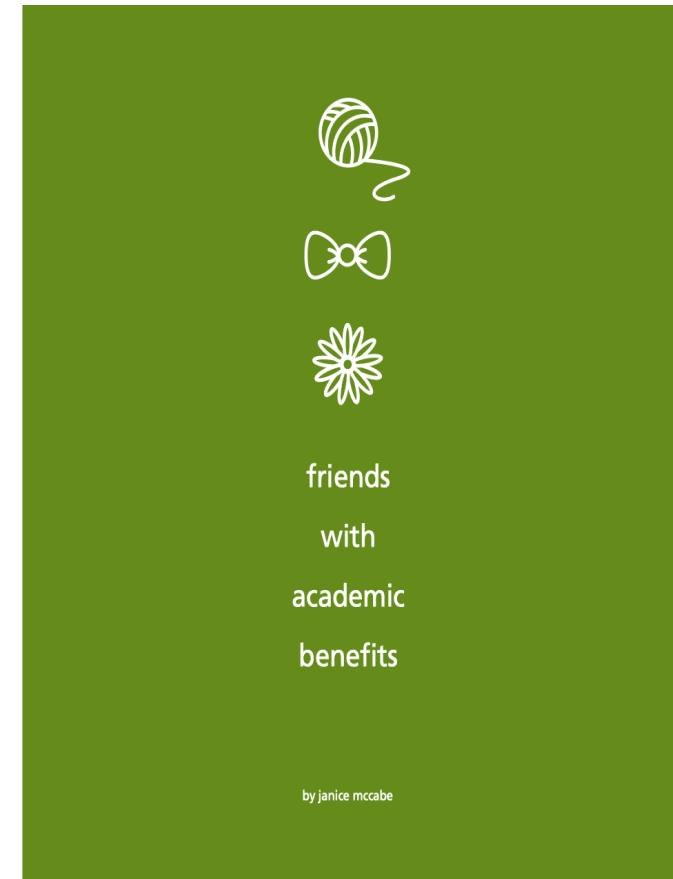
- ❑ Highlights the importance of network structure (the relationship among their friends) for college students' success.
- ❑ Types of Friendship Networks
 1. **Tight-knitters** – one densely woven friendship group in which all their friends are friends with one another. Provide academic support and/or distraction (minority students).
 2. **Compartmentalizers** – friends form 2-4 clusters, where friends know each other within clusters but rarely across them. Provide a balance of academic and social support (majority groups).
 3. **Samplers** – make a friend or two from a variety of places, but friends remain unconnected to each other. Academically independent but often feel socially isolated (diverse backgrounds).
- ❑ Peer Groups and socialization – students learn norms, values, speech patterns, dress codes (Elements of Culture).

Examining Culture

□ How would you describe your friendship network here in NUS?

- tight-knitters
- compartmentalizer
- sampler

□ Describe a “university culture” here that shapes how you interact and forge friendship with other students.



Conclusion



Culture is shared and learned.

It is like a choreography, helps people to move in unison and pass the skills to others.



Culture is taken for granted.

Once a dancer learned the steps, she moves naturally with the music.



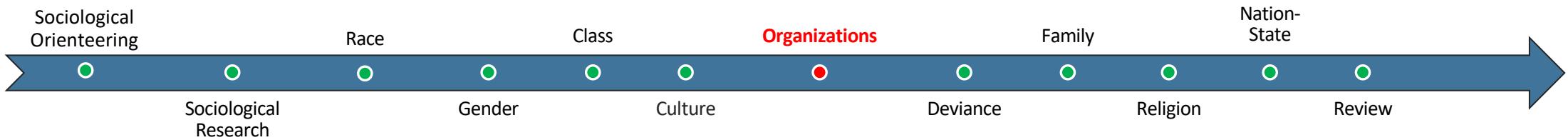
Culture is invented and dynamic.

Dance moves are made by choreographers, and they go in and out of fashion.

WEEK 7

Groups & Organizations

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Hawker Center and Social Collectivities

(Week 1 Lecture Photo)

(1) Category

- a collection of people who may never have met one another but shares a similar characteristic.
- e.g., social class

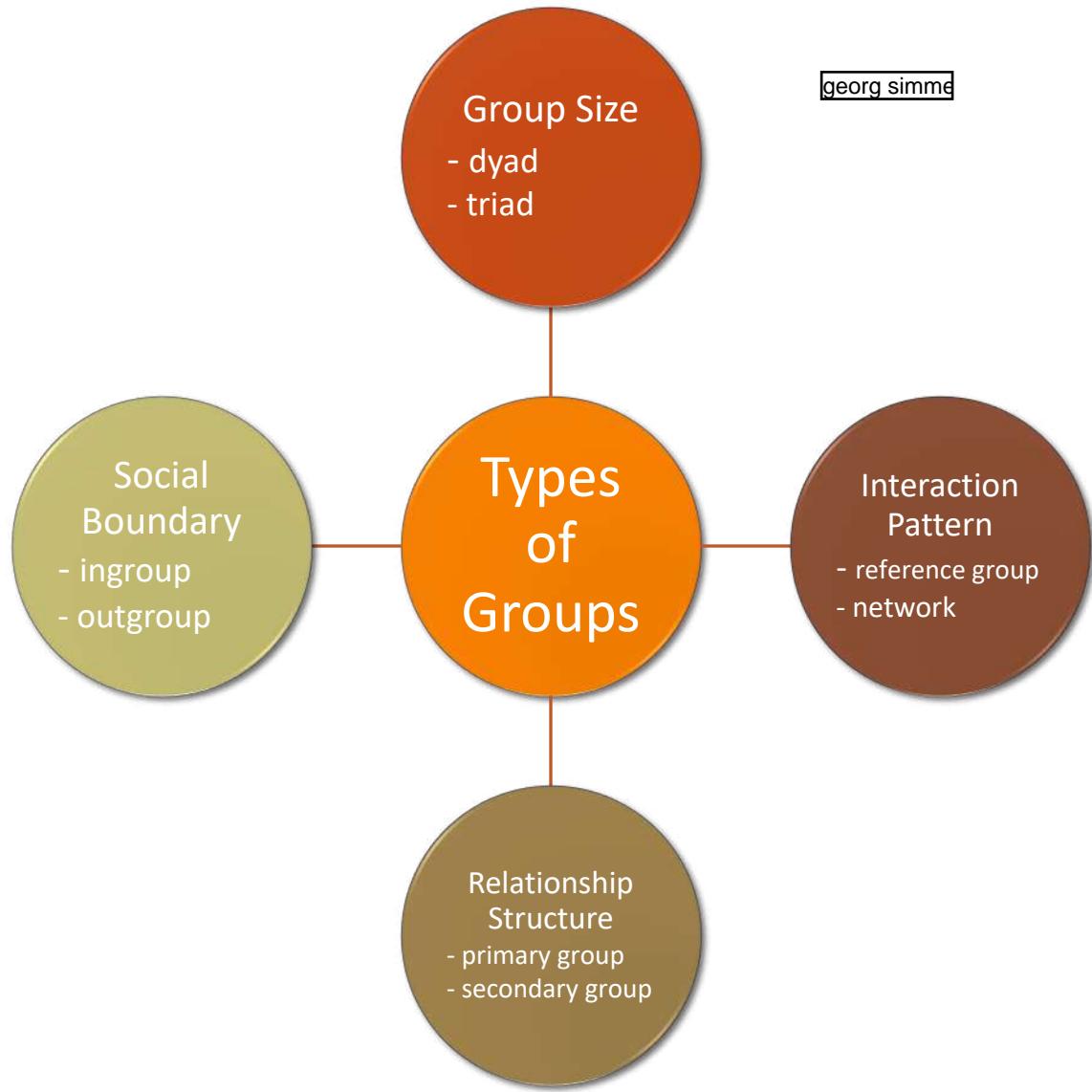


(2) Aggregate

- casual crowd
- a collection of people who happen to be at the same place and at the same time but share little else in common.
- e.g., lunchtime crowd

(3) Group

- a collection of people who interact frequently with one another, form an interdependent relationship, and share a sense of belonging.
- e.g., stall owners, dining coworkers



georg simme

- **Organization** (or formal organization) refers to a highly-**structured group** designed to accomplish specific goals in the most efficient manner.

previous lecture about how / what kind of friends you have - gr

Understanding Organizations

□ Types of Organizations

- Normative Organizations – (voluntary) support mutual interest, non-profit (e.g., sports clubs, nature conservation groups).
- Coercive Organizations – no choice but to participate (e.g., prisons, nation-state).
- Utilitarian Organizations – seek material gain (e.g., multi-national corporations).

- organizations are secondary group (impersonal, with clear purpose)
- organizations extend beyond the lives of the people who created and manages them.
- organizations are notable for their marked **cultural impact** (e.g., hawker dining as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage).

the monitoring of hawkers- history of hawk

and why NEA is the one that regulates th



Bureaucracies

- are organizations characterized by a hierarchical structure, explicit rules, and division of labor.
 1. **Division of Labor** – *specialization*, place people in areas where they can perform the best.
 2. **Hierarchy of Authority** – supervision, following orders
 3. **Rules and Regulations** – policies, sanctions, code of ethics
 4. **Meritocracy** – objective placement and progression
 5. **Efficiency** – *rationality* (and instrumentality) replace thoughts and action that are rooted in emotion, supernatural beliefs, and tradition.
 - Issues – **red tape** (too much paperwork), **bureaucratic ritualism** (“going with the flow”) **oligarchy** (“the rule of the few”)



NEA Senior Leadership Team

Just Follow Law (2007)



<https://youtu.be/gG7zUR-HOjs>

Examining Society

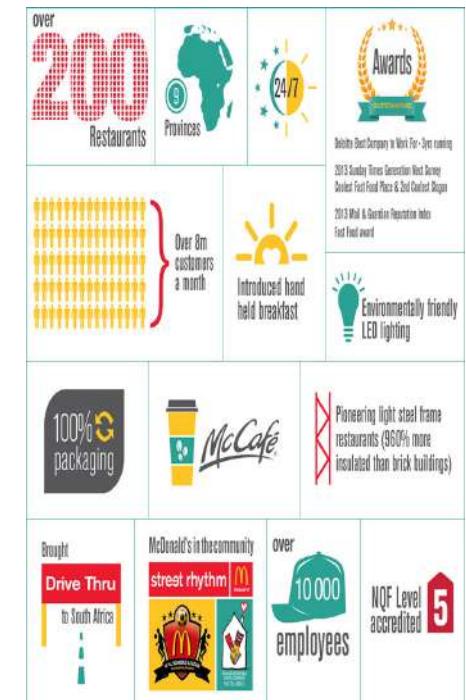
- Which do you think are the best organizations (public agencies or private corporations) in Singapore? What are the common characteristics of these organizations?

- Which do you think is **the worst** organization in Singapore?



Corporations

- a corporation is a formal organization that has a distinct legal existence, including to engage in legal transactions, from that of its members.
- with the advent of the modern period, corporations play important roles in most societies (e.g., provide affordable food)
- **The McDonaldization of Society (Ritzer 1993)** - the process whereby the principles of fast-food restaurant are coming to dominate society.
 - 1) Efficiency (quick-fix), drive-through, kiosks
 - 2) Quantification & Calculation (numerical indicators), 30-min delivery.
 - 3) Predictability (the same no matter where), Big Mac
 - 4) Control (customer relations, **use of non-human technology**)



Humans and Non-Human Technology



<https://youtu.be/LUp9Mw5bnCk>

The Dilemmas of Organizations

- **Emile Durkheim – Abnormal Division of Labor**
 - 1) anomie division of labor 2) forced division of labor
 - **anomie** – a condition when the moral fiber that binds the individual to the organization (or society) loosens, resulting in social isolation and confusion.
- **Karl Marx – The Alienation of Labor**
 - the feeling of isolation, meaninglessness, and powerlessness that workers feel due to the lack of control over the process of production and their estrangement from values and goals of the organization.
 - 1) from product, 2) from activity, 3) from self, 4) from others
- **Max Weber – The Iron Cage of Rationality**
 - a condition in which individuals are trapped in working and relational arrangement that are solely based on efficiency, calculability, and control.
- **Arce and Poblador: Transcultural contradictions**
 - the discrepancy between universalistic systems and local management practices in non-Western countries.



Multinational Corporations

- a corporation that is headquartered in one country but operates factories, sales office, and other facilities in other countries.
- **The Rise of Multinational Corporations: Pros and Cons**
 - Agents of Development
 - ✓ can help increase employment opportunities and raise standards of living
 - ✓ transcend political hostilities, transfer technology, and promote cultural understanding
 - Engines of Destruction
 - no loyalty, can marginalize host countries & communities, can sidestep tariffs & taxes
 - can force **small competitors to close**, limiting consumer choice.
 - **can take advantage of low-wage labor and lenient workers safety regulations.**
 - **can take advantage of environmental regulations.**

Organizing against Organizations: The Fair Trade Coffee Movement

- ❑ fair trade movement vs transnational corporations
- ❑ aimed to address the injustices of conventional trade
- ❑ to provide economic premiums for social and environmental investments.
 - small coffee producers are paid a stable minimum price
 - provide small loans and invest in infrastructure
- ❑ 2012 CRISIS: Fair Trade USA altered its policy to include large plantations
 - Rationale: “Fair Trade for All”
 - Criticism: breaks with the movement’s founding goals, which is to empower small producers in the global market.



Bitter Rivalry: Fair Trade Coffee Rationalities

FAIR TRADE USA

- reduce inconsistencies
- increase consumer awareness
- help educate consumers
- extend benefits to laborers

FAIR TRADE INTERNATIONAL

- supply for fair trade coffee outpaces demand
- new campaign mistakenly assumes that plantations will provide the same benefits for farmers as do cooperatives
- farmers will be competing under unequal conditions

EMPOWERING FARMERS?

- **Oligarchy** – power becomes concentrated in the hands of a few people.
- ❑ Farmers were not included in decision-making
- ❑ Fair trade as a form of eco- or neo-colonialism

Engaging Organizations

- Identify some of the leading non-government organizations and multistakeholder groups in Singapore (or internationally)?

- Do you believe in their principles and the important roles that they play in society? Why?

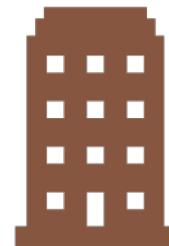
- Would you consider working for one in the future? What would be your greatest motivation for applying?



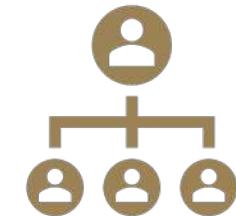
Conclusion



Groups define social boundaries and foster a sense of belonging.



Organizations are notable for their **marked cultural impact**. They offer products and services that transcend their intended purposes.

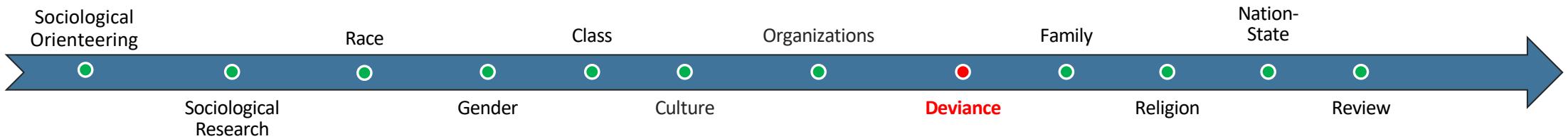


Large formal organizations inevitably tend to become oligarchical and marginalizing.

WEEK 8

Deviance & Social Control

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Midterm Essay Preliminary FEEDBACK

The Assessment Criteria: What is your POINT?

P – probing: the amount of useful research that was undertaken (interviews, use of statistics, other methods)

O – opinion: the incisive analysis of relevant social issue/s (good grasp of the news article's social context).

I – insight: the formulation of creative ideas or a compelling argument (add something new or a better way of understanding the issue).

N – narrative: good composition skills and careful editing (coherence, use news article throughout essay)

T – texts: effective use of theory (sociological orienteering)



Leaving Things Unattended



<https://youtu.be/0KUj20y-Q0g>



The Disciplinary Society

- a social condition wherein censorship and surveillance are normalized that they become part of people's everyday life.
 - **Censorship** – a method of averting ideas and information from reaching a specific audience.
 - **Surveillance** – a social control mechanism that involves the monitoring of communication, movements, and activities to ensure public order.
 - **Panopticon** – refers to the people's internalization of the disciplinary society ("big brother is watching you").

Defining Deviance

❑ **Deviance** – is a physical appearance, cultural identity, or peculiar behavior that is challenged or condemned socially because it diverges from established social norms.

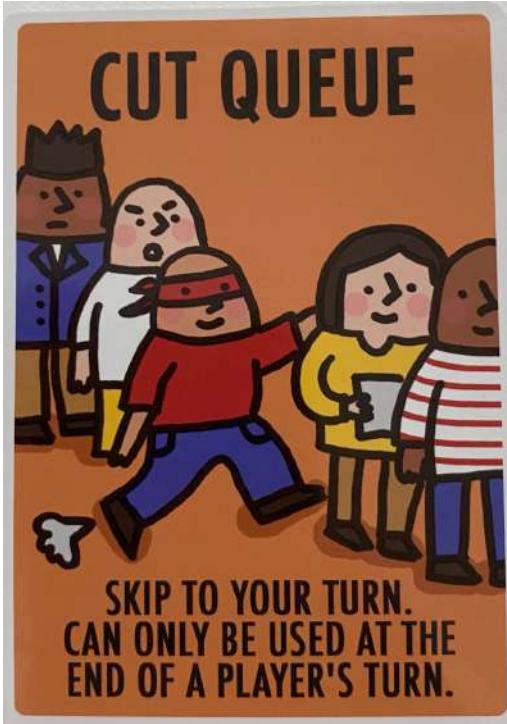
❑ The Characteristics of Deviance

- No person or act is inherently deviant. Deviance is shaped by two factors:
 1. **social context** – deviance is defined by societies to delineate their own moral values and social norms.
 2. **social audience** – deviance only exists when a group of people who are conscious of existing norms, participate in its enforcement, and advocate for the punishment of those who violate them.



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

Types of Deviance



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- The classification is based on a. degree of public disagreement, b. degree of harmfulness, c. severity of social response (Hagan 1994) .
 1. **social diversions** – generally harmless, mixed response, people are mostly apathetic (e.g., cutting queue).
 2. **social deviations** – serious offences, somewhat harmful, subjected to institutional sanction (e.g., cutting queue then physically harming the person who complained about it).
 3. **conflict crimes** – illegal, public disagreement about harmfulness (e.g., cutting queue while high on marijuana).
 4. **consensus crimes** – grievous offences, people agree that perpetrator should be punished (e.g., killing someone who cut queue).
- **Crime** – an act of deviance that breaks a law (not only a norm)
 - Most common types: 1. victimless, 2. hate, 3. professional, 4. organized, 5. white-collar, 6. cybercrime, 7. transnational

Engaging Society: Deviance in Singapore

- What is the main reason why people become criminals or deviants?
 - a. the law defines certain acts as crime
 - b. limited opportunities to earn a living
 - c. people label them as deviants
 - d. people complain about their activities
 - e. they were exposed to bad influence
 - f. they are quietly resisting the system

RISE IN SCAMS CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL CRIME INCREASE IN FIRST HALF OF 2020



PHYSICAL CRIMES IN 3 CRIME CLASSES DECREASED BY CLOSE TO 2,000 CASES



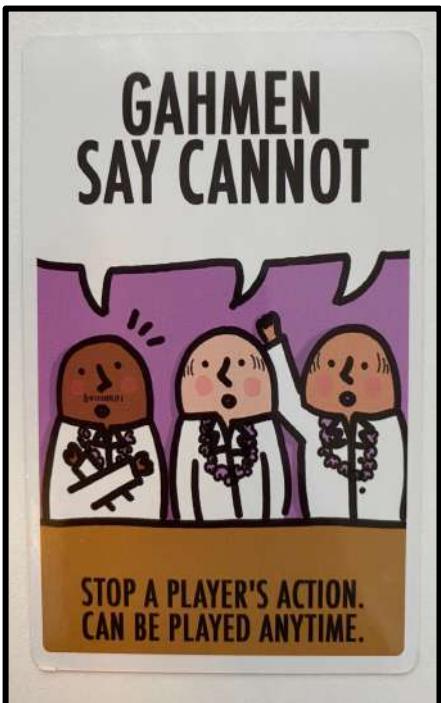
TOP 4 SCAMS OF CONCERN



OTHER CRIMES OF CONCERN



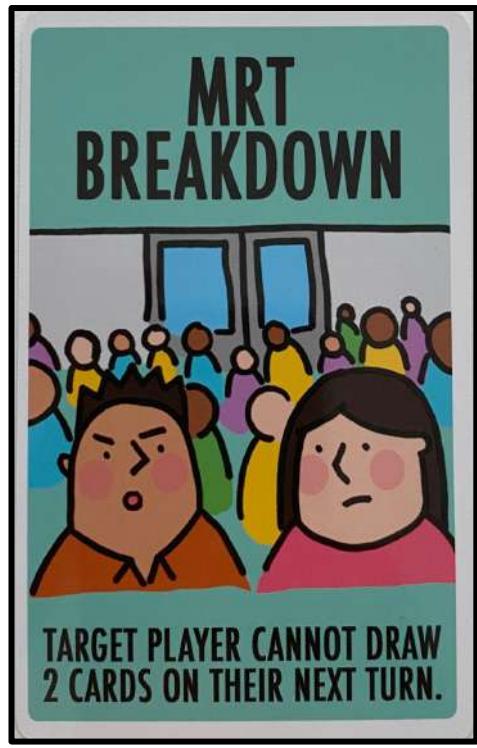
Understanding Deviance: Functionalist Approach



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- “There is no society that is not confronted with criminality ... it is an integral part of all healthy societies” (Durkheim, *Rules of the Sociological Method*, 1895:99).
- Deviance fulfils key functions: 1) clarify rules, 2) unites a group in opposing deviant behaviour, 3) promotes social change by allowing people to challenge social norms.
- A Community of Saints
 - Even in a “community of saints,” such as a monastery, Durkheim said, rules will be broken, and negative social reactions will be handed out.
 - Because deviance serves several important functions for society, any given society “invents” deviance by defining certain behaviors as deviant and the people who commit them as deviants.

Understanding Deviance: Structural Strain

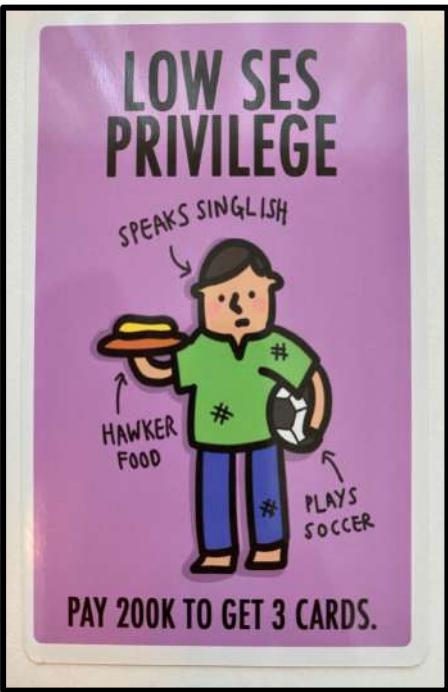


The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- deviance emerge in a period of crisis when the prescribed means to achieve the valued goals in society are no longer .
 - the valued goals – upward mobility (The Singaporean Dream), home ownership, work productivity, etc.
 - the means to achieve goals – a university degree, job, good public infrastructure, etc.

Modes of Adaptation	Accept Goals	Follow Means
Conformity	yes	yes
Innovation	yes	no
Ritualism	no	yes
Retreatism	no	no
Rebellion	no/replace	no/replace

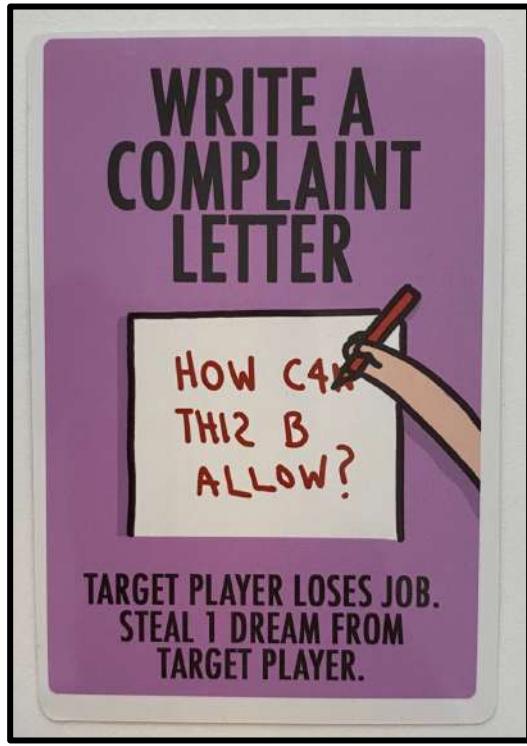
Understanding Deviance: Labelling Theory



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- maintains that an appearance or an act becomes deviant when people take action to label it as such and apply sanctions.
- The Saints and the Roughnecks (William Chambliss 1978)
 - **Saints** - rich kids who “sow wild oats” but never treated as deviants.
 - **Roughnecks** - poor kids seen as delinquents even though they committed less misdeeds than the Saints.
 - Three factors: 1. **visibility**, 2. **demeanor**, 3. **bias**.
 - Different groups treated differently based on their position in society led to different outcomes in life.

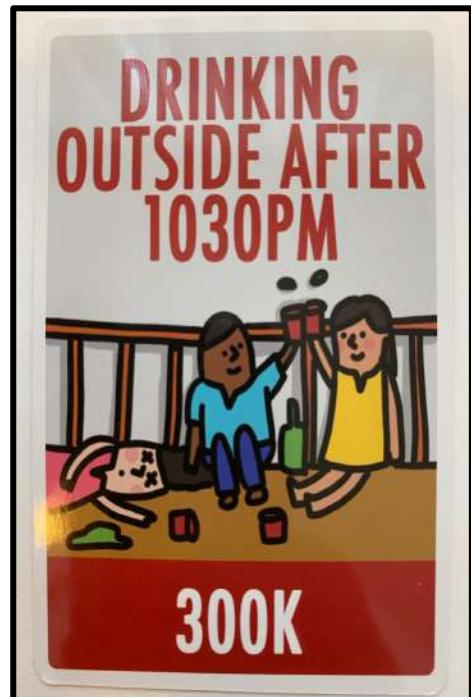
Understanding Deviance: Constructionist Approach



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- The Social Construction of Deviance – highlights how claims based on legalistic (juridification), scientific (medicalization), and humanistic rationalities (social movements) seek to change existing norms.
- **Claim makers** - people who articulate and promote claims and who tend to gain in some way if the targeted audience accepts them as true.
- **Claim making activities** - actions taken to draw attention to a claim – e.g., “demanding services, lodging complaints, filing lawsuits, lobbying, boycotting” (Spector & Kitsuse 1977).

Understanding Deviance: Differential Association



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

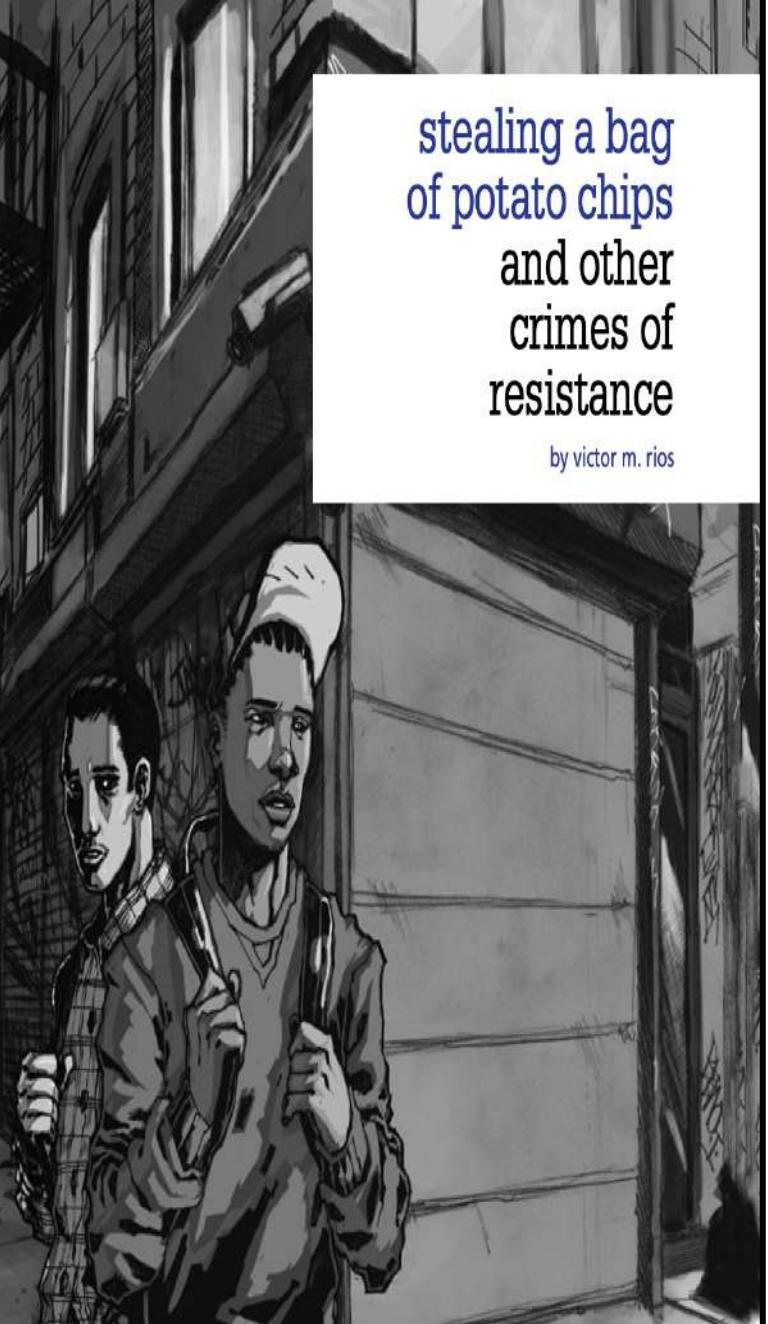
- argues that people learn deviance through socialization and interaction with others.
- through prolonged exposure individuals incorporate the rationality and values as well as the skills and techniques of specific groups.
- Deviant subcultures – groups that are part of the larger society but whose members share norms and values favoring violation of society's larger values.
- White collar crime – crimes committed by those in high status and respectable positions.

Understanding Deviance: Everyday Forms of Resistance



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

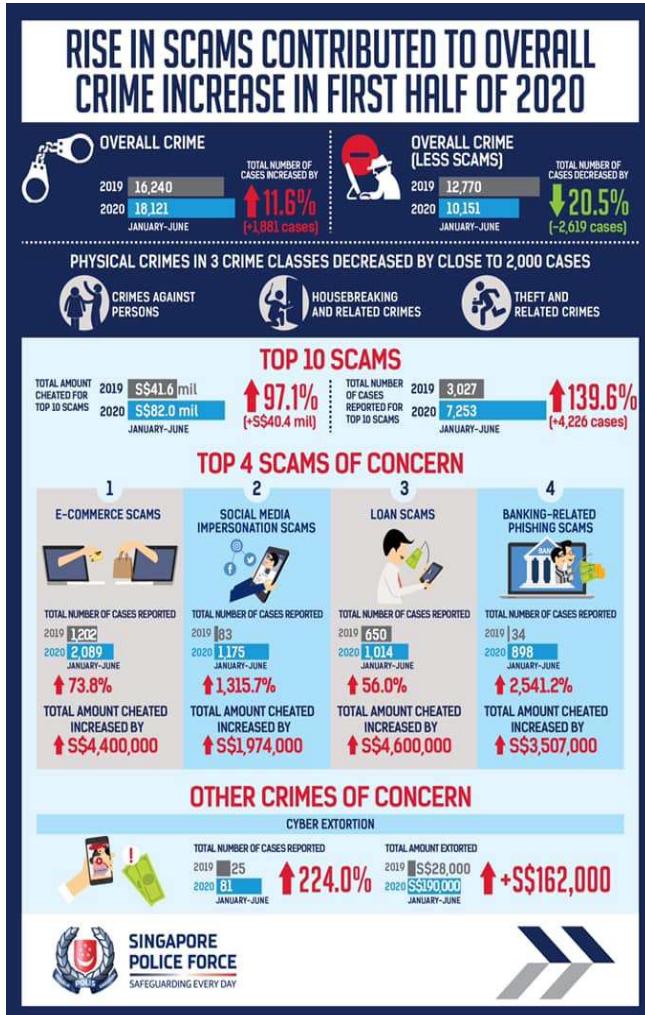
- The subtle and unorganized resistance and non-cooperation peasants and other subjugated individuals employ in response to domination.
 - “foot-dragging, evasion, false compliance, pilfering, feigned ignorance, slander, and sabotage (Scott 1985: 29)
 - feigning sickness or injury
 - not trivial and inconsequential because it allows marginalized people to regain their dignity and get a sense of agency.
 - *Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips* (Rios 2012)



stealing a bag
of potato chips
and other
crimes of
resistance
by victor m. rios

- **Organic capital** – the creative response that (deviant groups) developed in the midst of blocked opportunity and criminalization.
- Feelings of exclusion from a network of positive credentials, education, and employment opportunities led to **resistance identities**.
 - created by subordinated population in response to oppression (Manuel Castells).
 - operate by “excluding the excluder”.
 - this self-defeating path led to trouble but also a sense of agency and dignity.
- **Crimes of Resistance** – (defiance) breaking the rules meant resisting a system; criminality was one of the few resources the boys could use in response to criminalization.

Understanding Deviance



- ❑ What is the main reason why people become criminals or deviants?
- the law defines certain acts as crime (**Functionalist Approach**)
 - limited opportunities to earn a living (**Structural Strain Theory**)
 - people label them as deviants (**Labelling Theory**)
 - people claim that their activities are wrong (**Constructionist Approach**)
 - they were exposed to bad influence (**Differential Association**)
 - they are discreetly resisting the system (**Everyday Forms of Resistance**)

Conclusion



The roles of **social context** and **social audience** are fundamental in identifying deviant acts.

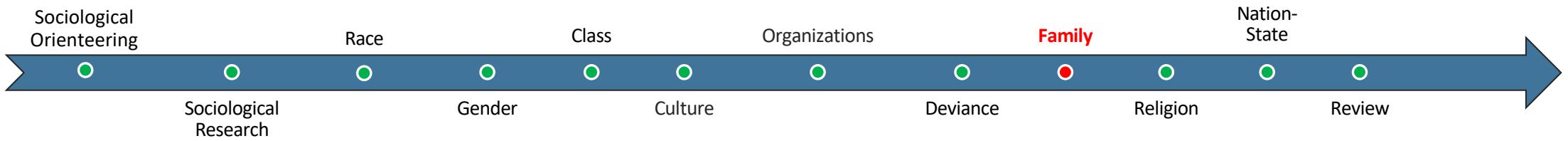


Popular culture tends to **glamorize deviance**.

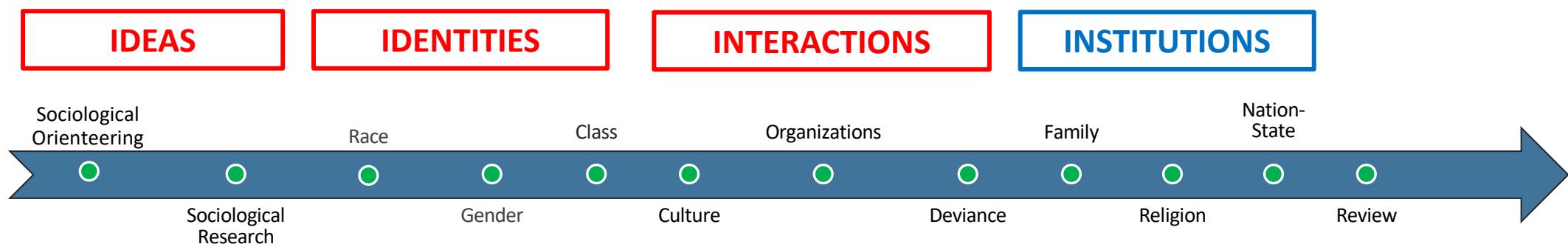
WEEK 9

Family

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SC1101E Making Sense of Society



SC1101E MRT Line



Social Institutions

❑ a stable pattern of social interaction organized to establish social order and preserve basic social values.

- complex social forms
- operate autonomously
- self-perpetuating
- exercise great influence on people

Institutions	Purpose
Family	reproduction, emotional support
Religion	transmit customs, values
Polity	allocate power, maintain social order
Economy	production and distribution of resources

A Typical Singaporean Family: AI-Generated

Singaporean family



A 'Singaporean family' according to Midjourney.

Ahh, a typical Singaporean family involves at least one male figure, a young daughter and senior parents (or grandparents). Most adults are also spectacled.

According to ChatGPT, Singaporean families are multi-generational, highly value education, respects the elderly and place "strong emphasis" on family bonding through shared meals. Sounds about right.

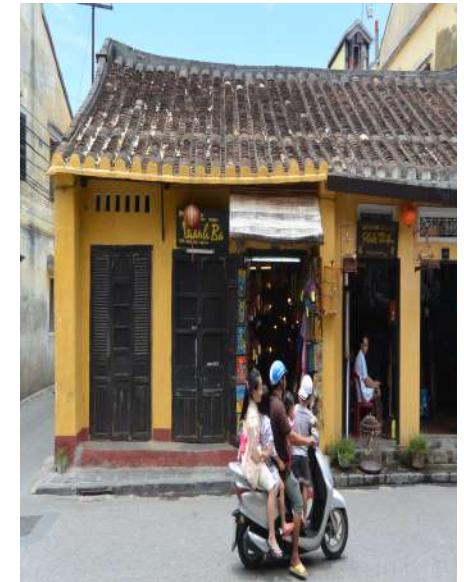
<https://sg.yahoo.com/news/ai-thinks-singaporeans-look-behave-080936980.html>

What is a Family?

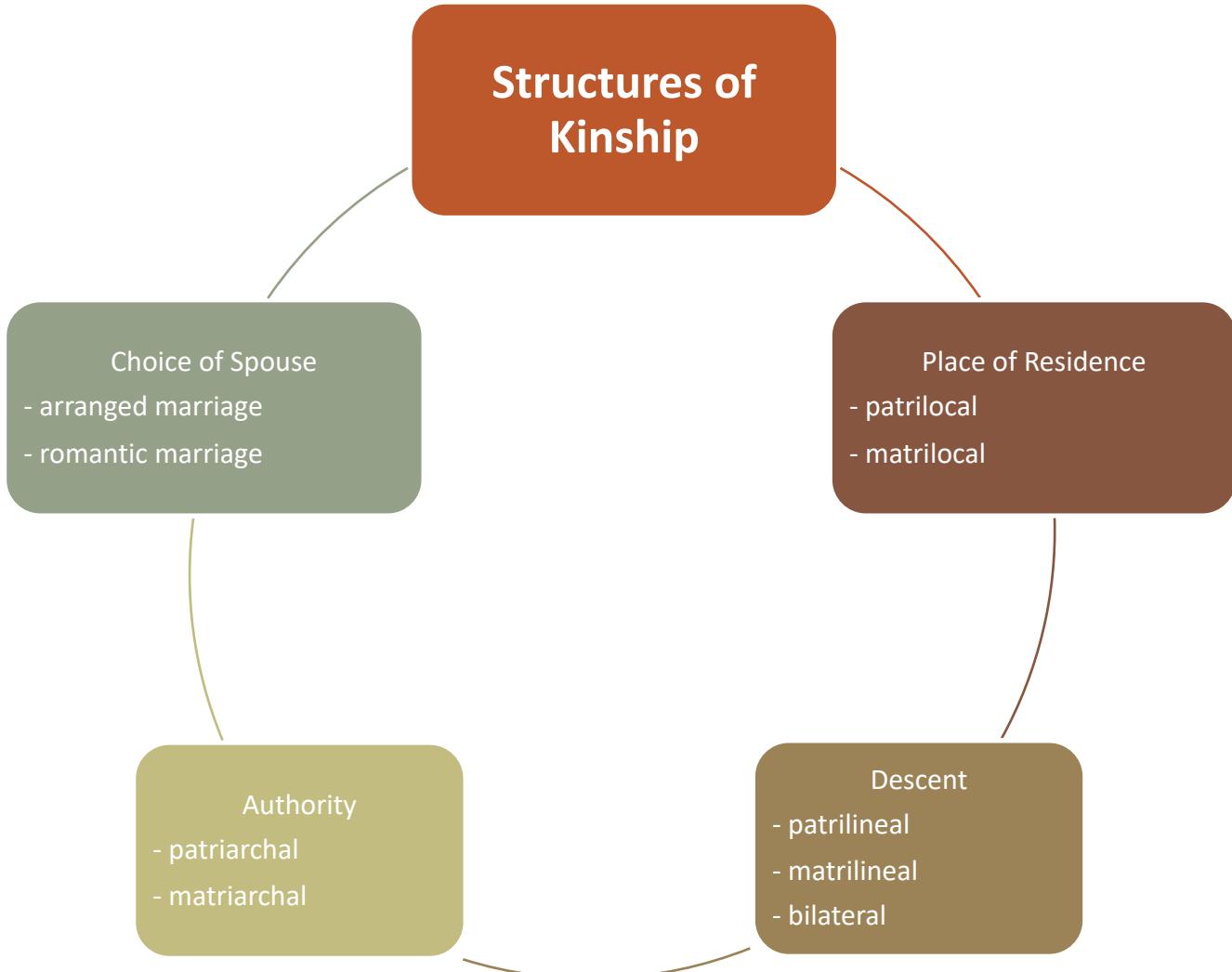
- is a social institution that binds people together through biological, cultural, legal affinities.

- Related terms:
 - **Household** - the physical and socio-economic units consisting of individuals who live together in the same residence and share resources.
 - nuclear family, extended family
 - collective household, institutional households (dormitories, barracks, etc.)

 - **Kinship** – the pattern of relationships that connects an individual to others through consanguinity and affinity.
 - primary (parents, siblings), secondary (grandparents, niece, cousins)
tertiary (grand-aunts, second-degree cousins)
 - **fictive kins** – adoption of non-relatives into kin-like relationships (godparents)



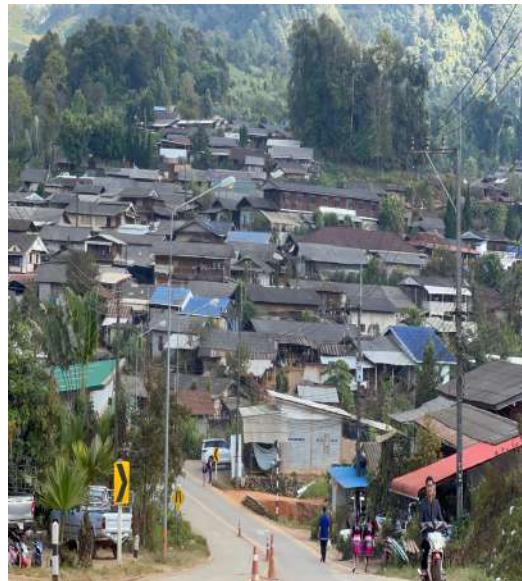
Hoi An, Vietnam



Marriage

- The socially sanctioned union between individuals who are bound by intimacy, economic cooperation, and shared goals.
- Kinship is founded on marriage.

The Functions of the Family



Traditional houses, Hmong village
Northern Thailand

- Regulates sexual activity (e.g., social order)
- Reproduction (e.g., maintain population)
- Economic cooperation (Lecture 7, division of labor)
- Primary **socialization** (Lecture 6, Culture)
- Care and emotional support
- Confer **status** (Lecture 5, Class)

Family and Inequality

❑ Society as site of conflict and power struggle

- the family reflects the inequality in wealth and power found within society.
- Maintain and foster social divisions – people tend to marry someone from the same social category (endogamy).

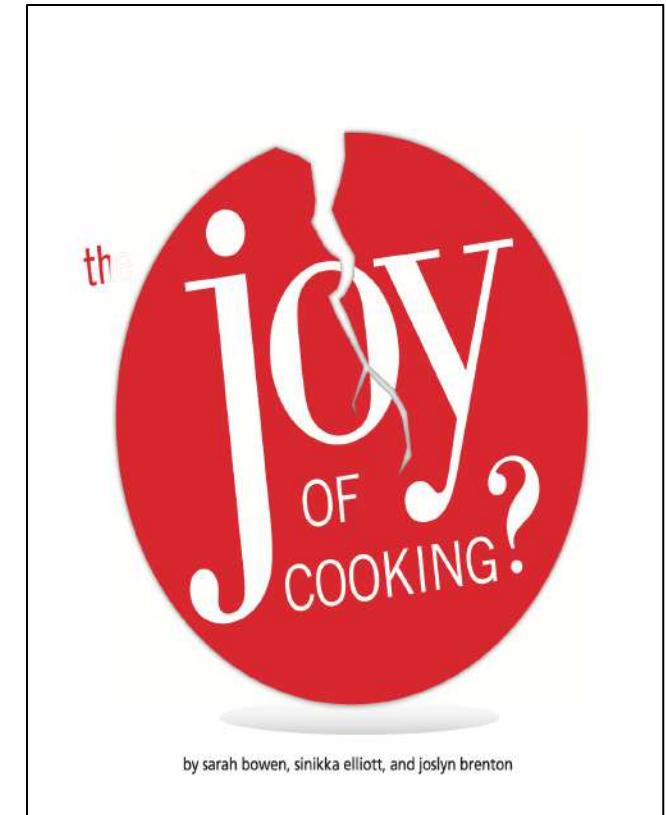


A woman from the Karen tribe prepares food for her family (Chiang Rai, Thailand).

❑ Family and Gender Inequality

- Women's oppression resulting from capitalist exploitation of women through their roles in the family (Marxist feminism).
- Oppression of women through 1) domestic labor and 2) sexuality/reproduction (radical feminism)
 - Other issues: contraception, abortion, legislation of domestic violence
 - Control over one's body as essential to women's liberation

- ❑ IDENTITIES (and inequalities)
 - cooking and **mothering** (gender role)
 - working-class black parents (Wanda & Marquan)
 - poor black mother (Flora, Ruth), married Latina mother (Claudia)
 - married middle-class white mother (Greely, Elaine)
- ❑ INTERACTIONS
 - 4th of July celebration
 - fast food corporations (typical working-class employers)
 - food fights
- ❑ INSTITUTIONS
 - “reforming the food system passes through **the kitchen**”
 - food and public health (to fight obesity and other problems)
 - home-cooked meal as “the ideal of the healthy, productive citizen”
- ❑ ISSUES (social change)
 - the emphasis on home cooking ignores the time pressure, financial constraints and feeding challenges that shape the family meal
 - this **emerging standard** is not realistic but rather elitist and moralistic



A Date with your Family

a 10-minute film that was produced in 1950 to primarily teach young people the types of manners and socializing that should transpire over a family meal. It is full of stereotypical views of each character that promotes the nuclear family as the ideal in the post-war era.

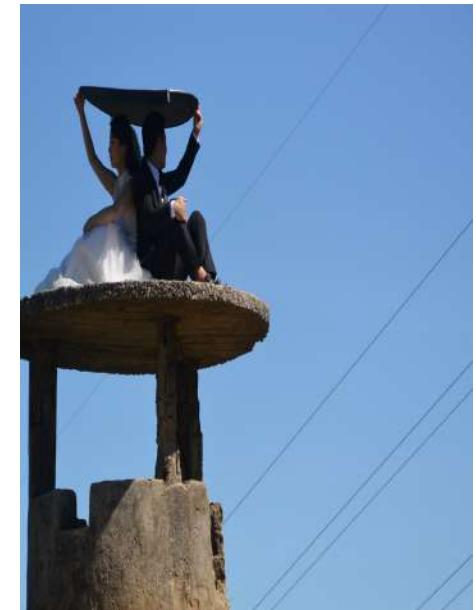


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Hh4M4vipAo

The Ideal Family?

- ❑ Industrialization eroded the importance of extended families and weakened the influence of traditions, which resulted in the rise of the **nuclear family**.

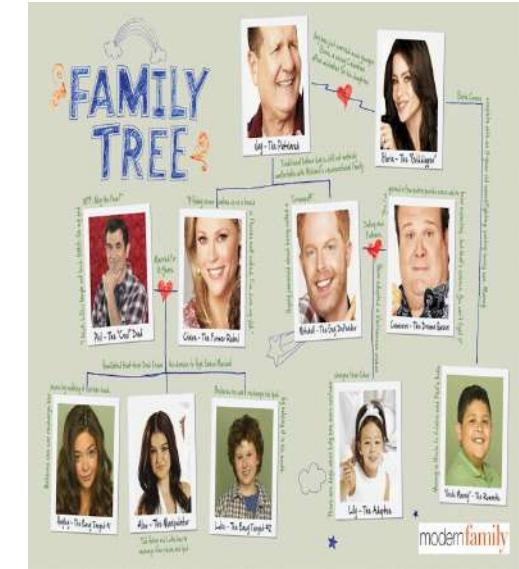
- ❑ Nuclear family as based on **marriage**.
 - Consists of husband, wife and their children.
 - The only recognized familial form in many societies.
 - Originating within among the Western middle-class, the nuclear family came to represent modernity and normality (suited an industrial economy).



Wedding Photo Shoot
Hoi An, Vietnam

Family to Families: Types of Family Structures

- Extended families (3G)
- Cohabitation** – couples living together without being married and who may have children together.
 - Reasons: cultural norms, alternative to marriage
 - Consequences: redefinition of kinship, inheritance, new legislation (welfare, entitlements).
- Single parent family
 - seen as a result from the breakdown of families, increasingly seen as a family option
- step-family, blended families
- same-sex marriage**
 - Legal in 26 countries, want long-term relationship, children
- transnational families, multi-ethnic families

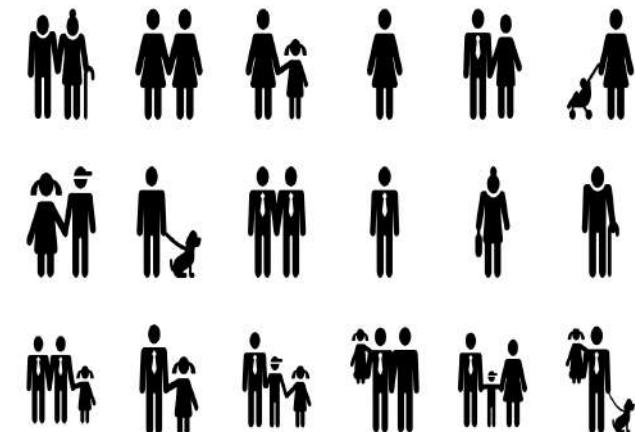


➤ **Post-industrialisation and liberalism gave rise to “the families of choice”.**

A Society without Families?

□ Imagine a society without families.

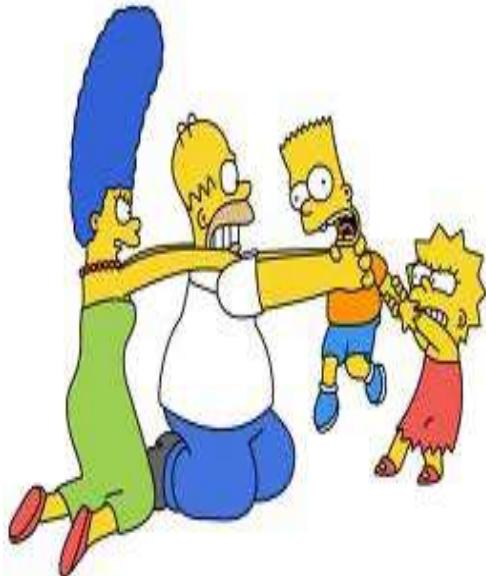
- How would the basic needs of people in that society addressed?
- How would the children be cared for, how would training and values be instilled?
- Who would fulfill the child's needs for love and care?
- What type of adults would this society create?



Types of families | 20 icons

FLATICON

The End of the Family?



❑ The Rise of Individualism

- incentives to marriage and family have diminished (access to intimacy and support)
- costs have increased (wedding, housing, etc.)
- the opportunity costs for women (double-shift, autonomy)

❑ Many functions of family have been eroded

- education, skills training
- care centers for elderly and children
- decline of the family as a site of production, division of labor

Families and the State



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDbD_JScrNo

FB: <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/in-iceland-stakeholders-keep-ears-close-to-ground>

The Social Construction of Families

❑ Families and the State

- socialization (citizenship as a set of values)
- social order

❑ Families and the Economy

- consumer culture (dining, entertainment, travel, etc.)
- McDonald's Family Playdate (family life as fun, eating out as part of a “healthy” lifestyle)

❑ The influence of other “family-makers”

- religion, mass media, etc.



Source: macdonalds.com.ph

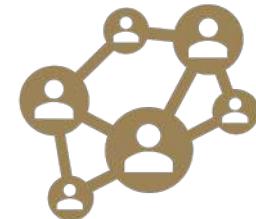
Conclusion



No such thing as 'the family' (single, timeless, homogeneous entity)



Families have been structured in many ways, and diversity of familial forms have been increasing.



Other institutions compete with the family while simultaneously working for its continuity.

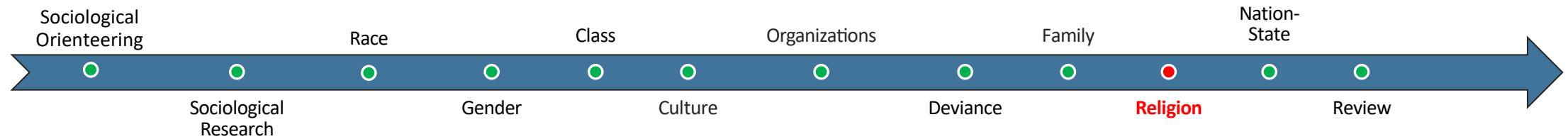
WEEK 10

Religion

religion and connection to power/nation state

- mandate of heaven

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



Religion and Sports



https://youtu.be/ozygznQP_w

Losing and Finding Faith

- People are **losing faith in institutions** (not only in religion, but also in one's employers, gov't., family, etc.).
- Sports as **civic religion**
 - a reminder of people's interconnectedness and dependency
 - fandom as religious worship
- “collective effervescence” (Durkheim)
 - Chaos as a rare moment of social order
 - Spontaneous solidarity, uninhibited integration



Singing of the National Anthem
Dallas Mavericks

Just How Much is Sports Like Religion? (Serazio 2013)

- Teams as **Totems**
 - symbols of greater entities that communities gather around for identity and unity (Durkheim).
- **Members** of each clan try to give themselves the external appearance of their totem.
- Whenever a society worships a divine form, it is also, simultaneously, worshipping itself.



Totem Pole of Kw'axsuu
Royal Ontario Museum
Toronto, Canada

What is Religion?

- **Religion** is a social institution that binds people together through a system of beliefs and practices that are based on some sacred or supernatural realm.
 - **Spirituality** – a deeper self-awareness and sense of connection with the outside world.
 - Types of religion: 1. simple supernaturalism (magical and mystical forces), 2. animism (spirits inhabit objects/places), 3. theism (belief in god/diety), 4. transcendent idealism (sacred principles)

□ Essential Characteristics of Religion

- **G – Group** (community of worshippers)
- **O – Observance** (rituals and celebrations)
- **D – Divine** (belief in a sacred power)



Karen Tribe Totems
Huay Pu Keng
Mae Hong Son, Thailand

Who Am I?

Why I am here?

How should I live?

What happens when I die?



idea that religion brings some kinds of restrictions

Religion and Modernity

- Secularization -the process by which religious beliefs, practices, and institutions lose their significance in society.

- Disenchantment (Weber)
- Opiate of the masses (Marx)
- **Totemism:** a society worships itself (Durkheim)

- Secularization and the **End of Religion**

- traditional roles of religion were taken over by secular institutions.
- e.g., education, state (**civil religion**)

art & music to reflect religion



Wat Rong Khun (White Temple)
A private Buddhist temple
Chiang Rai, Thailand

Civil Religion

- the institutional set of beliefs based on myths, historical events, and teachings that take on a sacred character and elicit a deep feeling of awe and inspiration.
 - Values (multiculturalism, **resilience**)
 - **Symbols** (flag, national anthem)
 - **Rituals** (national day celebration)
- Even in the face of division, national beliefs and rituals can inspire awe, respect, and reverence for the country.
- These sentiments are most evident during times of crisis and war, national holidays, and in the presence of national monuments.

Singapore's response (to COVID-19) has received international accolades. Underlying this is the social and psychological **resilience** of our people.

What makes Singapore different from other countries is that we have confidence in each other, we feel that we are all in this together, and we don't leave anyone behind.

This is SG United.

PM Lee Hsien Loong
Address on COVID-19 Situation
12 March 2020

Civic Religion vs Civil Religion

- Civic religion is originally used in the context of **medieval villages and towns**, emphasizing the role of religion as a set of cultural relations (e.g., festivals, hospitals, social interactions) through which people pursue not only spirituality but also economic, political, and social goals.
- On the other hand, civil religion focuses on the role of **the nation-state** as the most dominant institution in modern society. Nationalism includes a set of beliefs (e.g., resilience) and rituals (e.g., National Day celebration) "that take on a sacred quality and elicit feelings of patriotism (literally similar to worshipping the nation).
- Thus, civic religion largely exists in **a real community** while civil religion is about "**an imagined community**".

Globalization and the End of Religion?

□ The Rise of Fundamentalism

- **Fundamentalism** is a social movement that advocates for strict adherence to the core of teachings and early traditions of a religious belief.
- not limited to Islam
- a reaction to modernity's secularizing tendencies

□ “Religion” is a Western idea. The spread of this concept is part of **imperialism**.

- For instance, Hinduism & “Chinese religions” are not religions (but are imperial constructs).
- de-emphasis on their “religious” connotations has led to the growth of a global, hybrid religiosity as a form of New Age popular culture.
- **Yoga and Rebirth in America**



Interesting mural
Swayambhunath Temple
Kathmandu, Nepal

- Asian religions are a growing component of the American religious landscape.

- no longer solely practiced by Asian immigrants
- no longer popular only among White counter-culturalist (hippies, Hare Krishnas, etc.)

- Factors contributing to the rise of Asian religions

- increasing immigration
- widening global networks
- **reorganization:** changes in American religion (decline of Protestantism, continuing influence of spiritual seekers)
- **reorientation:** changes in American healthcare (alternative medicine)

- yoga: both a devotional and a fitness practice

- spirituality as the mastery of one's body (e.g., meditation)
- physical enhancement as spiritual growth

feature article wendy cadge and courtney bender

yoga and rebirth in america: asian religions are here to stay

New movies, store names, and organizations herald a growing interest among Americans in Asian religions. Beyond the fads, sociologists are finding that these Eastern faiths, along with their practitioners and centers, play an increasingly important role in American spiritual life.



Monks accept donations of new robes from lay members of Wat Montohempunee, a Thai Buddhist temple in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Thais, Laotians, Cambodians and other Asians and non-Asian Americans all attend Thai temples, about one-third of which have programs in English specifically for non-Asian Americans.

PHOTO BY THOMAS MELBER FOR TIME

The End of Religion? Pluralism, Individualization, and “Rebirth”

□ Religious Pluralism

- every individual in a religiously diverse society has the freedom, safety, and rights to practice or not to practice a religion.
- 1) dictates a “principle of neutrality,” 2) migration brought a variety of religious practices, 3) differences are not politicized, 4) organizations work to promote positive interaction and foster a tolerant society.

□ Religious Individualization

- a greater agency accorded to each person in choosing a religious group and in crafting their own religious life
- shift from religiosity (organizations) to spirituality (individuals)



Bukit Kasih (Hill of Love), a spiritual center where people of different faiths can worship together.
North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Travel and Spirituality



<https://vimeo.com/224157559>

Conclusion



globalization has ushered in the rise
of fundamentalism and pluralism

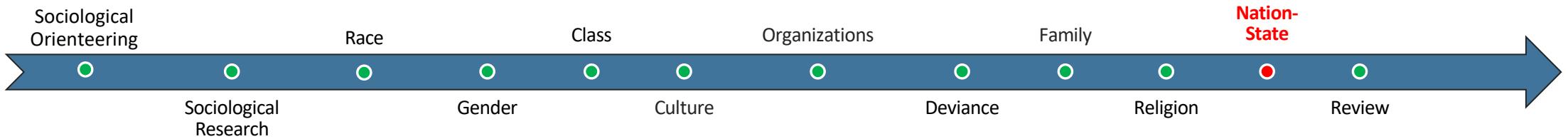


from dwellers to seekers
shift from religiosity (organizations) to
spirituality (individuals)

WEEK 11

The Nation-State

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What is a Nation-State?

- ❑ is an independent political entity that rules over community of people (**nation**) who live within a defined territory (**state**).

- ❑ Characteristics of a Nation-State
 - defined territory
 - common history
 - common culture (e.g., language, values, belief systems)
 - Political and Economic Systems

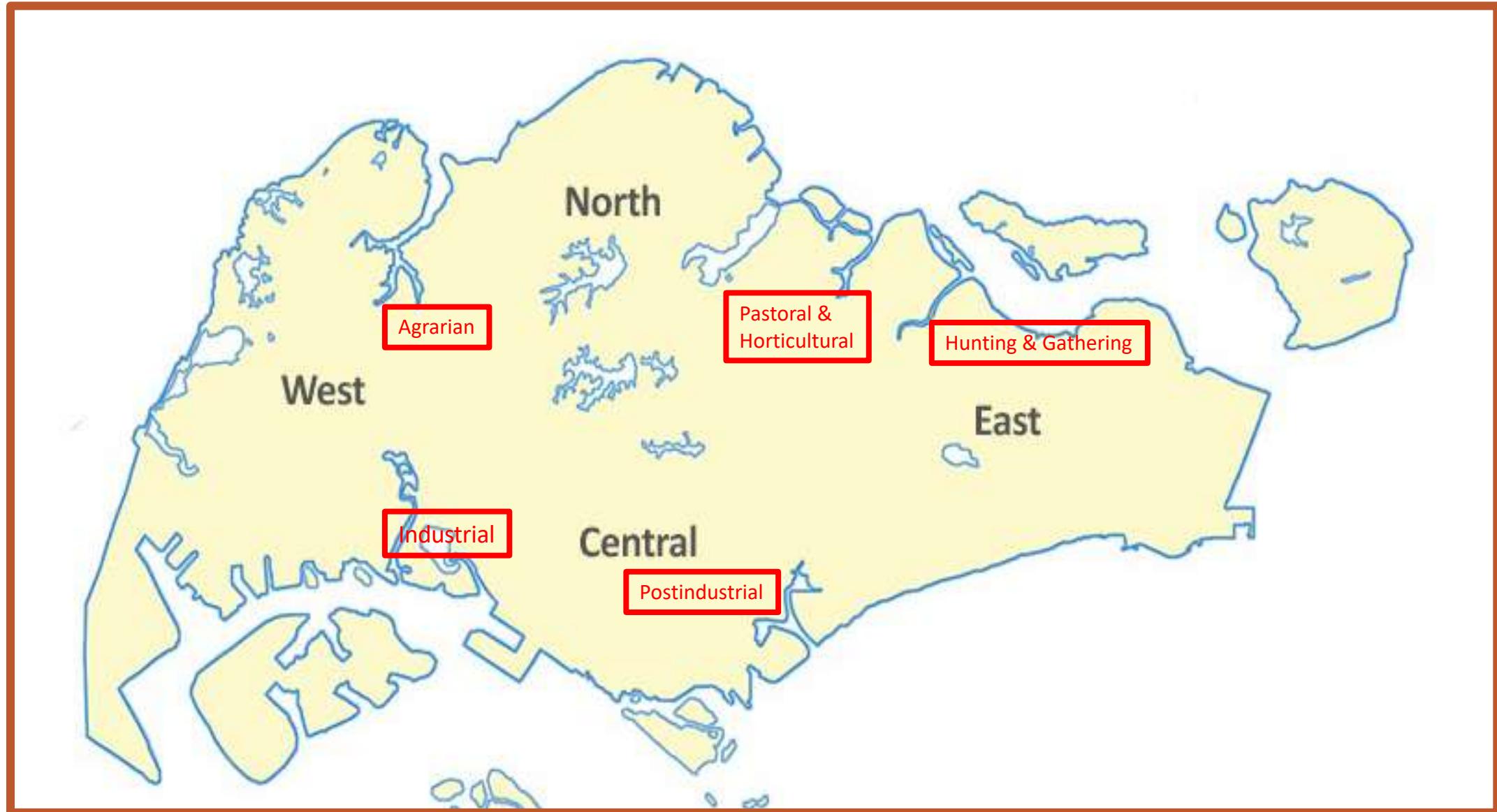


Types of Societies



Farm Show at Agrodome, Rotorua, New Zealand

- Hunting and Gathering Societies
 - foraging, fluid leadership
- Pastoral and Horticultural Societies
 - domestication, subsistence (swidden farming)
 - hierarchical, rule of tribal chiefs
- Agrarian Societies
 - large-scale farming, creation of surplus
 - development of the state, *mandala system*
- Industrial Societies
 - mechanization, Industrial Revolution
 - birth of modern nation-states
- Information Societies (post-industrial)
 - knowledge economy, geopolitics



The Political-Economy



Palacio del Congreso Nacional Argentino
Buenos Aires, Argentina

□ defines how government institutions, an economic system, and a political environment interact and influence each other.

- distribution of social power based on wealth.
- the role of the state in wealth distribution.

□ Fundamental assumptions

- shows how economic theories such as capitalism or socialism play out in the real world.
- seeks to understand how history, culture, and customs impact an economic system.
- political economy studies how political forces shape economic interactions.

A. The Political System

- **Politics** is the institution through which **POWER** is acquired, exercised, and contested by individuals and groups.
- Power – is the ability of individuals or groups to achieve their objectives despite the opposition from others.
 - coercion – use of force and violence
 - influence – use of persuasion
 - authority – institutionalized power that people view as legitimate
- **Max Weber's Three Forms of Authority**
 - Traditional authority – based on the sanctity of time-honored norms.
 - Charismatic authority – based on the leader's exemplary qualities.
 - Legal-rational authority – based on a system of impersonal rules.

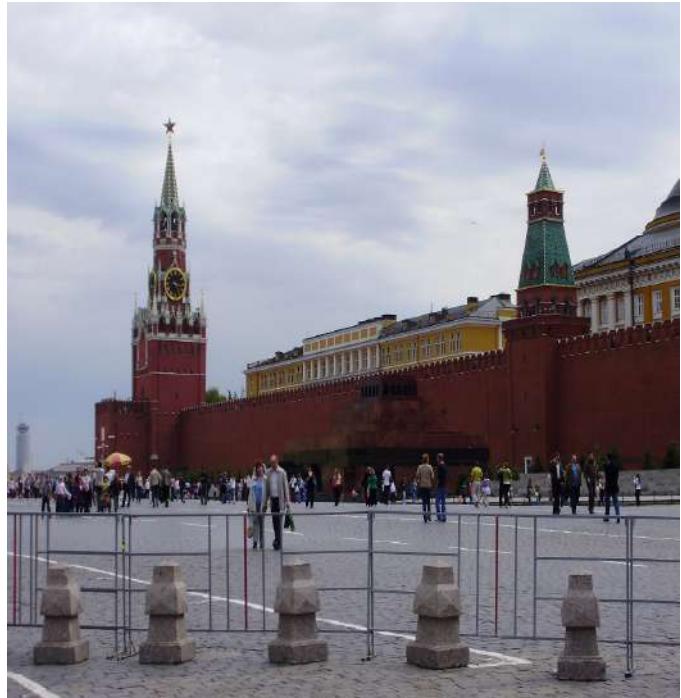


EXAMINING SOCIETY: The Basis of Power

- Think of the current political leader of your home country. Which one of Max Weber's three forms of authority would best describe the basis of his/her power?
 - traditional authority
 - legal-rational authority
 - charismatic authority



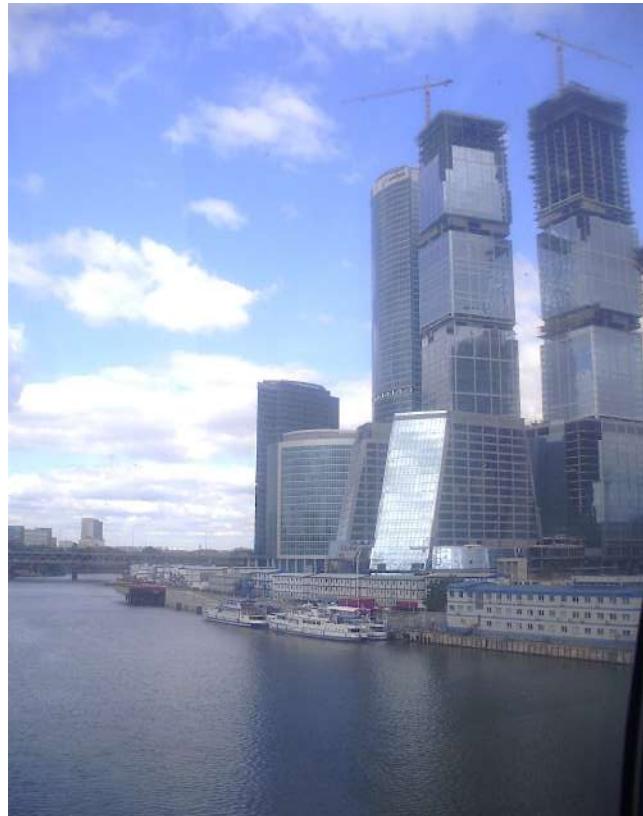
Government and Power



The Kremlin
Moscow, Russia

- **Government** - the formal organization that formulates and enforces laws to guide and coordinate people's involvement in political activities.
- Forms of government – (**power** is vested on):
 - monarchy (a hereditary ruler)
 - democracy (people)
 - oligarchy (an elite group)
 - autocracy (dictator) – totalitarianism (**ideology** – a vision of a “perfect society”), authoritarianism (**no official ideology**)
 - theocracy (religious leaders)

B. The Economic System



Moscow International Business Center

- The institution that coordinates human activity in the effort to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services.

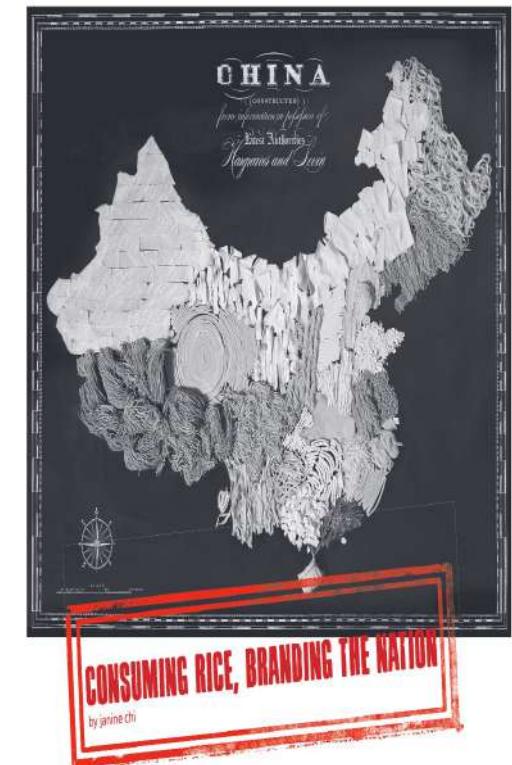
- Major Economic Systems
 - capitalism – profit-driven, means of production is privately-owned.
 - socialism – welfare-driven, means of production is publicly-owned.
 - mixed economies – a hybrid of capitalist and socialist systems. E.g., **welfare state** (public-private partnership, minimal provisions for citizens).



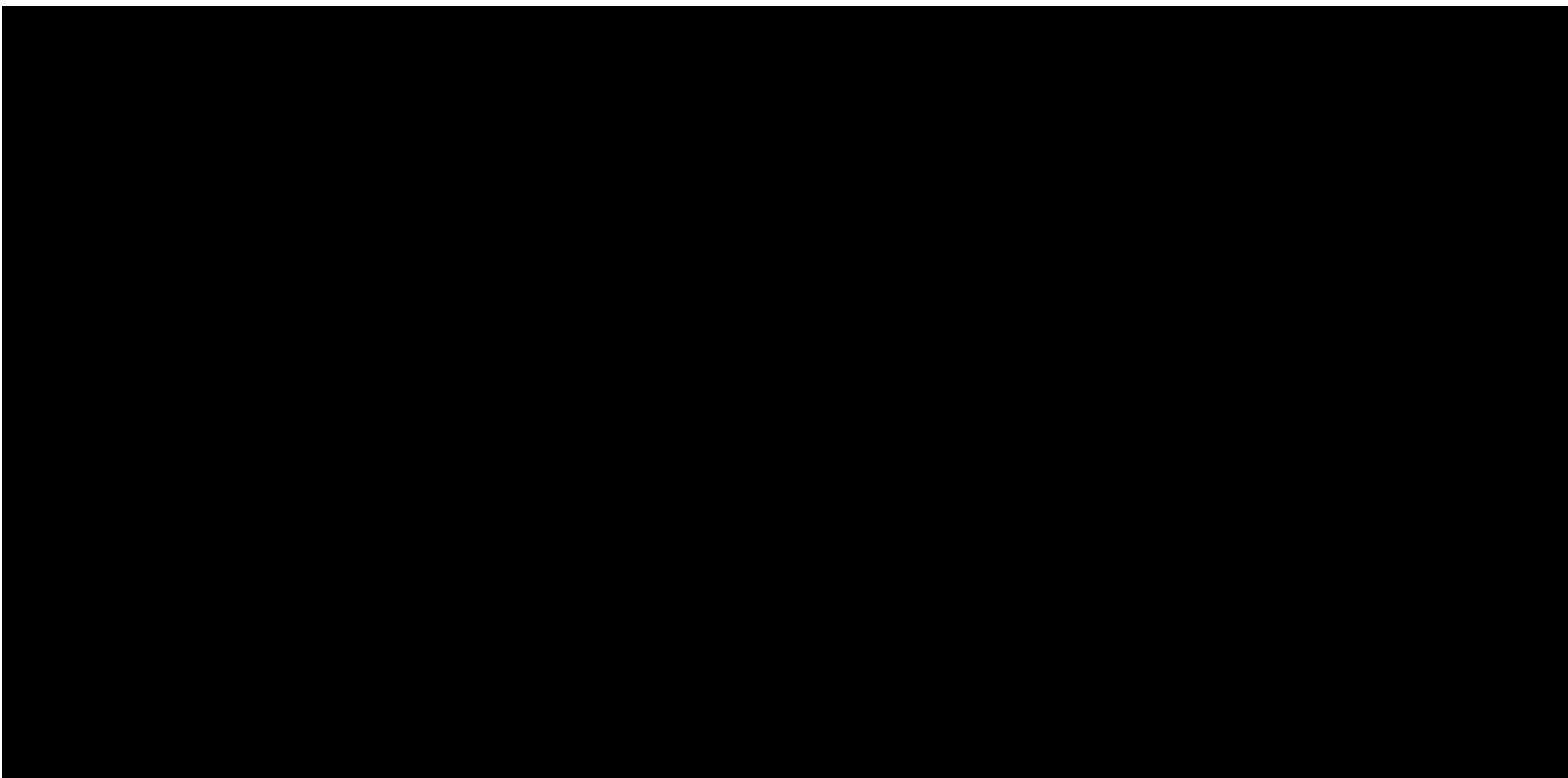
<https://youtu.be/kMyPUDSBSYo>

Image and Imagining the Nation

- The “image” of a nation is not limited by its global political standing or economic productivity.
- This “image” is meticulously constructed through diplomacy, tourism, or the promotion of “iconic products”.
- **Nation branding** - application of marketing strategies to promote a distinct image and reputation to serve national goals and interests.
- Rice: Consumption and the Branding of Nations (Chi 2014)
 - **food cosmopolitanism** – changing food preferences, global palate.
 - **culinary tourism** – favor local cultures (exotic & authentic), food as heritage, tradition, and identity.
 - **gastronationalism** – food are tied to a place and becomes a marker of identity and nationhood.



Branding the Nation



<https://youtu.be/agWYoEjCdJA>

Understanding the Nation-State

❑ Nation and Nationalism (Ernest Gellner)

- nationalism came to fill the void caused by the decline of religion and the feudal system.
- education, mass production, and the growth of cities saw the emergence of common ideals and sentiments that unite people.

❑ Imagined Communities (Benedict Anderson)

- a nation-state “is imagined because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow members... yet in the mind of each lives the image of their communion.”
- highlighted the importance of education, literacy, and the rise of print capitalism in the emergence of the nation-state.

❑ Mapping the Nation (Thongchai Winichakul)

- modern geography and cartography produced the territory, practices, and values (“geo-body”) that served as the framework of Thai nation.
- defining “we-self” vs “the other” are necessary to demarcate and enforce the existence of the nation-state.

The End of the Nation-State?

□ The Impact of the Digital Revolution

- decline of the bureaucracy, privatization of public services, declining influence in technological, economic, and social advancement.

□ The Impact of Globalization

- national sovereignty is challenge by international agreements, foreign investments, migration, and the influence of MNCs.
- decentralization (rise of local governments), flexible citizenship

□ Resilience and Resurgence

- new nation-states continue to emerge
- global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic have proven the importance of nation-states



A protest in Moscow

Conclusion



When people believe that power differences are legitimate, those with power possess authority.



The world's economic system fall along a continuum, with capitalism and socialism in their most pure as endpoints.

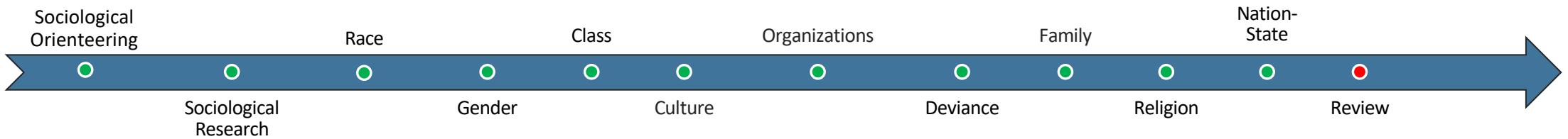


The “image” of a nation is not limited by its global political standing or economic productivity.

WEEK 12 (REVIEW)

COVID-19 & Social Change

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GROUP REPORT FEEDBACK



Content (10%)

research: quality and relevant information

reference materials: assessment & application

keen analysis of relevant social issues

insight added into the topic's discussion (individual)



Clarity (5%)

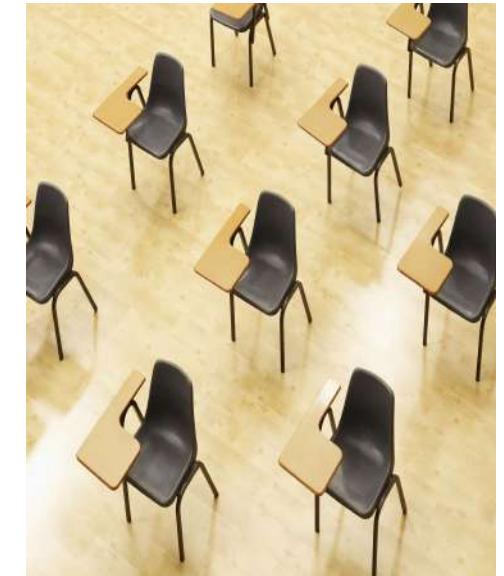
teamwork: complementarity & coherence

use of appropriate engagement styles (slides, videos, photos, questions, etc.)

audience impact, e.g., not entirely reading from notes (individual)

The Final Exam

- Check NUS EduRec for SCHEDULE and VENUE.
- TWO PARTS: 10 Critical Definition questions (2 points each, 20 marks), ONE essay question (20 marks).
 - Answer ALL of the Critical Definition questions.
 - Choose ONE out of 2 essay questions.
- This is a TWO-HOUR, SIT-IN, CLOSED BOOK examination.
- NO SPECIAL EXAM (Check EduRec for rules)



Sample Questions

A. Critical Definition

Analyse the sociological significance of the following concepts.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| - globalization | - civic religion |
| - glocalization | - ethnocentrism |
| - social forces | - the “good taste” |
| - negotiated order | - families |
| - mechanization | - charismatic authority |



B. Essay Question

1. The automobile is one of the most important symbols of industrialization. It revolutionized production, influenced urban planning, and shaped the everyday lives of many people. Discuss the social significance of the automobile by highlighting its roles in defining the relationship between identities and institutions.

How To Answer The Final Exam?

A. Critical Definition

- use the key concept's definition in the textbook or explain its meaning in your own words.

B. Essay Question

- **I** – highlight a new idea or that you learned (or developed).
 - **N** – compose a coherent answer.
 - **T** –use key concepts and theories from the readings. Do not write a purely opinion essay.
- Follow the last 3 components of the p.o.i.n.t. criteria
(probing, opinion, **insight, narrative, texts**)
- **integration**



The image consists of two side-by-side vertical panels. The left panel is a book cover for 'COVID 2025'. It features a dark background with a pattern of red COVID-19 virus particles. Overlaid on the background is the title 'HOW COVID-19 WILL CHANGE LIFE IN CITIES' in large white capital letters, followed by a thin horizontal red line and the author's name 'LUIS BETTENCOURT' in white capital letters. Below the title, the word 'COVID' is written in large white capital letters, and '2025' is written in a smaller white font next to a small red virus icon. The right panel is a portrait photograph of Luis Bettencourt, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt, smiling at the camera against a plain, light-colored wall.

<https://youtu.be/cMZmdIIYMGU>

Race and Ethnicity (Week 3)

□ Coronavirus News

- Wherever a pandemic goes, xenophobia is never far behind.
- US (against East Asians), Thailand (against white foreigners), Hongkong (restaurants refused to serve Mandarin speakers), Europe (calls to stop immigrants).

□ Sociological Views

- **Stereotypes** – an idea about the characteristics of a group.
- **Prejudice** – (a thought process) -a rigid and unfavorable judgement about an out-group that is unlikely to change regardless of the evidence against it.
- **Discrimination** – (an action) – unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on attributes unrelated to merit, ability or past performance. Individual or institutionalized, usually motivated by prejudice.

GLOBAL

The Other Problematic Outbreak

As the coronavirus spreads across the globe, so too does racism.

YASMEEN SERHAN AND TIMOTHY MC LAUGHLIN MARCH 13, 2020



Activists in Nantes, France, denounce racism related to the pandemic with a sign that reads "Coronavirus: It has made more people racist than sick!" (ESTELLE RUIZ / NURPHOTO / GETTY)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-covid19-xenophobia-racism/607816/>

Gender and Sexuality (Week 4)

Men are much more likely to die from coronavirus - but why?

Trend has been replicated in all nations, but scientists cannot yet fathom the cause

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [Coronavirus - all our coverage](#)



▲ A cigarette vendor at a Beijing stall. Nearly 50% of men in China smoke but just 2% of women. Photograph: AP

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/26/men-are-much-more-likely-to-die-from-coronavirus-but-why>

□ Coronavirus News

- Covid-19 discriminates by sex, with men more likely to test positive and more likely to die from the disease.
- Fatality rate: China (2.8% men, 1.7% women)
- Fatality distribution: Italy (71%), Spain (66.4%)
- Factors: 1) Smoking 2) Behavioural (less likely to wash hands, to seek medical care, or follow health advice), 3) **Biological** (low immunity, hormones).

□ Sociological Views

- Sex vs Gender, **Biological vs Behavioural**
- **Gender Polarization** – the organizing of social life around male-female ideals (masculinity vs femininity).

Class and Social Inequality (Week 5)

□ Coronavirus News

- Vulnerable groups: 1) elderly, 2) medical workers, 3) **people with low-paid jobs** (supermarket clerks, delivery workers, transport workers, cleaners, etc.).
- Italian supermarket clerk: “We are the only ones to be so exposed, together with doctors and nurses”. “But we are not being protected.”

□ Sociological Views

- Surgeon vs sandwich maker (textbook)
- Structural “need” for poverty-wage labor (1. fill unskilled and dangerous occupations, 2. provide low-cost labor for industries.
- Inequality shapes interaction and awareness of one’s superior or inferior position relative to others.

Death of Store Clerk in Italy Highlights Contagion's New Front Line

By Emma Bubola
The New York Times 25 March 2020

Municipal employees wear face masks and sit far apart as they meet to discuss food distribution to the needy in Milan on Friday, March 20, 2020. (Alessandro Grassani/The New York Times)

<https://sg.yahoo.com/news/death-store-clerk-italy-highlights-121922987.html>

IDENTITIES: Unmasking Society

- The pandemic has most seriously exacerbated the inequality between:**
 - a) race/ethnic categories
 - b) gender categories
 - c) social class categories
 - d) others



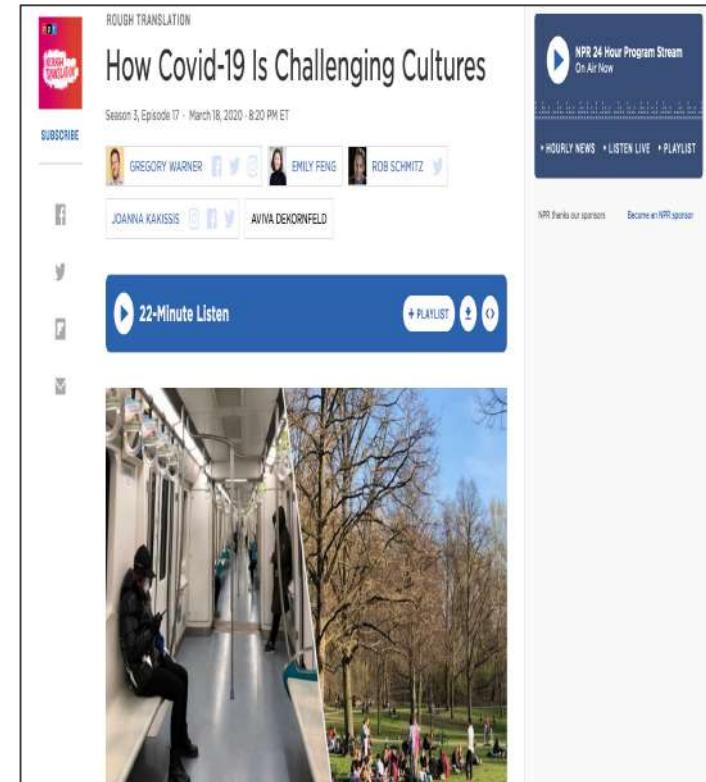
Culture and Socialization (Week 6)

❑ Coronavirus News

- One pandemic, different responses
- Gov't approach: affirm their way of life or rethink how they do everything.
- Which places inspires faith in authorities? Which places completely rattled people's belief in the government?
- China (rattled to faith in gov't.), Germany (people's decision to state decision).

❑ Sociological Views

- Geographical and historical forces shape culture.
- Cultural universals vs cultural particulars
- Ethnocentrism vs cultural relativism



<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/18/817960068/how-covid-19-is-challenging-cultures>

Groups and Organizations (Week 7)

❑ Coronavirus News

- criticisms against WHO for warning of Covid-19 as an international concern that kept states from initiating timely response.
- accused of becoming a tool of Chinese power and propaganda.

❑ Sociological Views

- WHO and bureaucracy (1. division of labor, 2. hierarchy of authority, 3. rules and regulations, 4. meritocracy, 5. efficiency).



Deviance and Social Control (Week 8)

Coronavirus-related crimes capitalize on global fear, panic

AP COLLEEN LONG, MICHAEL BALSAMO and RODNEY MUHUMUZA
Associated Press 25 March 2020



<https://sg.yahoo.com/news/coronavirus-related-crimes-capitalizes-global-203530640.html>

□ Coronavirus News

- As the pandemic spreads, so too do the crimes related to it.
- Thieves steal surgical masks. A clinic sells fake COVID-19 tests. Hate groups encourage sick members to infect law enforcement officers. Imposters pose as public health officials. Con artists peddle fake cures and financial scams.

□ Sociological Views

- Structural Strain - a response to an imbalance between culturally valued goals and the socially acceptable ways of achieving those goals.
- The role of **social audience** in identifying norm-breakers.
- The disciplinary society – normalizes surveillance.

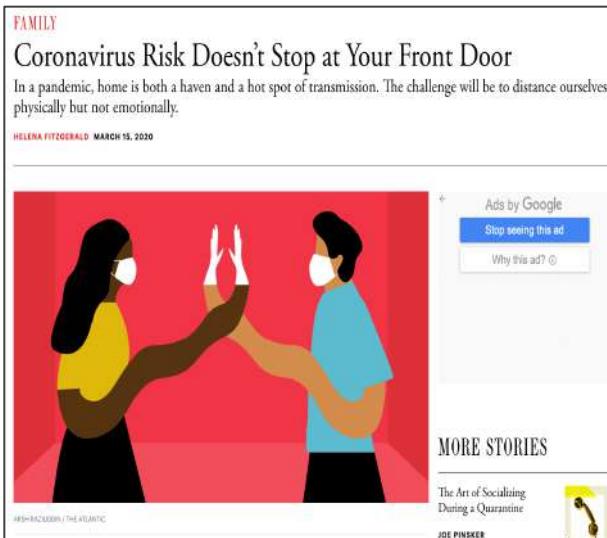
INTERACTIONS: Unmasking Society

□ What do you think is the reason why people who refuse to wear mask become deviant?

- a) they are ignoring the law
- b) other people label them as deviants
- c) other people complain about them
- d) they were exposed to external influence
- e) they resist this new constraining regulation



Family (Week 9)



<https://www.theatlantic.com/family/archive/2020/03/what-does-social-distance-mean-within-a-family/608044/>

□ Coronavirus News

- Love is the opposite of hygiene.
- Families— have historically been among the most significant hot spots of infectious-disease transmission (including Covid-19).
- People who live alone are especially burdened as they are adversely cut-off from their families and peers.
- social distancing vs physical distancing

□ Sociological Views

- Functions of the family: 1) economic cooperation, 2) care and emotional support.
- Covid-19 and the social construction of the family.

Religion (Week 10)

❑ Coronavirus News

- Trump: “I would love to have ‘business as usual resume’ by Easter” (American Resurrection).
- The fervent faith in **the power of commerce** has, over time, become the closest thing Americans have to a civil religion.
- When the language of buying and selling, product and profit, dominates discourse about identities and society, capitalism becomes indistinguishable from religious faith.
- Once we made human sacrifices to appease the gods, we must do the same to appease the markets.

❑ Sociological Views

- Civil religion - the institutionalized set of beliefs and values (e. g. prosperity) about the nation.
- Nationalism - most evident during times of crisis.

America's civil religion is capitalism. Trump's coronavirus response proves it.

Facing a plague, he wants us to sacrifice at the altar of commerce.



<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/03/26/fox-news-trump-dan-patrick-coronavirus/>

Nation-State (Week 11)



<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20200326-covid-19-what-makes-a-good-leader-during-a-crisis>

□ Coronavirus News

- the right leaders will come to the fore during times of crisis
- No sugar-coating: leaders should be open about the evolving nature of the problem and avoid being paternalistic.
- Sense of purpose: the importance of “messaging” – compassion, consistency, and a good sense of what’s going on.

□ Sociological Views

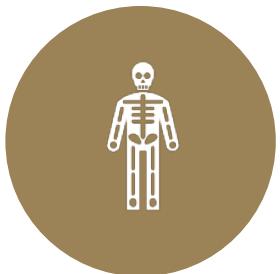
- Power – the probability that an individual can achieve his/her will even against the opposition of others.
- Types of authority: 1) traditional, 2) charismatic, 3) legal-rational.

INSTITUTIONS: Unmasking Society

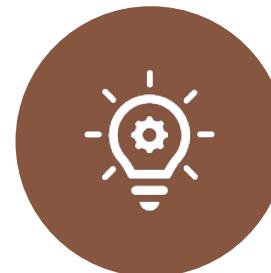
- Which institution contributes the most in alleviating the suffering of many people during the pandemic?
- a) family
 - b) religion
 - c) nation-state
 - d) others (type in the chat box)



Conclusion: Why Study Sociology (Weeks 1 & 2)



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.

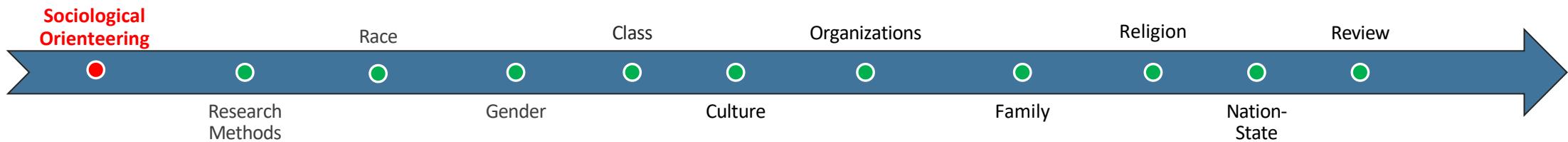


H (headway) – helps us to be active participants of society.

WEEK 1

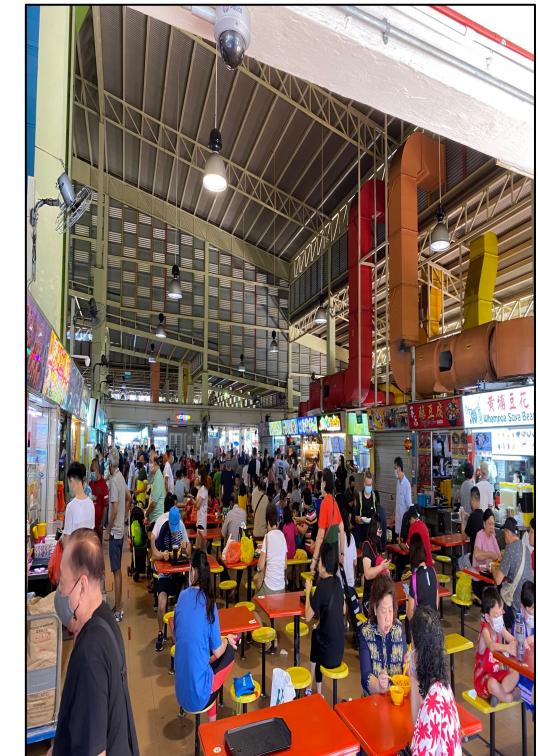
Sociological Orienteering

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



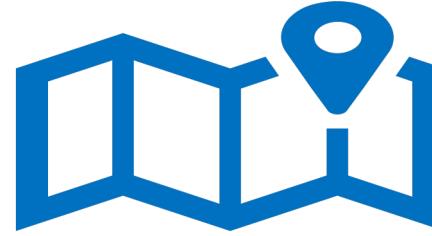
WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

- 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.

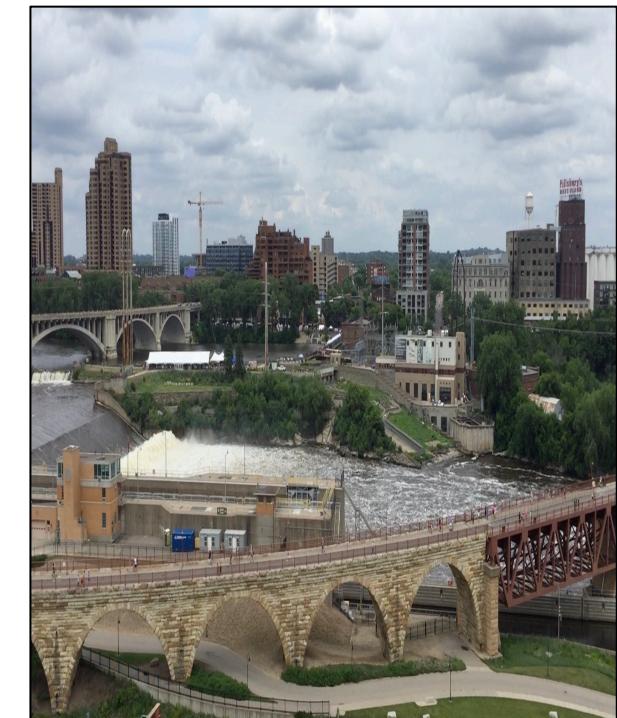
Covid-19 and the Social Sciences



<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

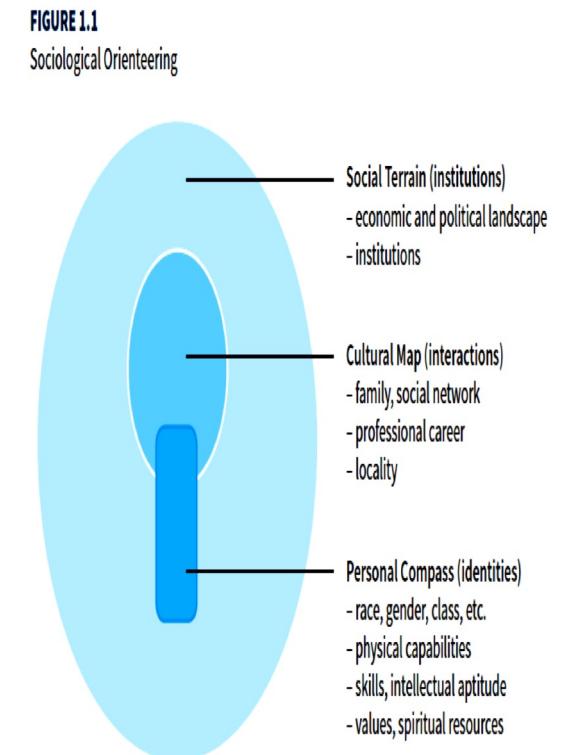
- August Comte (1798-1857) - Positivist who coined the term “sociology”.
- Harriet Martineau (1802-1876) - First methodologist with *How to Observe Morals and Manners* (1838).
- Jane Addams (1860-1935) - Cofounder of Hull House (a social work center) and advocated for “sympathetic knowledge.”
- W.E.B. 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.



Sociological Orienteering: How the Pandemic Changed My World



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

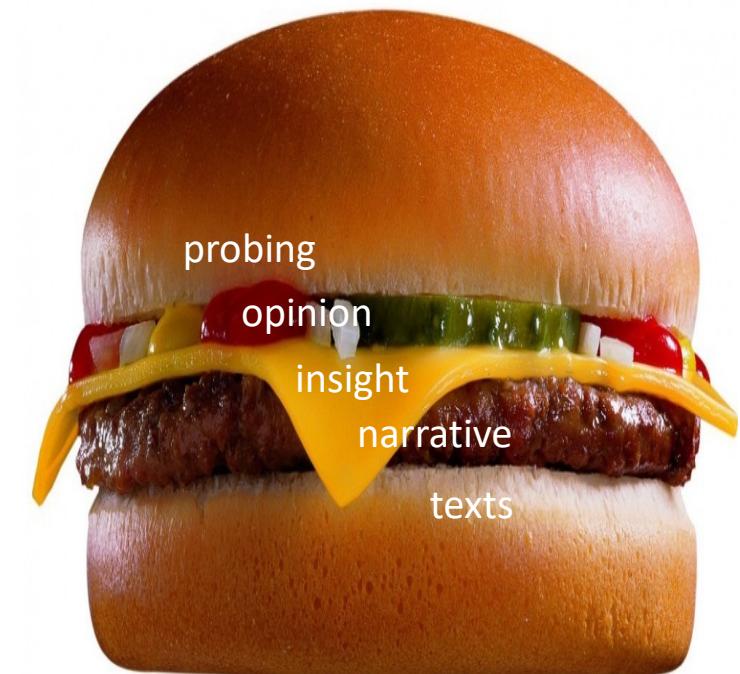
Midterm Essay: Sociological Orienteering

- 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

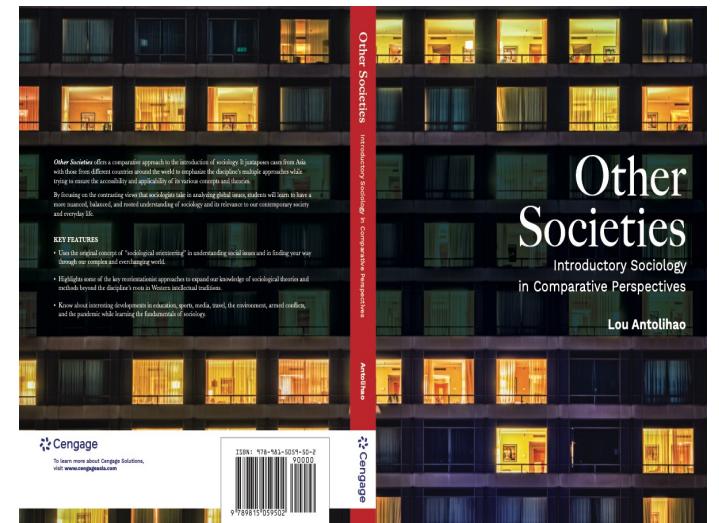
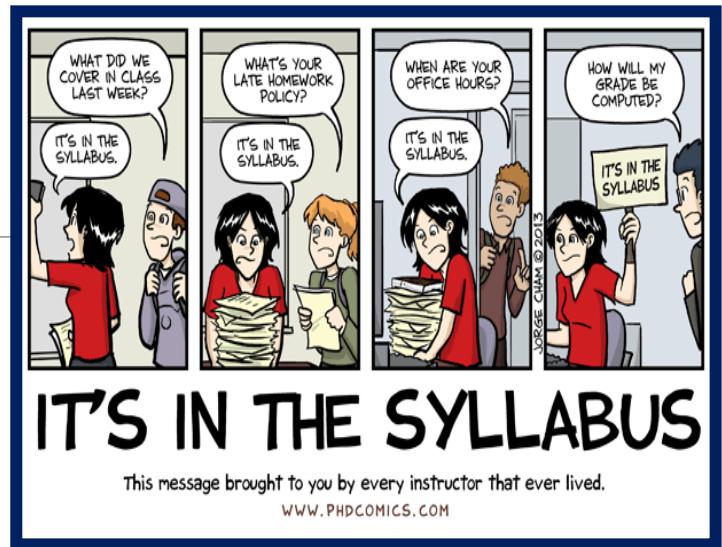
□ Assessment

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

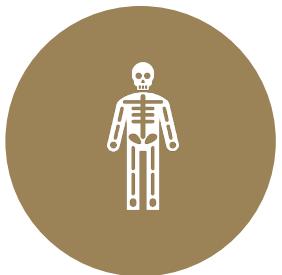
□ Textbook – Antolihao, *Other Societies*:

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.

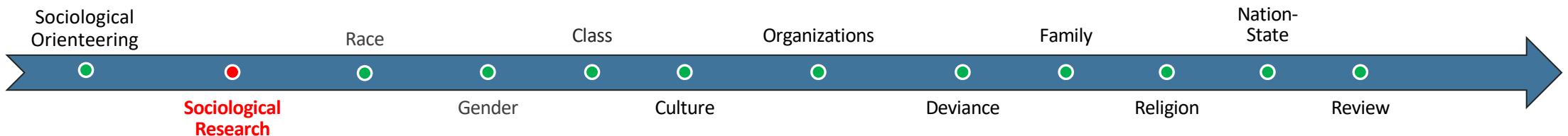


H (headway) – helps us to be active participants of society.

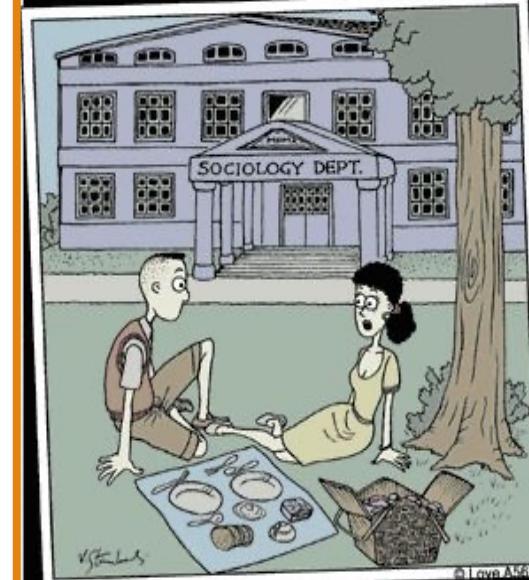
WEEK 2

Sociological Research

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"I love our lunches out here, but I always
get the feeling that we're being watched."

Theories and Methodologies

Research Question (Problem): *"Karl moves to study in Singapore, has gone on five dates, but none of the women like him. Why?"*

- **Theory** – explains how and why certain elements of our world are related.
- **Hypothesis** (assumption, assertion) – a provisional and testable explanation.
- FUNCTIONALIST THEORY (order, equilibrium): "He is from abroad... the girls are from Singapore. It is not a good fit."
 - ❖ manifest and latent FUNCTIONS – labor needs (manifest), cultural diversity (latent)
 - ❖ manifest and latent DYSFUNCTIONS – difficulty assimilating (manifest), social division (latent)
- CONFLICT THEORY (inequality, repression): "Some women might view him as an upper-class foreigner. Many are particular about class status."
- INTERACTIONIST (self-awareness, shared symbols, negotiated order): "Karl is just not smooth. He does not possess the verbal skills to flatter and impress women."
- REORIENTATIONIST (imperialism, traditionalism): "Karl is just too liberal. Many women still have conservative views of courtship and romantic relationship."

Ways to Do Sociology

After you have decided upon a theoretical approach, you must decide how are you going to gather the necessary evidence to prove your theory. In other words, what research methodologies do you want to use?

- There are four general methodologies...
 1. Positivist methodology
 2. Critical Methodology
 3. Interpretive Methodology
 4. Comparative Historical Methodology



Research Methodology

1) Positivist Methodology (Functionalist Approach) – This is the most common research orientation. Grounded on sociology's classical link to science, it emphasizes on systematic data gathering, empirical measurement, and statistical presentation. With this way of doing sociology, the researcher is a **neutral observer**.

To understand Karl's tough luck, a positivist sociologist would give surveys to Karl and all his dates, look at census data for the ratio of men and women (e.g., more men, less women) ...etc.

Researcher Dilemmas

- ❑ Is it possible to be completely objective?
 - validity (accurate measurement) and reliability (consistent results)
 - Whose side are we on? (Becker 1967)
- ❑ Should we put a clear boundary between the research and personal lives of scholars?
 - “Choosing a career in sexuality studies often elicits curiosity and judgment; and leads others to make assumptions about one’s sexual proclivities” (Irvine 2014, 40).
 - Two Kinsey biographies: 1) Jones – suspicious sexual motivations undermined the validity of his studies. 2) Gathorne-Hardy – scientific aspirations prompted Kinsey and his team to abandon certain notions of sexual conformity.
- ❑ Works of science are fraught with dilemmas about how to frame stories.



Research Methodology

2) **Critical Methodology (Conflict Theory)** – focuses on exposing structures of inequality and the need for social change. In this way, the sociologist is a **critic** (or even an activist).

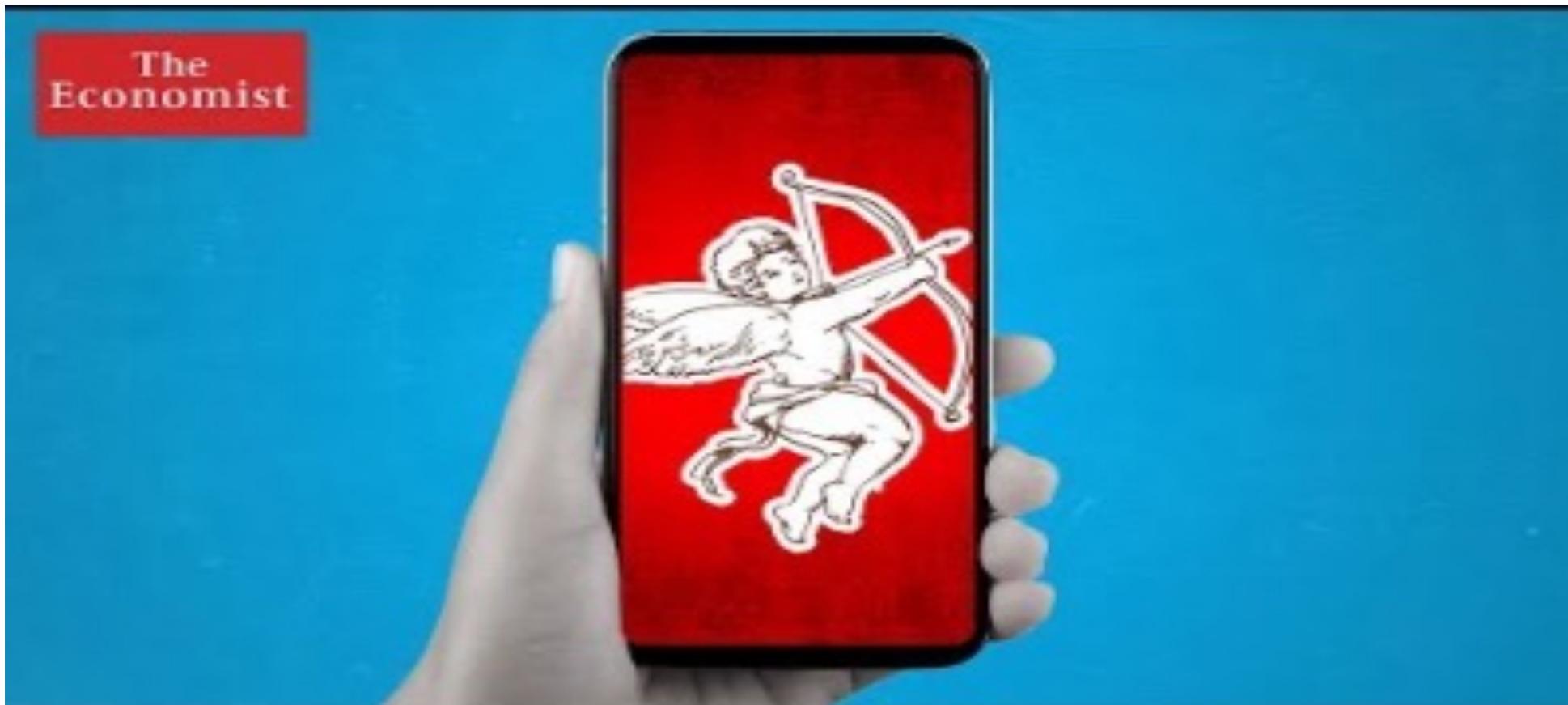
□ *The sociologist may discuss with Karl his blunders, which some women find unlikeable. Alternatively, the sociologist may want to start cultural awareness classes so that women will not be prejudiced towards Karl and other foreign students.*

Research Methodology

3) Interpretive Methodology (Interactionist Approach) – this methodology focuses on the meanings people place in their actions. The researcher presents the respondent's point of view. For this approach, the researcher is a **participant**.

- ❑ *To understand Karl's plight, the interpretive sociologist may immerse himself into the dating scene by working in a café or staying in a student dormitory.*

Dating Apps



<https://youtu.be/3qPlglxzt5c>

Research Methodology

3) Comparative Historical Methodology (Reorientationist Approach) – this methodology takes a long-term and comparative view of social change. It employs archival research and the analysis of secondary data (old censuses, policies, etc.). For this approach, the researcher is a **reviewer**.

- *To understand Karl's plight, a sociologist using this methodology may look into how resistance to Western influence might have resulted to a relatively conservative dating practices.*



Engaging Society: Researching Dating Apps

- Which research orientation is the best approach to get a better understanding of the impact of dating apps?
 - a) Positivist Methodology
 - b) Critical Methodology
 - c) Interpretive Methodology
 - d) Comparative Historical Methodology

Answer through
PollEv.com/sociolou

Methodologies and Methods

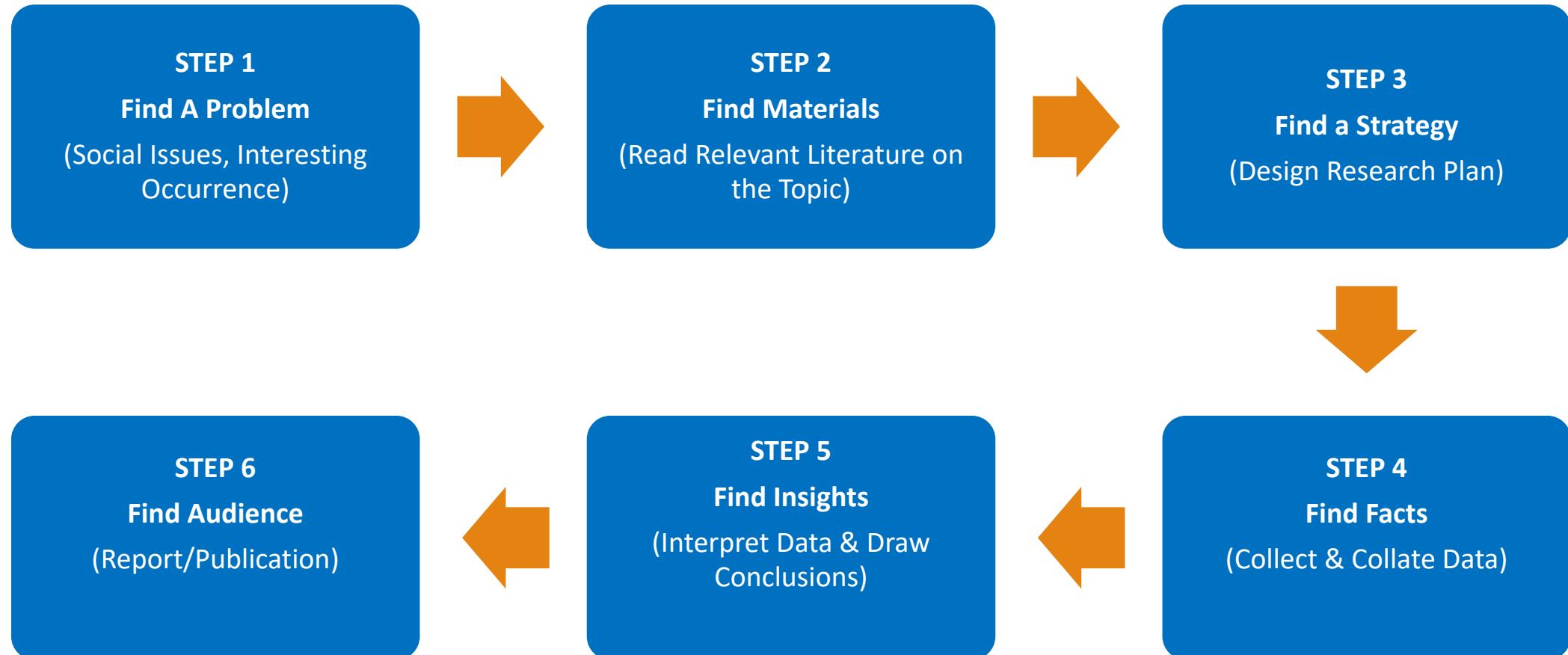
Methodology	Methods	Strengths	Weaknesses
Positivist	experiment	control over variables <small>also can use software to quickly process and analyse</small>	artificial setting, Hawthorne Effect , difficult to probe deeper or examine nuances
	survey census	covers large population	
Critical	action research participatory research	directly benefits the subjects, empowering	objectivity questions , might enmeshed in issues
Interpretive	participant-observation, ethnography	gain an “insider’s” view subjects in natural setting	difficult to generalize results, need to adjust to local way of life
Comparative Historical	archival Research secondary Analysis	long-term view of change, insight from comparison, inter-disciplinary	large volume of data to process, need effort to filter bias

Methods of Data Collection

Once you have decided on a theory, and the way you want to approach the situation, then you can finally conduct your research. How do you do this?

- **Experiment** – used to investigate cause and effect.
- **Survey** – subjects respond to a series of statements or questions on a questionnaire or interview.
- **Participant Observation** – (ethnography) sociologists involve themselves in the day to day activities of people.
- **Existing Sources/Archival Research** – Sometimes sociologists use information (data) that has been gathered by others.
- **NEW METHODS:** data gathering evolves and new techniques are regularly formulated (e.g. **netnography**, photo-analysis).

The Research Process



Conclusion



Theories provide us with lenses to examine the world and focus our analysis on specific social issues.



Research methods help us to collect data efficiently and effectively.

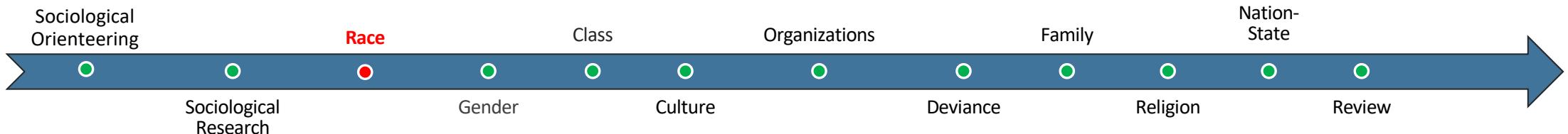
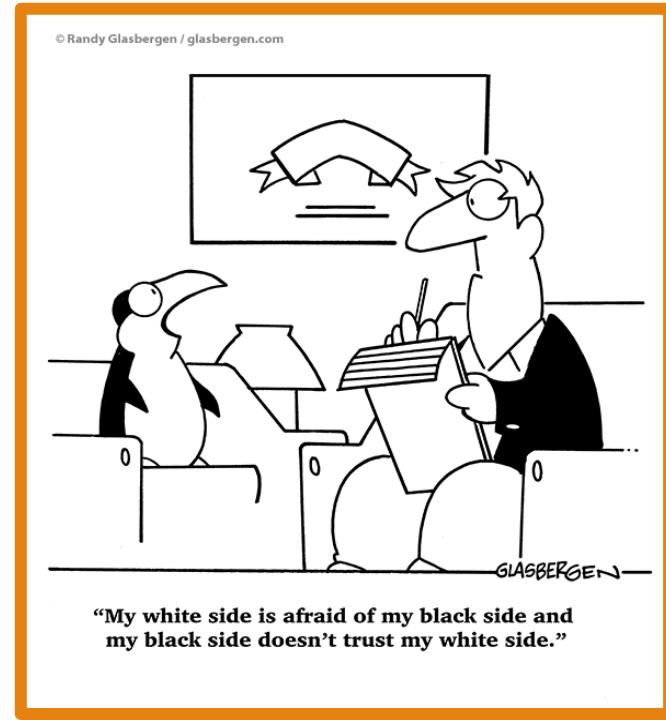


Studying the social world is challenging and scholars are fraught with dilemmas about how to frame their analysis.

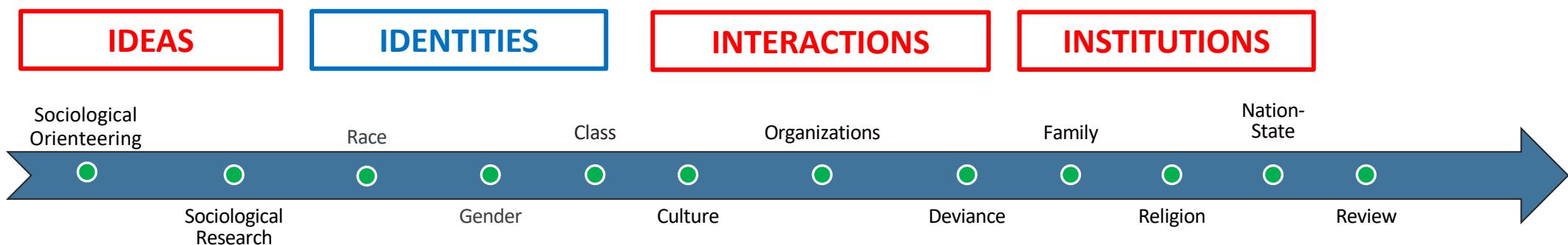
WEEK 3

Race & Ethnicity

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



SC1101E MRT Line



Racist Math Problems



<https://youtu.be/jZtIIJnTxnw>

Race and Ethnicity

□ Race

- a categorization of people based on perceived **biological** commonalities.
- epigenetic inheritance, physical traits (skin shade, hair type, height, etc.)

□ Ethnicity

- categorization based on discourses of **cultural** commonalities.
- language, religion, geographical origin, etc.

❖ Social constructs

- ideas that are created and given much importance as part of everyday functioning of society (part of historical processes and political claims).
- debate on race as a social construct – the argument that race is not rooted in biological difference fails to explain why physical variations are not related to racial boundaries. [We can see race!]

The Social Construction of Race

Country	Racial Classification	Ethnic Classification
Japan	No official categories – Japanese (98.1)	Ethnic minorities (Ainu and Okinawans), minority group/caste (Burakumins), foreigners.
USA	White Americans (77%) African-Americans (13.4%) Asian-Americans (5.9%) Native Americans (0.8%) Hawaiian & Pacific Is. (0.2%)	Hispanics and Latinos Irish, Italians, Arabs, etc. Black Caribbeans, African-Brazilians, etc. Chinese, Indians, Filipinos, etc. Cherokee, Inuit, etc. Western Samoans, Chamorros, etc.
Singapore	Chinese (76.2%) Malays (15.0%) Indians (7.4%) Others (1.4%)	Hakkas, Teochews, Peranakans, etc. Bugis, Boyanese, etc. Tamil, Bengalis, Punjabis, etc. Eurasians, Filipinos, etc.

The Social Construction of Ethnicity

- **Ethnic group** – a distinct population sharing a perceived common ancestry or geographical origin.
 - **selective forgetting** - a process by which people forget, dismiss, or fail to pass on an ethnic heritage.
 - **ethnic renewal** - one seeks to identify with a “forgotten” ethnic group.
 - **involuntary ethnicity** – subsumed under creates an umbrella ethnic category (i.e., Hispanic in the US, CMIO in Singapore).
- Majority group - The ethnic group who **controls valued resources** in society.
- Minority groups – subgroups distinguished by physical and cultural attributes, often **systematically excluded**.



The Consequences of Race and Ethnic Classification



- ❑ **Amalgamation** – happens when a majority group and a minority group/s merge to form a new group (e.g., the US as a “melting pot”).
- ❑ **Assimilation** – happens when one ceases to identify and abandons her racial or ethnic group to become part of another.
- “**Rojak integration**” – racial/ethnic mixing without losing the uniqueness of each part.
- ❑ **Segregation** – the physical or social separation of a people according to their race or ethnicity.
 - ***De facto* segregation** – communities develop into separate enclaves.
 - ***De jure* segregation** – laws separate people into different groups.

Race/Ethnicity and Inequality

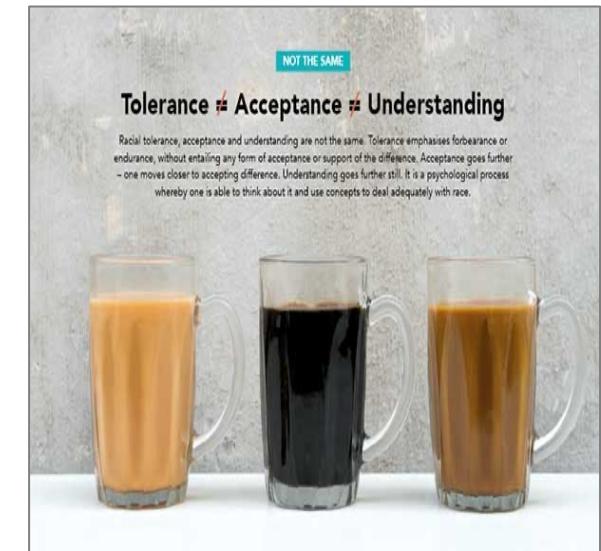
❑ **Stereotypes** – widely held, simplistic, and sweeping description of members of a group (“typical characteristics”).

❑ **Prejudice** – (a thought process)

- a stereotype that is upheld despite evidence against it.

❑ **Discrimination** – (an action)

- practices detrimental to members of minority groups.
- unequal treatment that is unrelated to ability, usually motivated by prejudice
- individual or institutionalized (by organizations or state)



<https://www.psd.gov.sg/challenge/ideas/deep-dive/let-s-talk-about-race>

Discrimination and Dress Codes



Dress codes are a matter of public safety.

- used to limit patrons to a preferred clientele.
- mostly directed at men, lower class, and minorities (often African-Americans, hip-hop culture).

Three responses to dress code enforcement:

1. they are racially discriminatory
 - a. nothing distinctive about permitted/not permitted clothing.
 - b. African-American clothing were quite expensive.
2. unfortunate to have but not related to race
 - just insurance against wrong people, not unachievable
3. bouncers selectively enforce the dress code
 - dress codes as race codes, constrained by race even when it comes to a night out.

Are we racist?

Channel NewsAsia and the Institute of Policy Studies surveyed 2,000 Singaporeans in 2016, asking them a range of questions on racial discrimination.

Percentage of survey respondents who answered the statement:
Racism may have been a problem in the past but it is not an important problem today.

10%
Strongly agree

43%
Agree

36%
Disagree

11%
Strongly disagree

Less than half
of Chinese-Singaporean respondents said they could share their problems with an Indian or Malay, or would accept them as a business partner.



17%
of Chinese and 30% or more of Malay, Indian and "Other" respondents said they had been discriminated against.



35%
believed it is not racist to refuse to share a seat with a person of another race.



41%
of parents said they don't talk to their children about racism being bad or inappropriate behaviour.



20%
believed that not hiring someone based on their race is not racist.

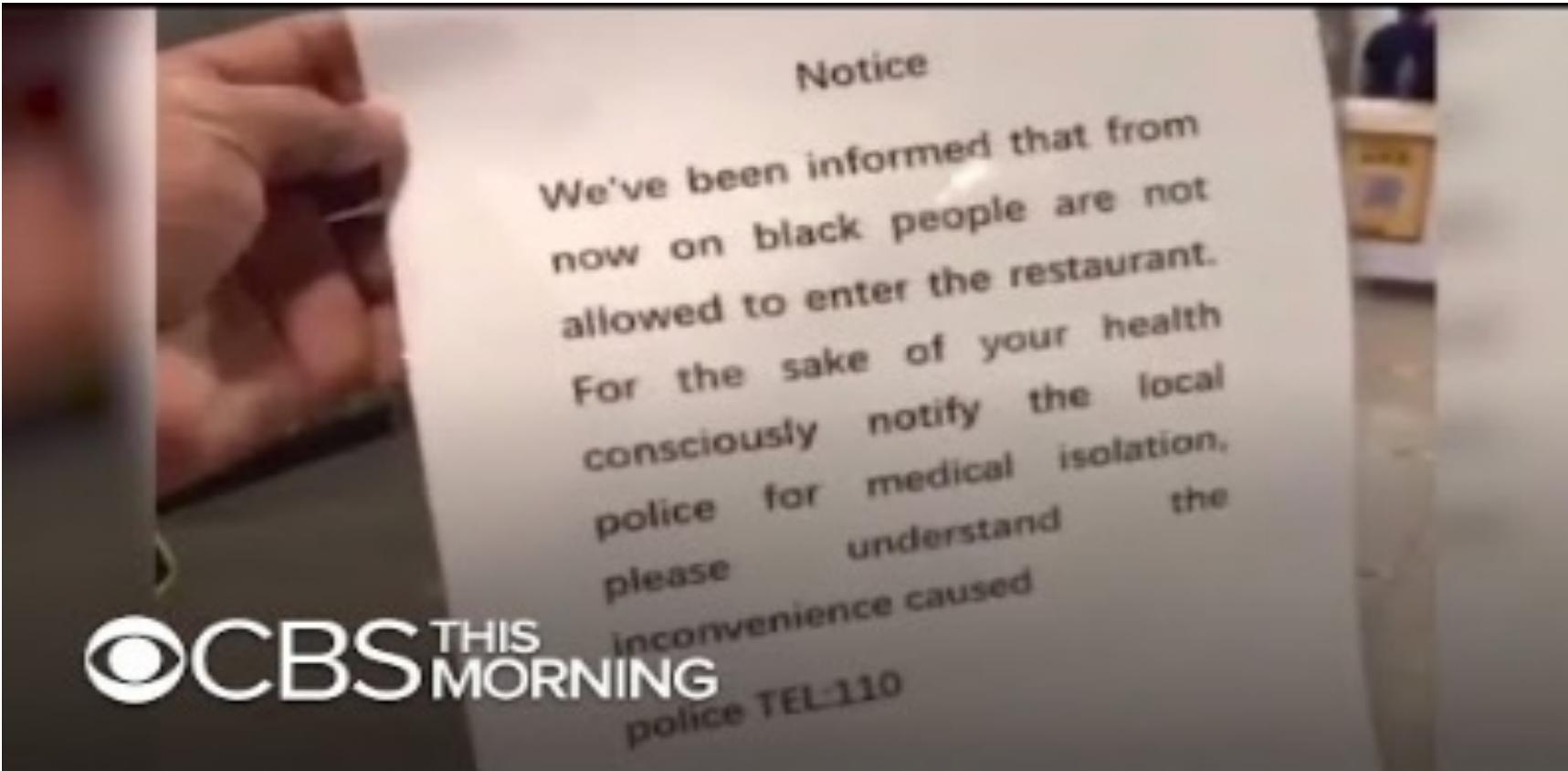
Ethnocentrism and Racism

□ Ethnocentrism – the belief that one's group is superior to all other groups and serves as a yardstick against all the others are measured.

□ Racism – a set of beliefs about the superiority of one racial or ethnic group.

- Scientific racism – use of evolutionary “science” to support racial rankings (from savage to civilized).
- Used to justify inequality
- Often rooted in the assumption that differences between groups are genetic.

Racism and the Pandemic



<https://youtu.be/xiLKOj-UUkY>

Engaging Society: Viral Racism

- Do you think that this reaction to the deadly virus outbreak is a form of racism? Why?
 - a. Yes, it discriminates against certain groups.
 - b. No, people were just concerned about their safety.
- What solution can you suggest to stop this issue from escalating?

World

Chinese communities in Italy warn of 'racism' over Wuhan coronavirus



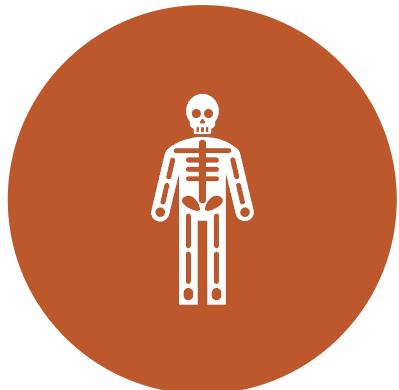
A woman wearing a mask walks in Via Paolo Sarpi, the commercial street in a Chinese district of Milan. (Photo: AFP/Miguel MEDINA)

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/wuhan-virus-coronavirus-italy-racism-12373002>

Understanding Race and Ethnicity: The Four Sociological Approaches

Functionalism	Conflict	Interactionist	Reorientationist
political stability economic development	dynamics of power and disparity between groups	explores how race or ethnicity is experienced	finding the historical roots of racial and ethnic conflicts, comparative race/ethnic analysis
impact of immigrants, link of race/ethnicity to insurgency and security, social cohesion among groups	split-labor market: white collar (majority group), blue collar (minority). affirmative action – a policy promoting greater inclusion of minorities	development of “racial myths” (abstract picture of other ethnic groups) identity-formation, stigma (physical trait or other attributes that disqualifies one from full social acceptance)	racial/ethnic division as a legacy of colonialism colonial exploitation and underdevelopment

Conclusion



Race and ethnicity as **social constructs** – labels that we treat as “real,” forgetting that they are made up.



Race and ethnicity are important because of the **social meanings** people have attached to it.

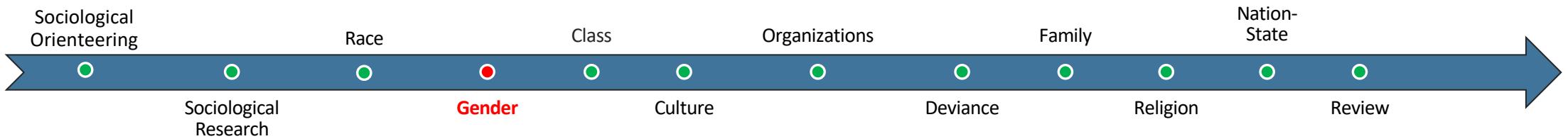
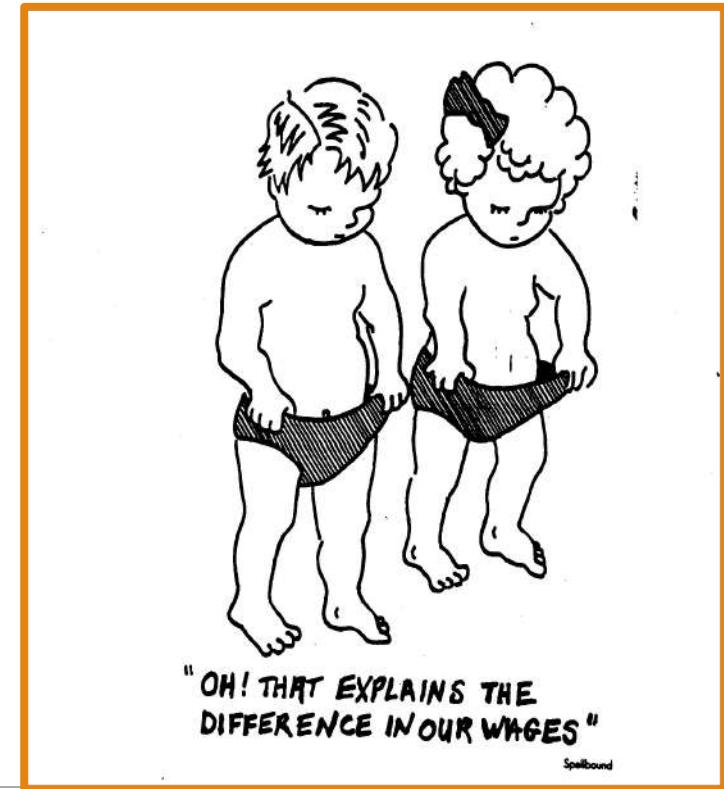


Race and ethnicity allow **social inequality** to be created and maintained.

WEEK 4

Gender and Sexuality

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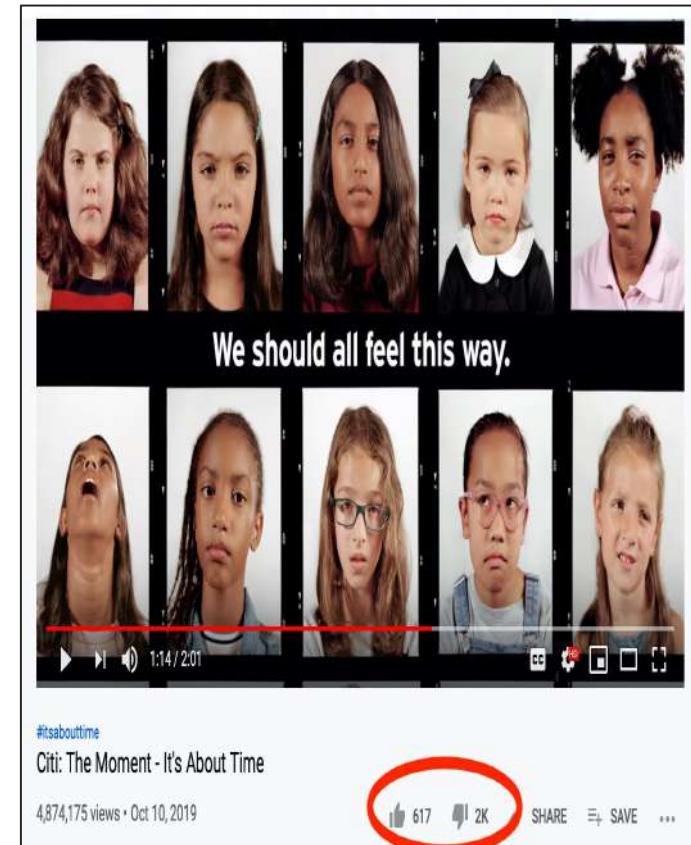
Girl Bosses



<https://youtu.be/jS3k89Ph2sw>

Engaging Society

- 1) Why do you think the video received so many dislikes (negative comments)?
- a. because we now have gender equality.
 - b. because it marginalizes men.
 - c. because it is a bank advertisement.
 - d. because people hate liberal ideas these days.



Sex

- a category of identity based on genetic and physical traits essential to reproduction.
- mainly biological

Gender

- is a category of identity based socially prescribed principles and practices associated with a person's conventional role in reproduction.
- mainly cultural

Sex and the Biological Bases of Identity

❑ Chromosomes

- mother carries X, father carries either X or Y
- if sperm is X = boy, if sperm is Y= girl

❑ Intersexed – a broad term used by medical profession to classify people with some mixture of male and female biological characteristics (e.g., Chinese *yinyangren*).

❑ Sex characteristics

- Primary – refers to anatomical traits essential to reproduction.
- Secondary – physical traits not essential to reproduction (breasts, voice, facial/body hair, and skeletal form) that result from the action of male [androgen] and female [estrogen] hormones.



Hermaphroditus, offspring of Greek deities, origin of the word “hermaphrodite”.

Gender and the Cultural Bases of Identity

□ **Gender Polarization** – the organizing of social life around male-female ideals.

- How to dress, morning routines, etc.

+ expectations surrounding the

□ **Masculinity** – the physical, behavioral, mental, and emotional traits believed to be characteristics of males.

□ **Femininity** – the physical, behavioral, mental, and emotional traits believed to be characteristic of females.

□ **“Other” genders** – (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, etc.) people see how the polarization of gender (male-female binary) limits choice and self-expression.

Morning Routines:
Male vs Female



[http://thedeucetwo.blogspot.com/2012/06/
morning-routine-men-vs-women.html](http://thedeucetwo.blogspot.com/2012/06/morning-routine-men-vs-women.html)

The Social Construction of Sex and Gender

- **Gender socialization** – is the process by which social expectations regarding gender are taught learned.
 - we learn it from people and institutions.
 - we follow **sexual scripts** - blueprints that guide our sexual activities and encounters (Kimmel & Plante 2007).
 - “normal” sex was defined as reproductive, anything else was abnormal and perverse.

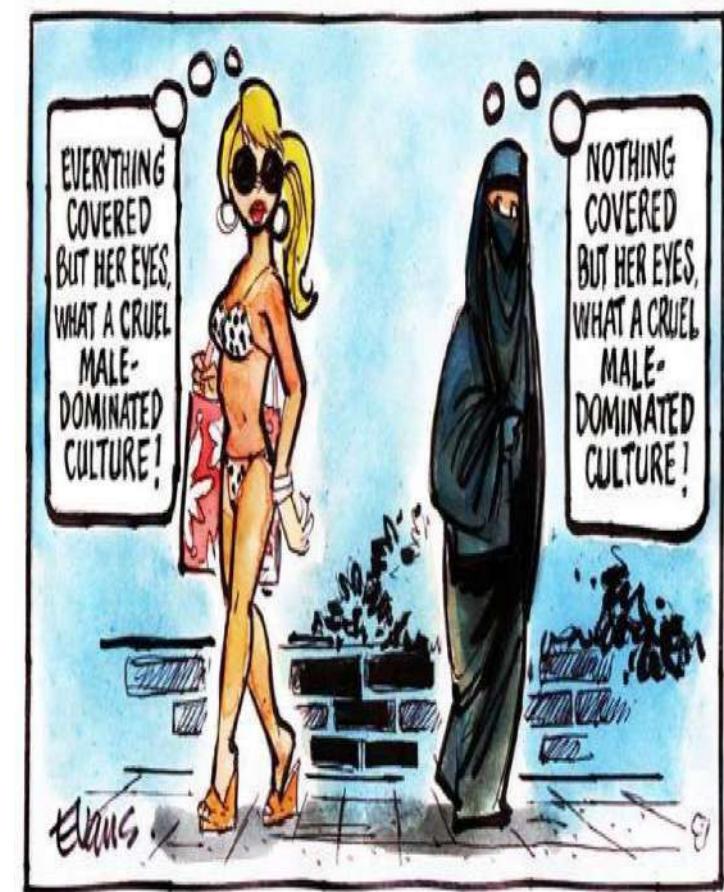
- **Gendered institution** – refers to an organization where gender-specific standards permeate through its ideologies, images, and practices.



The Hawkeye Initiative

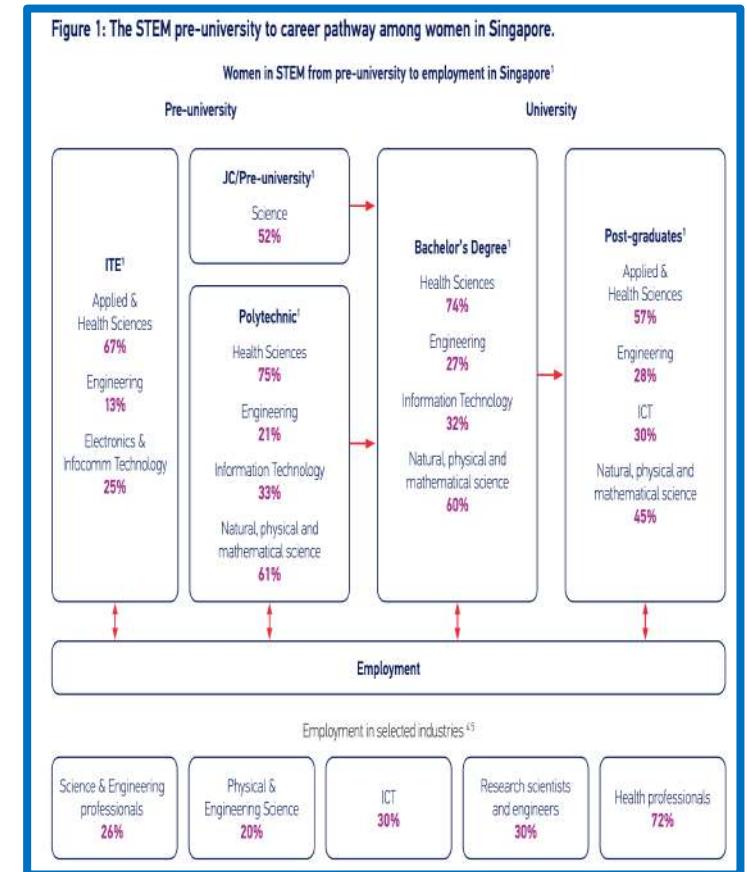
Sexuality as a Political Object

- The History of Sexuality (Michel Foucault)
 - The modern era saw professions (medicine, law, education, etc.) expand into sex.
 - Institutional power and the production of knowledge about sex became an instrument of its control.
 - we have **no true sexual selves**, we only come to develop it because of these institutions and their **discourses**.



What Gender is Science? (Charles 2011)

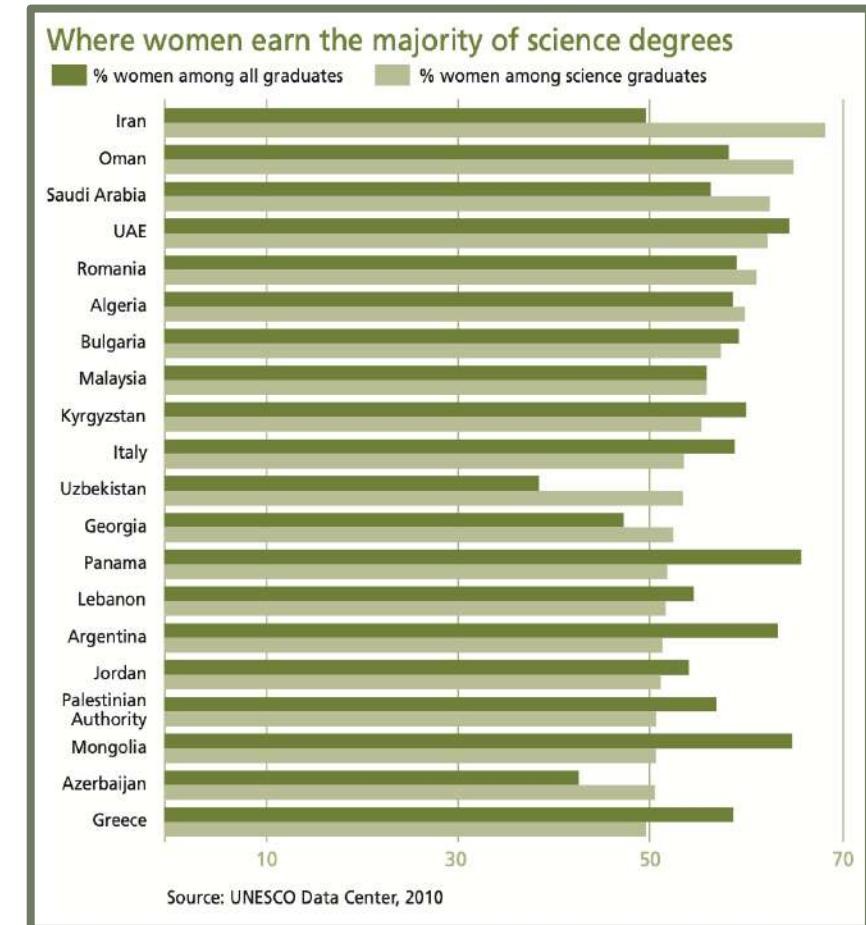
- American universities and firms lag behind those in many other countries with respect to women among STEM students and workers.
- In Singapore, women are also underrepresented in STEM
 - engineering education (21%)
 - IT education (29%)
 - research & development workforce (20%)
- **Sex segregation** describes the uneven distributions of women and men across occupations or fields of study.
 - discrimination - recruitment practices, “gendered” jobs
 - women preference for “human-centered” pursuits.



Source: Chua, Kline, & Lim, STEM & Gender Gap in SG, 2022.

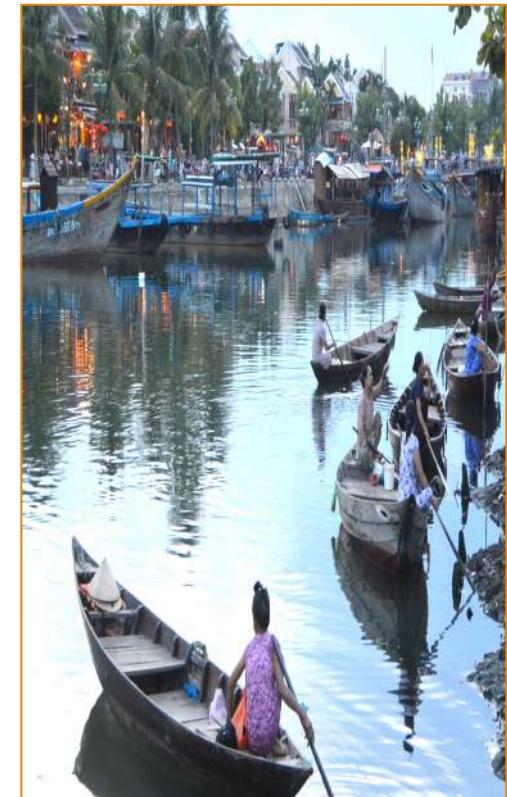
STEMming from Stereotypes

- Sex segregation is an especially resilient form of inequality because people so ardently believe in, enact, and celebrate cultural stereotypes about gender difference.
 - believing stereotypes – men and women are equal but inherently different (M-Mars, W-Venus)
 - enacting stereotypes – gender socialization, “doing gender”
 - celebrating stereotypes – postmaterialist values of individualism, “follow your passion,” (mass media, advertisement)



Gender Inequality

- ❑ **Sexism** – the belief that one sex is innately superior to another, justifying unequal treatment of the sexes.
- ❑ Patriarchy – the set of institutional arrangements which are based on beliefs and practices that privileged men over women.
- ❑ Gender stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination.
- ❑ Gender Discrimination
 - glass ceiling – prevents women from professional advancement.
 - second shift – double responsibilities of full-time work and housework.
 - wage gap – average difference between the renumeration of men and women.



Boat women
Hoi An, Vietnam

Wage Gap and Women Construction Workers in Myanmar

□ Social Background

- construction boom
- 25 percent of households have no men, moved for employment to urban areas or abroad.

□ Wage gap

- men (5000 kyats), women (4500 = SGD4.30)
- driver's figure: men (10,000), women (5000)

□ Our driver's comment:

“These women get low salary because they cannot follow instructions easily.”



Construction Women, Constructing Women

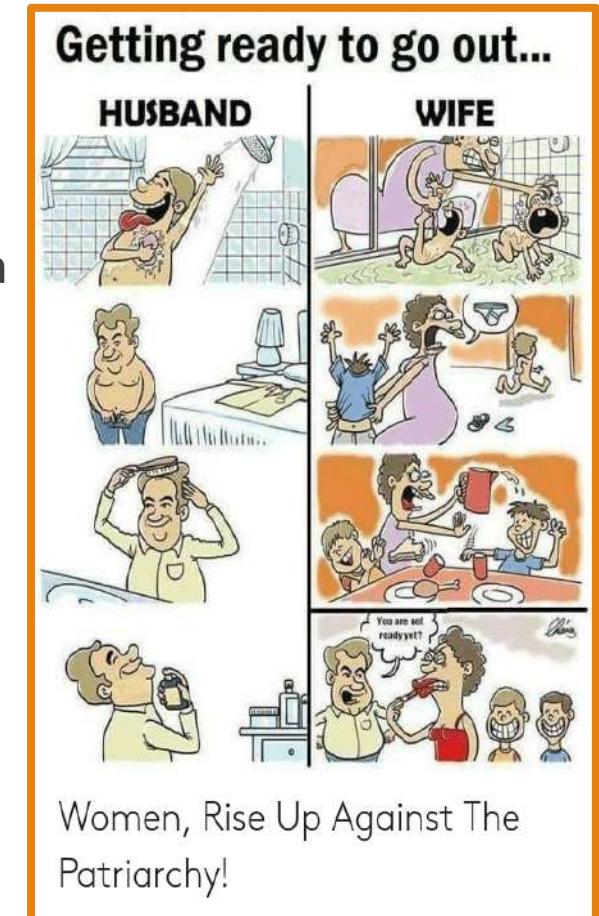
The Feminist Response

❑ Feminism – a perspective that advocates equality between men and women.

- First wave (1848-1920) – women's right to vote
- Second wave (1960s-80s) – legal and social equality, work discrimination
- Third wave (1990s) – self-expression, **intersectionality**
- Fourth wave (2012-) – use of social media, #me too movement

❑ Intersectionality and IDENTITIES

- describes how race, gender, class, and many other factors play a role in the oppression faced by an individual.
- **System of Oppression** - There are many factors that contribute to difficulties in a person's life, which involves overlapping categories that define who we are and bestow upon us **privileges** or **penalties**.



Conclusion



Globalization enforce greater homogeneity (e.g. CEDAW, Beijing Declaration) while also leading to greater inequalities (e. g. sex tourism, online child pornography).

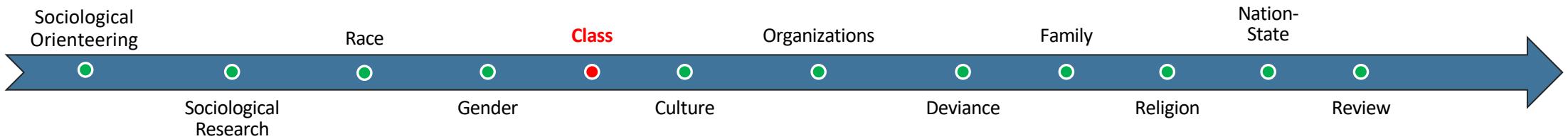
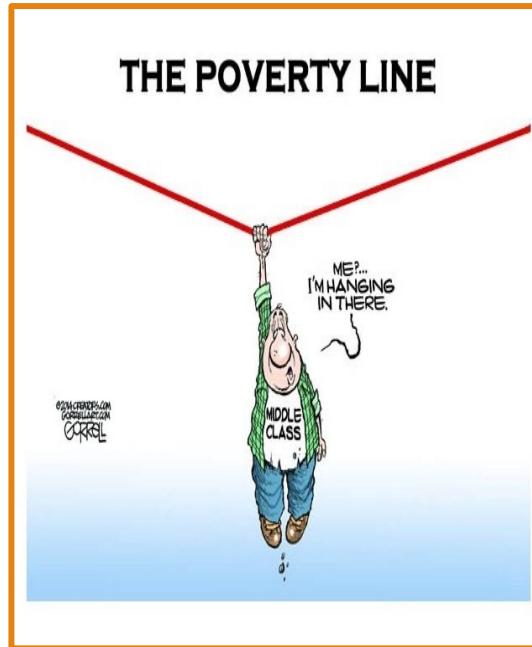


Ironically, the freedom of choice that's so celebrated in affluent Western democracies seems to help construct and give agency to stereotypically gendered "selves."

WEEK 5

Class and Social Inequality

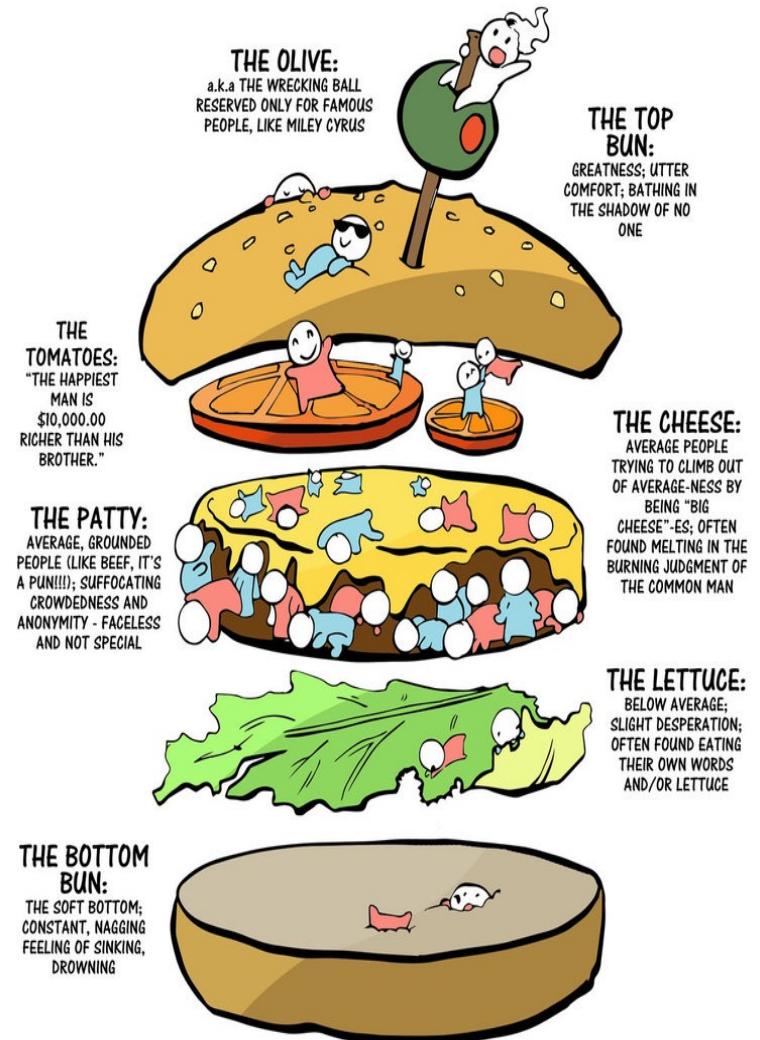
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Social Stratification

- The systematic process of ranking people on a scale of social worth such that the ranking affects life chances in unequal ways.
- Four Basic Systems of Stratification
 1. Servitude (slavery, extreme inequality)
 2. Caste (ascribed social status)
 3. Estate (feudalism)
 4. CLASS (achieved status, life chances)
 - Upper Class - wealthy people, industrialists, executives
 - Middle Class - white-collar workers and professionals
 - Lower Class - blue-collar workers, manual jobs

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION BY BURGER PARTS



BY THE RED HANKIE

images here is to focus on hands - what work you do with your hands (determine)

Modernity and the Class System



□ Characteristics of a Class System

- Economic differences between groups and individual.
- Not completely ascribed status.
- Class system is meritocratic.
- System provides upward & downward mobility.

□ Measuring Class: **occupation** (income) is the most useful factor in individual's class standing in terms of life chances and material comfort. People in the same occupation have more or less similar experiences, advantages and disadvantages.

Social Class in Singapore

	Class % (Income)	Class % (Subjective)
Upper	1	1
Upper Middle	4	5
Middle Middle	11	48
Lower Middle	30	33
Upper Lower	33	10
Lower	21	4

Source: Tan, *Class & Social Orientations*, 2015.

- What is the reason for the discrepancy between the income and self-evaluation measurements of class in Singapore?
- a. People tend to overestimate themselves.
 - b. People are ashamed to reveal their real status.
 - c. They can afford to buy their basic needs.
 - d. They live in a relatively well-off country.

Class, Inequality, and Poverty

□ **Social inequality** – the disparities in the allocation of economic assets and opportunities that affect an individual's overall quality of life.

- Wealth – economic possessions
- Prestige – respect, regard, recognition
- Power – ability to influence others

□ **Poverty** – **capability deprivation** (Amartya Sen)

- absolute poverty – cannot provide for basic necessities
- relative poverty – can afford basic needs but unable to maintain an average standard of living



Class and Mobility

❑ Social Mobility – movement from one class category to another.

- intragenerational – changes in a person's class position within her lifetime.
- intergenerational – changes in class position of the children in comparison to their parents.
- upward or downward mobility

❑ Factors Affecting Social Mobility

- **Personal compass** – work ethic, attitude, dispositions, integrity, **delaying gratification**, guiding principles.
- **Cultural map** – education, inherited position, inheritance, safety net, social network, discrimination (race, gender, class, etc.)
- **Social terrain** – place of residence (country, locality), economic and political landscape, **meritocracy** (advancement based on ability and merit, not wealth or influence)



Social Mobility in Singapore

- The Five Cs

- 1) Cash, 2) Credit Card, 3) Car, 4) Condo, 5) Country Club
 - Symbols of economic success, the equivalent to “The American Dream”.

- Meritocracy as one of the key governing ideologies in Singapore.

- **ENGAGING SOCIETY: What does it take to get rich in Singapore/your home country?**

- a. ability
- b. education
- c. hard work
- d. luck
- e. right connection



How wide is the class divide in Singapore?



https://youtu.be/YNuIR_ikYBY

Understanding Class Inequality

□ Functionalist Approaches

- inequality ensures that the best-qualified people fill the most important occupations (Davis and Moore 1985, Toh 2018).

□ Conflict Approaches

- some positions command large salaries and bring other valued rewards even though their contributions to society are questionable. (the rise & fall of the professional-managerial class)

□ Interactionist Approaches

- inequality shapes interaction and awareness of one's superior or inferior position relative to others (e.g., cultural omnivorousness).

□ Reorientationist Approaches

- inequality stemmed from colonialism and Westernization that privileges specific groups of people over others (e.g., expats).



Understanding Inequality: Cultural Capital

WORK AND MONEY

Your Face Shows Whether You Are Rich or Not, Says Study

We shouldn't judge a book by its cover, we tell ourselves, but apparently, the world can't help it.

BY HANNA LAZATIN FOR TOWNANDCOUNTRY.PH
30 MAY 2014 · 2-MIN READ

□ (Pierre Bourdieu)- the material and non-material resources a person possesses or has access to that are considered useful and desirable in a particular setting.

- objectified (e.g., a house, **gourmet burger**)
- institutionalized (e.g., college degree)
- embodied (e.g., **straight white teeth**).

Not All Burgers are Created Equal

- The rise of “better burgers” – focused menus, novel items, & customizable options (Caldwell 2014).
- Gourmet burgers – exemplifies **cultural omnivorousness**, a form of consumption that allows high-status groups to **show off their distinction** from other groups.
 - authenticity – simplicity, geographic region, personal & ethnic connections, history and tradition.
 - exoticism – geographically-distant, norm-breaking, unusual elements.
- “**the good taste**” – aesthetic preferences and cultural tastes were directly related to **social class**.



Brown Butter Bison Burger
Republic Gastropub, Minneapolis

Conclusion



The ranking of people into a system of social stratification influences *every* part of their lives in profound ways.



It determines **what food they eat** (the rise of the gourmet hamburger), where they shop, schools they attend, occupation, income they earn, how long they live.



It affects their quality of life and life chances.