

COMPREHENSIVE SOCIOLOGY STUDY GUIDE

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1. FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGY

Definition and Scope

- **Sociology:** The scientific study of human societies, interactions among individuals and groups, and processes that preserve and transform social structures
- **Focus Areas:** Social institutions (family, education, religion), stratification systems (class, race, gender), social movements, and social change
- **Sociological Perspective:** Understanding human behavior as shaped by social forces rather than purely individual choices
 - **Example:** While psychology might explain unemployment as resulting from an individual's lack of motivation, sociology examines structural factors like economic recessions, automation, or discrimination in hiring practices

Historical Origins

Emerged in early 19th century during three major historical developments:

- **Enlightenment:** Application of scientific rationality to human affairs
 - Shift from theological to scientific understanding of society
- **Example:** Moving from explaining poverty as "God's will" to examining economic structures and social policies

- **French Revolution:** Raised questions about social order and change
 - Demonstrated how radical social change was possible
 - **Example:** Overthrow of monarchy showed that traditional social hierarchies could be challenged and replaced
- **Industrial Revolution:** Created unprecedented social transformations
 - Urbanization, capitalism, new labor problems requiring systematic study
 - **Example:** Mass migration from rural to urban areas created new social problems like overcrowding, pollution, and labor exploitation

Founding Figures

- **Auguste Comte:**
 - Coined "sociology" as "social physics"; advocated positivism
 - **Law of three stages:**
 - Theological stage: Supernatural explanations (e.g., "The plague is divine punishment")
 - Metaphysical stage: Abstract forces as explanations (e.g., "Natural forces cause social harmony")
 - Positive stage: Scientific observation and laws (e.g., "Statistical analysis shows correlation between education and income")
- **Émile Durkheim:**
 - Focused on social order, solidarity, and collective consciousness
 - Studied suicide to demonstrate social factors affecting individual behavior
 - **Example:** Found that Protestant communities had higher suicide rates than Catholic ones, demonstrating that even seemingly individual acts are influenced by social factors
- **Karl Marx:**
 - Analyzed conflict, class struggle, and economic determinism
 - **Alienation under capitalism:**
 - Alienation from product: Workers don't own what they produce (e.g., factory workers producing smartphones they can't afford)
 - Alienation from process: Work becomes mechanical and meaningless (e.g., assembly line work with repetitive tasks)
 - Alienation from human essence: Creative potential unfulfilled (e.g., artist working in advertising to pay bills rather than creating meaningful art)
 - Alienation from fellow humans: Competition replaces cooperation (e.g., colleagues competing for limited promotions)
- **Max Weber:**
 - Emphasized interpretive understanding (verstehen) and meaning in social action

- **Example:** To understand religious behavior, we must grasp what religion means to believers, not just observe external rituals
- Analyzed how Protestant work ethic contributed to the rise of capitalism in Western Europe

Sociology vs. Common Sense

- **Scientific Approach:** Sociology is systematic, not based on common sense
 - **Example:** Common sense might suggest that poverty results from laziness, but sociological research reveals structural factors like unequal access to education and employment opportunities
 - **Media portrayal vs sociological study:**
 - **Example:** Media may sensationalize rare child kidnappings by strangers, while sociology shows most child abductions are by family members
 - **Example:** News reports might focus on individual "success stories" of immigrants, while sociology examines patterns of structural barriers facing immigrant communities
 - **The "sociological imagination" (Mills):** Connecting personal troubles to public issues
 - **Example:** Viewing unemployment not just as a personal failure but as connected to economic downturns, outsourcing, and automation
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2. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

Functionalist Perspective

- Society as an integrated system of parts working together
- **Key Concepts:**
 - **Social functions:** Contributions to society's stability
 - **Manifest functions:** Intended consequences (e.g., education's manifest function is to transmit knowledge)
 - **Latent functions:** Unintended consequences (e.g., schools also function as childcare, allowing parents to work)
 - **Social dysfunction:** Elements that disrupt stability (e.g., crime undermines social order)
- **Example:** The family functions to socialize children, provide emotional support, and regulate sexual behavior
- **Example:** Religion functions to provide meaning, social cohesion, and moral guidance

Conflict Perspective

- Society as a site of inequality and competition for resources
- **Key Concepts:**

- **Class conflict:** Struggle between social classes
- **Power relations:** Domination and subordination
- **False consciousness:** Internalization of dominant ideology
- **Example:** Education system reproduces inequality by providing different quality education based on socioeconomic status
- **Example:** Healthcare system privileges those who can afford insurance and quality care
- **Example:** Corporate media ownership influences which news stories receive coverage, typically favoring business interests

Symbolic Interactionist Perspective

- Society as constructed through meaningful interactions and interpretations
- **Key Concepts:**
 - **Definition of the situation:** How people's interpretations shape reality
 - **Symbol:** Anything that meaningfully represents something else
 - **Negotiated order:** Social patterns created through interaction
- **Example:** A wedding ring symbolizes marriage commitment across many cultures
- **Example:** Classroom interactions between teachers and students create expectations about appropriate behavior
- **Example:** How people interpret a smile (friendly, sarcastic, nervous) affects their response to it

Feminist Perspective

- Analysis of gender-based inequalities and power relations
- **Key Types:**
 - **Liberal feminism:** Equal rights and opportunities
 - **Example:** Advocating for equal pay legislation and gender-neutral hiring practices
 - **Socialist feminism:** Intersection of capitalism and patriarchy
 - **Example:** Analyzing how women's unpaid domestic labor benefits capitalist employers
 - **Radical feminism:** Male dominance as primary form of oppression
 - **Example:** Focusing on issues like sexual violence as manifestations of patriarchal control
 - **Intersectional feminism:** Multiple overlapping oppressions
 - **Example:** Examining how Black women face both racism and sexism in unique ways

3. RESEARCH METHODS

Scientific Method in Sociology

- Hypothesis, observation, data collection, analysis
- **Example:** Testing hypothesis that religious service attendance correlates with political conservatism by surveying participants about their religious practices and political views
- Challenges of studying human subjects:
 - Hawthorne effect: Workers increased productivity when being studied regardless of experimental conditions
 - Participant bias: Survey respondents giving socially desirable answers rather than honest ones
 - Researcher bias: Unconsciously interpreting data to confirm pre-existing beliefs

Research Approaches

- **Positivism** (cause-effect focus):
 - Discovering social laws through empirical observation
 - **Example:** Statistical analysis showing correlation between parental income and children's educational achievement
- **Phenomenology** (meanings):
 - Understanding subjective human experiences
 - **Example:** In-depth interviews with homeless individuals about how they experience and make sense of their situation
- **Critical Approach** (structures of power):
 - Examining how social structures perpetuate inequality
 - **Example:** Analyzing how textbooks represent different racial groups to uncover hidden biases

Methodological Approaches

- **Quantitative Methods:**
 - **Surveys:**
 - **Example:** National opinion polls measuring attitudes toward climate change across different demographic groups
 - **Statistics:**
 - **Example:** Regression analysis showing relationship between unemployment rates and crime
 - **Experiments:**
 - **Example:** Controlled experiment testing whether gender-blind resume evaluation reduces hiring bias
- **Qualitative Methods:**
 - **Ethnography:**
 - **Example:** Researcher living in a community of undocumented immigrants for a year to understand their daily challenges

- **Interviews:**
 - **Example:** In-depth conversations with first-generation college students about their experiences
- **Content analysis:**
 - **Example:** Examining gender representation in popular television shows
- **Focus groups:**
 - **Example:** Group discussions with teenagers about social media use and mental health

Objectivity and Ethics

- **Weber:** "Value-relevance" vs. "value-neutrality"
 - Topics value-laden, outcomes must be value-free
 - **Example:** A researcher may choose to study racial discrimination (value-relevant topic) but must analyze data objectively without predetermined conclusions
 - **Triangulation:** Using multiple methods to verify findings
 - **Example:** Combining surveys, interviews, and observation to study workplace satisfaction
 - **Research Ethics:**
 - **Example:** Ensuring participants in a study on sexual harassment are not retraumatized during interviews
 - **Example:** Protecting anonymity of whistleblowers in organizational research
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4. CULTURE AND SEMIOTICS

Culture

- **Definition:** Shared way of life of a group or society
 - Complex whole of thoughts, behaviors, and material objects
- **Components:**
 - **Material Culture:**
 - **Examples:** Smartphones, clothing styles, architecture, artwork
 - **Non-material Culture:**
 - **Examples:** Democracy as a value, norms around personal space, religious beliefs, language

Cultural Concepts

- **Culture shock:**
 - **Example:** American exchange student uncomfortable with greeting kisses in France
- **Ethnocentrism:**

- **Example:** Western tourists judging arranged marriages as "backward" without understanding cultural context
- **Cultural relativism:**
 - **Example:** Anthropologist studying indigenous healing practices on their own terms rather than dismissing them as superstition
- **Cultural lag:**
 - **Example:** Social media technology developing faster than privacy laws and ethical norms
- **Subcultures:**
 - **Examples:** Gamers, hip-hop community, academic disciplines
- **Countercultures:**
 - **Examples:** Punk movement, radical environmental activists, religious communes
- **Cultural universals:**
 - **Examples:** Marriage rituals, status hierarchies, taboos against incest

Globalization and Glocalization

- **Globalization** examples:
 - Hollywood movies distributed worldwide
 - English becoming a global business language
 - Fast food chains in most countries
- **Cultural imperialism:**
 - **Example:** Local music traditions declining as Western pop music dominates radio stations in developing countries
- **Glocalization** examples:
 - **McDonald's India:** Vegetarian menu options, McSpicy Paneer, no beef products
 - **Starbucks Japan:** Matcha green tea Frappuccinos, sakura-themed seasonal drinks
 - **Hollywood films:** Different editing, marketing, or endings for various national audiences

Semiotics

- **Definition:** Study of signs, symbols, and their interpretation in society
- **Examples of symbolic analysis:**
 - Tea as a symbol of British identity and colonialism
 - Wedding rings symbolizing commitment and social status
 - School uniforms representing institutional authority and community identity
 - National flags evoking patriotism and shared history
- **How meaning changes across contexts:**

- **Example:** White clothing signifying purity in Western weddings but mourning in some Asian cultures
 - **Example:** Hand gestures that are friendly in one culture but offensive in another
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5. SELF AND SOCIALIZATION

Socialization

- **Definition:** Lifelong process of becoming human through social interaction
- **Types:**
 - **Primary socialization:**
 - **Example:** Parents teaching children basic values, language, and behavioral norms
 - **Secondary socialization:**
 - **Example:** School teaching children to follow schedules, respect authority, and compete for grades
 - **Anticipatory socialization:**
 - **Example:** Medical students learning professional norms before becoming doctors
 - **Resocialization:**
 - **Example:** Military boot camp breaking down civilian identity to build military identity

Theories of Self Development

- **Sigmund Freud:** Psychoanalytic model of personality
 - **Id:** Child wanting candy at supermarket checkout
 - **Ego:** Adult deciding whether purchase is reasonable
 - **Superego:** Internal voice saying candy is unhealthy or indulgent
- **Charles Horton Cooley:** Looking-glass self
 - **Example:** Teenager styling hair based on how they think peers will react
 - **Example:** Employee dressing professionally to project competence to colleagues
- **George Herbert Mead:** Social behaviorism
 - **"I"** (spontaneous self): Impulse to speak out in class
 - **"Me"** (reflective self): Internal voice asking "Is this an appropriate time to speak?"
 - **Role-taking example:** Child playing "house" and switching between parent and child roles
 - **Game stage example:** Soccer player understanding not just their position but how it relates to all other positions
- **Erving Goffman:** Dramaturgy
 - **Front stage behavior:** Professional demeanor in workplace meeting

- **Backstage behavior:** Complaining about the meeting to friends afterward
- **Impression management:** Professor projecting confidence on first day of class despite nervousness

Agents of Socialization

- **Family examples:**
 - Parents modeling gender roles
 - Family religious practices shaping children's beliefs
- **Education examples:**
 - Hidden curriculum teaching punctuality and obedience alongside academic subjects
 - Peer groups in school enforcing norms about clothing and popularity
- **Media examples:**
 - Children's books showing traditional or non-traditional family structures
 - Television depicting idealized body types and consumption patterns

Total Institutions

- **Examples:**
 - Prisons removing personal possessions and imposing strict schedules
 - Military basic training with uniform clothing, standardized haircuts, and regimented activities
 - Mental hospitals controlling patients' medication, activities, and communication
- **Effects on identity:**
 - **Example:** New prison inmates experiencing "mortification of self" through strip searches, uniform clothing, and loss of privacy

Case Studies

- **Feral children:**
 - **Genie:** Discovered in 1970s after being kept in isolation, never developed grammatical language despite intensive intervention
 - **Anna:** Found locked in attic at age 6, developmentally delayed but made significant progress after receiving proper care
 - These cases demonstrate that crucial aspects of human development depend on social interaction during critical periods

6. GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND NETWORK SOCIETY

Social Groups and Aggregates

- **Social groups examples:**
 - Family unit, sports team, religious congregation
- **Social aggregates examples:**
 - People waiting at bus stop, shoppers in mall, audience members who don't interact

Types of Social Relationships

- **Primary vs secondary groups:**
 - **Primary:** Family dinner with intimate conversation and emotional support
 - **Secondary:** Professional networking event with business card exchange and strategic interaction
- **Gemeinschaft vs Gesellschaft:**
 - **Gemeinschaft:** Small farming village where everyone knows each other and relationships are multifaceted
 - **Gesellschaft:** Urban environment where people interact based on specific roles (customer-clerk, landlord-tenant)
- **Mechanical vs organic solidarity:**
 - **Mechanical:** Indigenous tribe where members share similar work and beliefs
 - **Organic:** Modern city where lawyer, doctor, plumber, and teacher all depend on each other's specialized skills

Modern Organizations

- **McDonaldization examples:**
 - **Efficiency:** Self-checkout at grocery stores
 - **Calculability:** University rankings based on quantifiable metrics rather than educational quality
 - **Predictability:** Chain restaurants offering identical menu items in every location
 - **Control:** Automated customer service systems with predetermined options
- **Bureaucracy examples:**
 - **Hierarchy:** Corporate organizational charts showing reporting relationships
 - **Rules:** University procedures for course registration and degree requirements
 - **Impersonality:** Government agencies processing applications based on standardized criteria, not individual circumstances
 - **Dysfunctions:** Healthcare professionals spending more time on paperwork than patient care (goal displacement)

Network Society

- **Information flow examples:**
 - Social media algorithms determining which news people see

- Big data analytics predicting consumer behavior
- **Decentralization examples:**
 - Remote work arrangements replacing centralized offices
 - Gig economy platforms connecting workers directly with customers
- **Digital platforms:**
 - Uber disrupting taxi industry by connecting riders directly with drivers
 - Airbnb transforming hospitality by enabling peer-to-peer accommodation rental

Group Dynamics

- **Conformity example:** Asch line experiment where subjects gave wrong answers to match group consensus
 - **Groupthink example:** NASA Columbia disaster where concerns about shuttle safety were suppressed
 - **Leadership examples:** Democratic leadership encouraging input vs. authoritarian leadership demanding compliance
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7. STRATIFICATION AND INEQUALITY

Social Stratification

- **Types of stratification systems:**
 - **Slavery:**
 - **Example:** American plantation slavery where humans were legally property
 - **Caste:**
 - **Example:** Traditional Indian caste system determining occupation and marriage
 - **Estate:**
 - **Example:** Medieval Europe with clergy, nobility, and commoners having different legal rights
 - **Class:**
 - **Example:** Contemporary societies with wealth and income inequality but some mobility

Theories of Stratification

- **Functionalist examples:**
 - Higher salaries for surgeons than teachers because of importance and training required
 - Status rewards motivating students to pursue challenging career paths
- **Marxist examples:**
 - Factory owner paying workers less than the value they create
 - Wealthy donors influencing political decisions to protect their interests

- **False consciousness:** Working-class voters supporting tax cuts for the wealthy
- **Weberian examples:**
 - **Class:** Investment banker (high class) vs. janitor (low class)
 - **Status:** Respected professor (high status) vs. wealthy but disreputable arms dealer (low status)
 - **Power:** Corporate CEO making decisions affecting thousands of employees

Intersectionality

- **Examples:**
 - Black women experiencing both racial and gender discrimination in workplace
 - Disabled LGBT+ individuals facing unique barriers in healthcare
 - Working-class immigrants encountering different obstacles than middle-class immigrants

Global Inequality

- **North-South divide examples:**
 - Life expectancy gap between Global North and South
 - Different environmental regulations allowing pollution in developing countries
- **Dependency theory example:**
 - Resource extraction from African countries benefiting multinational corporations but not local populations

Social Mobility

- **Vertical mobility examples:**
 - First-generation college graduate moving from working class to professional class
 - Business failure causing downward mobility
- **Horizontal mobility example:**
 - Teacher becoming a corporate trainer at similar income level
- **Barriers to mobility:**
 - Legacy college admissions favoring children of alumni
 - Unpaid internships only accessible to those who can afford to work without pay

8. STATUS, ROLE, CRIME, AND DEVIANCE

Status and Role

- **Status examples:**
 - **Achieved:** Doctor, parent, chess champion
 - **Ascribed:** Age, racial categorization, nobility in monarchies

- **Master status:** Ex-convict status overshadowing other accomplishments
- **Role examples:**
 - **Role Set:** Professor simultaneously being lecturer, researcher, mentor, and committee member
 - **Role Strain:** Pastor feeling conflict between being compassionate vs. enforcing church doctrine
 - **Role Conflict:** Working mother balancing professional responsibilities with childcare
 - **Role Exit:** Athlete retiring and losing central identity

Deviance

- **Examples of variation across cultures/times:**
 - Alcohol consumption: Legal recreation in some societies, criminal in others
 - Marijuana use: Shifting from criminal to medicinal or recreational status
 - Homosexuality: Formerly criminalized, now legally protected in many countries

Theories of Deviance

- **Functionalist examples:**
 - Publicized punishment of criminals reinforcing societal norms
 - Deviant subcultures driving social innovation (e.g., countercultural art movements)
- **Strain Theory examples:**
 - **Conformity:** Working within system to achieve success
 - **Innovation:** Drug dealing to achieve financial success
 - **Ritualism:** Bureaucrat following rules without caring about outcomes
 - **Retreatism:** Homeless person rejecting both conventional goals and means
 - **Rebellion:** Activist working to replace capitalist system with alternative
- **Labelling Theory examples:**
 - **Primary deviance:** Teenager shoplifting once
 - **Secondary deviance:** After being labeled "criminal," teenager joins delinquent peer group and continues criminal activity
 - **Moral entrepreneurs:** Anti-drug crusaders campaigning to criminalize new substances
- **Differential Association example:**
 - Youth learning criminal techniques and rationalizations from gang members
- **Social Control Theory example:**
 - Students avoiding cheating because they value teacher's opinion and future opportunities

Social Control

- **Formal Sanctions examples:**

- Prison sentences, business licenses, academic probation
- **Informal Sanctions examples:**
 - Social exclusion, family disapproval, public shaming
- **Positive Sanctions examples:**
 - Promotions, awards, social recognition

Contemporary Issues

- **Construction of crime examples:**
 - Corporate tax avoidance causing greater social harm than petty theft but less severely punished
 - Digital piracy defined as theft in some contexts but normalized behavior in others
 - **Mass incarceration examples:**
 - United States having highest incarceration rate globally
 - Racial disparities in sentencing for similar offenses
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9. COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Social Change

- **Examples of causes:**
 - **Demographic:** Aging population transforming healthcare and housing needs
 - **Technological:** Internet revolutionizing communication and commerce
 - **Social movements:** Civil rights movement changing legal segregation policies
 - **Environmental:** Climate change forcing adaptation in agriculture and city planning

Theories of Social Change

- **Evolutionary example:** Spencer's view that societies progress from "barbaric" to "civilized"
- **Cyclical example:** Spengler's theory that civilizations rise, peak, decline, and fall like organisms
- **Conflict example:** Marx's prediction that capitalism would eventually be overthrown by workers' revolution
- **Functionalist example:** Educational system adapting to industrial economy by emphasizing punctuality and standardization

Collective Behavior

- **Crowd behavior examples:**
 - **Casual crowd:** Shoppers at farmers market
 - **Conventional crowd:** Audience at concert
 - **Expressive crowd:** Religious revival participants

- **Acting crowd:** Protest that turns into riot
- **Mass behavior examples:**
 - **Fads:** Fidget spinners, TikTok challenges
 - **Fashions:** Clothing styles, architectural trends
 - **Rumors:** Unfounded stories about companies or celebrities spreading on social media
 - **Moral panics:** 1980s "Satanic Panic" about supposed ritual abuse in daycares

Social Movements

- **Examples by type:**
 - **Revolutionary:** French Revolution overthrowing monarchy
 - **Reformist:** Women's suffrage movement working within political system
 - **Redemptive:** Religious movement focused on personal salvation
 - **Alternative:** Sustainable living movement promoting individual lifestyle changes
- **Life cycle examples:**
 - **Emergence:** #MeToo hashtag bringing sexual harassment into public discourse
 - **Coalescence:** Women's march organizing formal protests
 - **Bureaucratization:** Time's Up organization establishing leadership and structure
 - **Decline through success:** Civil Rights Movement achieving legal desegregation
- **Theory examples:**
 - **Relative Deprivation:** Middle East uprisings during Arab Spring when economic conditions deteriorated
 - **Resource Mobilization:** Environmental groups with wealthy donors achieving more policy changes
 - **Political Process:** Civil rights activism succeeding when political climate made government more receptive

Contemporary Issues

- **Digital activism examples:**
 - Online petitions changing corporate policies
 - Hashtag campaigns raising awareness about social issues
 - Crowdfunding for social causes
 - **Global movements examples:**
 - Climate activism coordinating worldwide demonstrations
 - #BlackLivesMatter inspiring racial justice movements internationally
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10. FAMILY AND INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Family as a Social Institution

- **Functions examples:**
 - **Economic:** Pooling resources, division of labor
 - **Socialization:** Teaching children cultural norms and values
 - **Emotional support:** Providing care during illness or hardship

Historical Changes in Family Forms

- **Examples of diversity:**
 - **Extended family:** Multigenerational household where grandparents help raise children
 - **Nuclear family:** 1950s American ideal of breadwinner father, homemaker mother, children
 - **Single-parent family:** Mother or father raising children alone
 - **Blended family:** Remarried parents with children from previous relationships
 - **Same-sex family:** Two mothers or two fathers raising children together
 - **Chosen family:** Close friends functioning as family support system

Theoretical Perspectives on Family

- **Functionalist example:**
 - Division of labor in traditional family with specialized roles
- **Conflict example:**
 - Unpaid domestic labor benefiting men economically
- **Feminist example:**
 - Gendered socialization of children perpetuating inequality
- **Symbolic interactionist example:**
 - How families negotiate meanings of events through communication

Marriage Patterns and Changes

- **Endogamy example:** Religious communities encouraging marriage within the faith
- **Exogamy example:** Cultural taboos against marrying close relatives
- **Contemporary trends examples:**
 - Average age of first marriage increasing from early 20s to late 20s/early 30s
 - Rise in cohabitation before or instead of marriage
 - Decrease in marriage rates in many industrialized countries

Challenges in Contemporary Families

- **Examples:**

- Two working parents juggling childcare and careers
- "Sandwich generation" caring for both children and aging parents
- Long-distance relationships due to career demands
- Financial stress from stagnant wages and rising living costs

Globalization of Intimacy

- **Examples:**

- International adoption creating multicultural families
 - Migrant domestic workers caring for children while separated from their own
 - Online dating expanding potential partner pool across national boundaries
 - Communication technology enabling daily contact in transnational families
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11. GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Sex vs. Gender

- **Examples of distinction:**

- Biological sex characteristics (chromosomes, hormones) vs. cultural expressions (clothing, behavior)
- Cross-cultural variations in gender roles (more gender equality in Scandinavian countries vs. stricter gender segregation in some Middle Eastern countries)
- Historical changes in what's considered "masculine" or "feminine" (high heels originally worn by men)

Gender Socialization

- **Examples:**

- Toys marketed differently to boys (action figures, building sets) and girls (dolls, kitchen sets)
- Different parental expectations for sons' and daughters' behavior
- Media depictions of men as active/aggressive and women as passive/nurturing
- School environments reinforcing gender norms through activities and discipline patterns

Theories of Gender

- **Biological determinism example:**

- Claiming women are "naturally" more nurturing and less aggressive

- **Social constructionism example:**

- Different cultures defining appropriate emotional expression for men differently

- **Performativity example:**
 - Daily behaviors like posture, speech patterns, and clothing choices that "do gender"

Gender Inequality

- **Examples:**
 - Women earning approximately 82 cents for every dollar men earn in U.S.
 - Women holding minority of executive positions despite equal educational attainment
 - Women performing majority of unpaid household labor even in dual-earner households
 - Gender-based violence disproportionately affecting women worldwide

Sexuality as Socially Constructed

- **Examples of cultural variation:**
 - Ancient Greek acceptance of male same-sex relationships under certain conditions
 - Victorian era association of female sexuality with mental illness
 - Different cultural norms around appropriate ages for sexual activity
 - Variation in acceptability of polygamy across societies

Feminist Theories

- **Liberal feminism example:**
 - Advocating for equal pay legislation and reproductive rights
- **Socialist feminism example:**
 - Analyzing how capitalist profit depends on women's unpaid domestic labor
- **Radical feminism example:**
 - Critiquing pornography as system of patriarchal control
- **Intersectional feminism example:**
 - Examining how Muslim women face both gender discrimination and Islamophobia

LGBTQ+ Movements

- **Historical examples:**
 - Stonewall Riots as catalyst for gay rights activism
 - AIDS activism bringing attention to healthcare inequalities
 - Same-sex marriage legalization representing major legal shift
- **Contemporary examples:**
 - Transgender rights movements focusing on healthcare access and legal recognition
 - Ongoing disparities in LGBTQ+ rights globally (legal protection in some countries, criminalization in others)

12. RACE AND ETHNICITY

Concepts and Definitions

- **Race as social construction examples:**
 - Racial categories changing over time (e.g., Irish and Italian immigrants not initially considered "white" in U.S.)
 - Different racial classification systems across countries
 - Same individual categorized differently depending on social context
- **Ethnicity examples:**
 - Jewish cultural practices maintained across different countries
 - Chinese diaspora communities preserving language and traditions
 - Hispanic/Latino identity encompassing diverse racial backgrounds

Theories of Racial Inequality

- **Institutional racism examples:**
 - Residential segregation through historical redlining practices
 - Racial disparities in school funding and educational resources
 - Algorithmic bias in hiring, lending, and criminal justice
- **Symbolic racism example:**
 - Opposition to race-conscious policies while denying existence of racial inequality
- **Color-blind racism example:**
 - Claiming "not to see color" while perpetuating racially unequal outcomes

Forms of Interaction Between Racial/Ethnic Groups

- **Assimilation examples:**
 - Immigrants adopting language and customs of host country
 - Loss of original cultural practices over generations
- **Pluralism examples:**
 - Multicultural policies supporting heritage language education
 - Religious accommodations in workplace and schools
- **Segregation examples:**
 - Historical Jim Crow laws in American South
 - Contemporary residential separation by race and class

Global Perspectives

- **Colonialism examples:**
 - Division of Africa by European powers creating arbitrary national boundaries
 - Extraction of resources and wealth from colonies to colonizing nations
- **Indigenous issues examples:**
 - Land rights disputes between indigenous peoples and governments
 - Efforts to preserve endangered languages and cultural practices
- **Migration examples:**
 - Syrian refugee communities maintaining connections across multiple host countries
 - Remittances from migrants supporting families in countries of origin

Contemporary Issues

- **Colorism example:**
 - Preference for lighter skin tones in media representation and employment
- **Racial justice examples:**
 - Movements for police accountability and criminal justice reform
 - Campaigns for reparations addressing historical injustices
 - Educational initiatives addressing historical erasure of marginalized groups
- **Intersectional examples:**
 - How immigration status affects healthcare access differently across racial groups
 - Gender disparities in educational outcomes varying by race and class