

Introduction to Sociology

Why Study Caste?

Beyond Linearity in study of Societies

- Beyond Linearity: Thomas Kuhn – The Structure of Scientific Revolutions

Are there good objective reasons for scientists proceeding as they do, or do we merely term them good because they are endorsed by the members of a certain scientific community?

- Sociology as a multiple paradigm science: Karl Marx, Weber and Durkheim
- What constructs society and social solidarity? Is this different for different societies? Is the process of transition from Tradition to Modern *universal*?

Society and Individual

- Society different from organisms? Can they be compared with organs and tissues of body?
- Does society (moral ideas) makes individuals or individuals (interests) make society? → Idealism vs Utilitarianism
- Utilitarianism may not help explain morality – Morality as collective property
- Moral actions have to be studied scientifically as properties of social organisation. **How?** From abstract to fact or fact to abstract?
- Religions Sentiments (metaphysical and moral) → a force for social unity.

Individual and Society..

- How to study society from Individual to Society? Or Society to Individuals?
- Is Individualism a product of social development?
- Sociology in some sense a science of moral phenomena (Durkheim) – Could help us study how changing forms of society (Division of Labour) effect transformations – observe, describe and classify

Why study caste?

- Is there caste around?
- Does caste provide ideals for life? Does it help in social unity? Does it affect individualism?
- Transformation, specialized Division of Labour (Modernity) → How does this affect caste or how is modernity affected by caste?
- Does caste promote ***Mechanical*** (*gemeinschaft*) solidarity or ***Organic*** solidarity (*gesellschaft*)

What are the debates?

- Caste is a Colonial Construction (Nicholas Dirks)
- Caste is Indian Ideology of hierarchy (Louis Dumont)
- Caste is not hierarchy (Post- Dumont approaches), we have discrete hierarchies.
- Caste is Changing (Politics), but is there substantive equality? (State and Civil Society)
- Caste is Dead – Obituary to Caste: Caste is Rural; Caste is New?

Please make me Caste-Free

Haryana CM: Don't Use My Surname, Don't Identify My Caste

23/03/2016 4:27 PM IST | Updated March 23, 2016 16:41

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HuffPost Staff



HINDUSTAN TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

KOLKATA, INDIA - JANUARY 30: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar during a press conference to attract investors, at a City Hotel on January 30, 2016 in Kolkata, India. Khattar said that during the day he met a number of industrialists in Bengal, who have expressed their desire to invest around 5000 crore in Haryana. (Photo by Subhendu Ghosh/Hindustan Times via Getty Images)

NEW DELHI -- While discussing the recent Jat agitation for reservation, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that he does not want to be identified by his caste, and he asked that people not to use his surname "Khattar" anymore.

"I was a (RSS) pracharak till 1994 and no one knew my caste at the time," the Bharatiya Janata Party leader told lawmakers on Tuesday.

"Even today, I don't like it when people use 'Khattar' after my name. I am just Manohar Lal. That is enough for my identity," he said.

Over the course of two weeks, members of the Jat community brought Haryana to a standstill, demanding reservation in jobs and colleges under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) quota.

The Haryana Chief Minister was severely criticized for failing to contain the chaos, which spilled into neighboring states, and the violence that claimed the lives of 30 people.



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TRENDING

The Morning Wrap: JNU Blocks Kanhaiya's Registration; Babri Masjid Case's Oldest Litigant Dies

Angry Dalits Are Dumping Cow

Only Jatts Can Fly?



Son marries outside caste, father files copyright case protecting use of family name

Case demonstrates innovative tactics families are employing to stop inter-caste marriages, say activists.



Image credit: OER Africa

Jan 24, 2014 · 08:43 am

Mridula Chari



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A Bihari lawyer, Sidh Nath Sharma, has filed a case against his son demanding that he stop using their family name after he married a lower caste woman. If his son, Sushant Jasu, continues to use his name, he should pay him Rs 10,000 in copyright fees every time he uses it, Sharma demanded.

GIVING GYAN

BACHI KARKARIA

Dear Bachi,
I am 29 years old and I am dating this boy who is quite well to do. He lives according to the same standard as I do. He earns pretty well and owns a bungalow, but he does not belong to my caste or community. He is from a schedule caste. My dad is not very happy with my choice, as I am a Brahmin. Al-



THERE ARE AGONY AUNTS, AND THEN THERE IS BACHI... SHE'LL SORT YOU OUT

You can write to Bachi Karkaria at givinggyan@timesgroup.com

though my dad is not so conservative otherwise, he has asked me to rethink about this marriage. He has told me that it is not just about the caste and religion, but there is science to it. Those are the same genes that I will be carrying forward. My boyfriend's family is well to do but his extended family is quite poor. I do not know

what to do, although I know somewhere my dad is correct and I do not want to disappoint him.
Please help.

—Caste Away

Dear Caste Away,
I refuse to reply to such an offensively casteist letter. Please don't make science into a collaborator. The views expressed

by your father (who 'is not so conservative otherwise'!!) with which you seem to agree makes me wonder whose genes are worthy of passing on to create decent human beings. I hope that the well-brought up, hard-working chap never finds out that the girl he loves and presumed she loved him too for his own sake (not his bungalow, or anything else) wrote such a letter. On second thought, I hope he does.

Love is (caste) blind?

Next Lecture on Dumont and Indian Hierarchy

- Modern as hierarchy of merit and respect for productive work – Industrialism; Ranks of hereditary and military hierarchy would lessen in importance in society because they were not capable to lead a productive society
- Louis Dumont --- Indian hierarchy is better, it tells us that equality as an ideal has problems and limits.