

Professor Elliot

Sociology 105

29 November 2021

### **Sociology concepts versus Harari's arguments**

In the Sociology 105 course we learned about several different Sociological concepts and explored the meanings of them. At the end of the semester we read a book that was entitled, “21 Lessons for the 21st Century.” The book was written by Yuval Noah Harari and he discusses how it can be a challenge to keep up with our collective and individual ideas that we have on the world. The reason this can be so difficult is because the world is continuously in movement and humans constantly are changing and adapting to life changes. While some of the concepts I learned about in this course were similar to the book, there also were some that conflicted with each other.

Estranged Labour was one of the sociological concepts we discussed in class over the semester. I learned through taking the sociological course that the term “estranged labour” is when labor is forced upon people. The workers receive no satisfaction from this specific type of labour. I noticed many differences from chapter five that was written about work in comparison to when we spoke about the idea of estranged labour. The main idea of the chapter about work was that when people grow up they may not have a job. A reasoning for people possibly being job less is because of technological advancements. The author of the book believes that many jobs are going to go away in the future because there will be robots and machines who can

there are some concerns that are connected to that idea.

One of the largest concerns about the future for work is that people would have to reinvent themselves in order to earn an income. Reinventing themselves is when humans have to be creative and think of a job task that is needed. The jobs that would need to be filled would have to be something that is not able to be completed through automation. Automation is when a task is completed from a machine or a robot. Secondly, people would have to change their mindset about their career. Often times today people love their professions so much that their careers become lifelong. While lifelong careers can be rewarding and full of many benefits, change is necessary in some work situations in order to see improvements and growth throughout the work force. Estranged labour differs from the new concept of work because it includes people working endless days and the work is time consuming. One of the biggest differences between the two types of labour is that work done from robots and machines would be more time efficient than work that is completed by humans.

There was an extreme noticeable difference in the way that work was spoken about in the article about estranged labour versus the chapter in Hararis book about work. Marx is a German philosopher who wrote the article discussing estranged labour. One of the questions that was provoked in the article was questioning the problem with work that falls under capitalism. The author believes that the issue occurs when the worker becomes a slave to their job. Workers who are slaves to their jobs are constantly under a high amount of stress. The stress levels in employees has been known to rise if they have a strict boss who does not allow them vacation time. Bosses can also be known to have a demanding attitude to their employees which can

would be completely different than working under capitalism. The machines and robots who would complete tasks would allow workers to feel less pressure. The goal for the technological advancements in the work environment is to make work easier for all people who are involved in the work force.

The second difference I noticed is that in the sociological concept of estranged labour people are allowed to pick what type of job they would like. Free will to choose a profession is one of the benefits of estranged labour. The chapter in the book that speaks on work explains that the working people would not always be allowed to choose their job. Robots and machines would mainly be used for all types of jobs. Humans would be able to pick up jobs that either the robots could not perform or if the machines needed human hands to assist then they would be able to do so. In conclusion, despite differences between the sociological concept of estranged labour and the idea of work from the book, both types of labour contribute pros and cons to the labor force.

I saw similarities between the chapter that was written about community in the book and the article we read about the “The Cultural Logic of Collective Representation.” In chapter five the author primarily discusses human communities. Human communities are when a group of people come together for a purpose. The purpose of a community can be different depending on where the group is located. One of the community examples in the book spoke about how Facebook is a community. Facebook is not only an online community but it allows people from all over the world to come together and see social media in one place. The creator of Facebook believes that the app is a connection to create more meaningful communities.

from the ideas of the collective representation and the collective consciousness. The collective representation is defined as an idea that comes from the majority ruling of a specific group.

Collective representations are used to explain similarities or common interests of a group. An American society example of a collective representation would be the American flag. The American flag is a patriotic symbol that is well known by Americans who live in the United States. The flag is used to represent the group of people who live in America and also the men and women who fought for our country in order for the citizens to have freedom.

The collective consciousness is a word that is used to define a collective response that comes from people who live in a society. Durkheim is a French Sociologist who wrote the article that we read in class about the collective consciousness. In the article, Durkheim stated that stability and truth come out of the collective consciousness. The term collective consciousness is similar to collective representations but it is more words spoken about a group instead of a symbol. The words that are said about a group are specifically shared beliefs, rules or something that most people believe to be true or the right thing to do. For example, laws, rituals and what is the norm are all aspects that make up the collective consciousness. Both the collective consciousness and collective representation however, have a strong connection to communities as they were spoken about in Hararis book.

The book discusses communities as a way for people to connect and share experiences that they have in common. I strongly believe that collective representations and the collective consciousness also allow humans to see connections that they may have with others. A community can become a way for people to create friendships and strong bonds with people they

are a social resource for many people. People who tend to be shy or quiet may have a hard time speaking to others if they do not share any of the same interests. Although, when timid people meet friends who have the same interests they may find it much easier to speak to those people and to make new friends.

I also made another connection to the chapter that was written about communities and with the sociological concepts that were spoken about in the article entitled, “The Neurology of Religion.” This article talked about how emotions were super important for the expansion of cognition in early Homo species. Emotions were a set up for language production, human intelligence and the sense of culture in humans. Cultures are a sense of community for humans and this is how I connected the community ideas from the book to the concepts I learned about in the article.

Human emotions are connected to being social and socializing. I believe that when people are able to talk to others and show emotions, it enhances their abilities to form social groups. Social groups is another word used to describe a community of people. In the article, “The Neurology of Religion”, the French Sociologist named Durkheim stated that social groups also helped enhance religion for some people. I truly believe that emotions can have a positive influence on communities as well as peoples religious beliefs.

In conclusion, Hararis book written about the twenty-first century included many lessons about the ideas of the world we live in. The concepts we spoke about in class that were based off the articles we read had several similarities and connections to the thoughts he wrote about in his book. A few of the concepts however did have differences and the thoughts presented were not

articles are aware that it is okay to have different thoughts and ideas. Humans are allowed to have their own individual, creative ideas on different topics. If every human in the world thought the exact same, then the world would be boring. It is crucial that humans beings understand to not put people down when they have different thoughts. I enjoyed learning about the sociological ideas from Hararis book as well as the concepts that were used in the articles that we read.