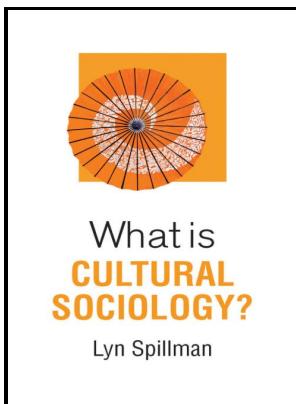


# What is sociology?

Oxford University Press - Chapter 1. An Introduction to Sociology



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- SociologyWhat is sociology?
  - Introductions to sociologyWhat is sociology?
- Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 65-66) and index.  
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## An Introduction to Sociology

If the cocktail party conversation suddenly turns to a business proposition or an overly personal confession, it is no longer playful. What does the word critical mean in this context? Émile Durkheim: The Pathologies of the Social Order Figure 1.

## Learn the Importance of Sociology and Know How it Affects You

The perspective on social life as an unstructured and unconstrained domain of agency and subjective meanings has difficulty accounting for the ways that social life does become structured and constrained. Looking at themselves and society from a sociological perspective helps people see where they connect to different groups based on the many different ways they classify themselves and how society classifies them in turn. These economic changes emblemize the massive transformation of human life brought about by the creation of wage labour, capitalist competition, increased mobility, urbanization, individualism, and all the social problems they wrought: poverty, exploitation, dangerous working conditions, crime, filth, disease, and the loss of family and other traditional support networks, etc.

## 1.3 Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology

If you visited a society where sticking your right hand out to greet someone was interpreted as a threatening gesture, you would quickly learn the value of common understandings of symbols.

### sociology

Slow social change is desirable, but rapid social change threatens social order. Sociology is a science of social activities that are used to improve the knowledge of human activity.

## An Introduction to Sociology

Photo courtesy of Robert S.

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