

## Sociological Perspective

Looks at human behaviour development due to its society

Society: People who share a culture and territory

Social location: Groups people belong to due to place/position in history and society

Jobs, Income, Gender, Race, Social class, Age, Ability, Religion and Geographical location all affect people's ideas and behaviour

### Origins

Began in 1800s, just after Industrial Revolution

Traditional answers failed "questions of life" so people turned to science

Auguste Comte 1798 - 1857

"Founder of Sociology"

Used positivism: a scientific approach to the social world

Herbert Spencer 1820 - 1903

"Survival of the fittest" applied to sociology: Social Darwinism

Lower form — evolve → Higher form  
Barbarian Civilized

Karl Marx 1818 - 1883

Conflict theory: Society is made of 2 classes

Capitalists and Workers  
Class conflict: Struggle between the 2 classes

Thought people should try and change society with revolution

Emile Durkheim 1858 - 1917

Believed in Functionalism - everyone has a role in society

Looked at Social Integration - how much people are tied to their social groups

These groups are more likely to commit suicide:  
Protestant, unmarried, males

As social integration ↓, suicide rates ↑

Max Weber 1864 - 1920

Protestant ethic: Belief that a person's duty is fulfilled through financial success

^  
Leads to Spirit of Capitalism



## Comparing Basic and Applied Sociology

Basic : Anyone interested in sociology 1

Public : Policy makers for recommendations ↓

Applied : Clients seeking change 5

1) Constructing theory and testing hypothesis

2) Research on basic social life

3) Criticisms of society and social policy

4) Analysing problems  
Evaluating programs  
Suggesting solutions

5) Implementing solutions  
(Clinical sociology)

Symbolic Interactionism : How we view the world and communicate  
What do "symbols" mean : love,  
family, parenthood, marriage, divorce

Levels of Analysis

Micro level : Study of their social interaction and non-verbal interaction (what people do in another's presence)

Macro level : Study of large scale patterns of society

Conflict theory, Functionalism