

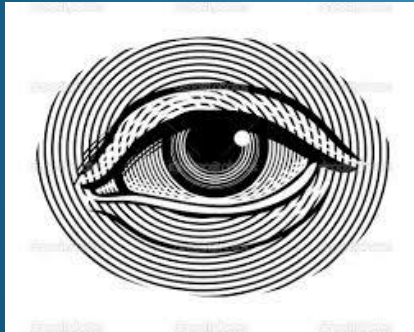
Introduction to Sociology for Bachelor of Commerce Students

SOCI1005B

Tuesdays

6:05pm-8:55pm

Kailash Mital Theatre, Southam Hall



Part 1) Introductions, Course Outline, and Important Policies

Volunteer Note-taker Required:

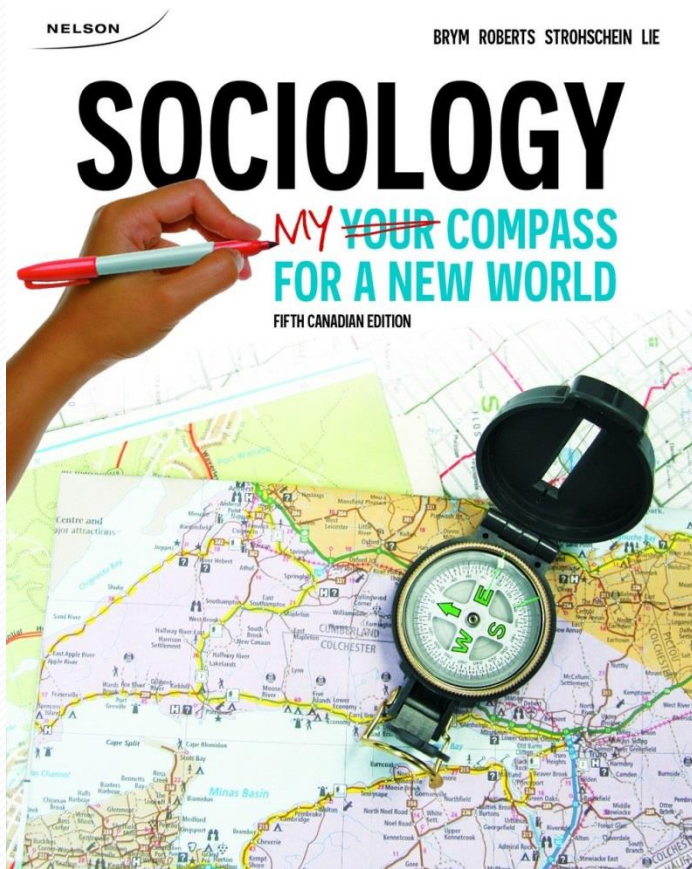
- Email the Note-taking Team:
Volunteer_Notetaking@Carleton.ca
- Successful volunteers will be able to list this activity on their Co-Curricular Record (CCR) which officially recognizes student involvement with potential value for employment opportunities.
- Volunteers will also receive a letter of appreciation from the Paul Menton Centre which lists the course(s) and outlines the role performed by the note-taker.

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PhD ABD, MA, BSc. Sociology

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- Office Hours: Tuesdays before class
- Office Phone: 613-520-2600 x2262
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Required Reading:



Brym et al. (2015) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World*, Fifth Edition, Toronto: Nelson.

ISBN-13: 978017653203

Method of Evaluation:

- **PARTICIPATION/ONLINE QUIZZES (TBA THROUGHOUT TERM): 15%**
 - **MEDIA ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT (FEB. 7): 15%**
 - **MIDTERM EXAM (FEB. 14): 20%**
 - **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (MARCH 21): 20%**
 - **FINAL EXAM (APRIL DATE TBA): 30%**
- =100%**

Important Dates:

- **Feb. 7:** Media Analysis Due Online
- **Feb. 14:** Mid-Term Exam (in-class)
- **Feb. 20-24:** Reading Week: No Classes
- **March 21:** Annotated Bib. Due Online
- **TBD April 10-22:** Final Exam

CuLearn Usage

- Check Newsfeed for Important Updates
- Syllabus and Course Outline
- Optional Recommended/Supplementary Readings (follow links within syllabus)
- Assignment Instructions
- Online Assignment Submissions and Quizzes
- Voluntary Discussion Forum
- PP Lecture Slides
- Gradebook

General Overview and Organization of Lecture Content

- Introduction
- Research Methods
- Culture and Mass Media
- Socialization/Social Interaction
- Midterm Review
- Social Collectivities, Norms, and Deviance
- Social Inequality
- Global Inequality/Race & Ethnicity
- Sexualities & Gender/The Body
- Work & the Economy/Social Movements
- Review

Part 2)

Basic Introduction to Sociology

Week 1: Goals

1. Define sociology.
2. Outline historical foundations of the discipline
3. Demonstrate how sociology has been motivated by a desire to improve the social world and how it offers unique perspectives about how to do so
4. Application: Illustrate the benefits of applying a sociological perspective to examine everyday phenomena, developing a “sociological imagination.”

What is Sociology?

- Defining sociology:
“the systematic study of human activity in context”
(Carron, 2016)
- How to locate social problems:
 - What is a “social problem”?
 - Who might define what a social problem is? How?

Why Study Sociology?

1. “Sociology as a life and death issue”: Historically, sociological research has been motivated by a desire to improve the social world
2. Personal benefits of developing critical capacities/sociological imagination? Sociology can help us better understand our own historical context and the complexities of life in the 21st century.

Opportunities to Participate and Engage in the Course Material:

- Locating social problems...
 - What is a “social problem”?
 - Who defines what a social problem is, and how?
- What topics/issues are currently most interesting to you?
- What current events would you like to cover in class this term?

Popular Misconceptions:

- “Isn’t Sociology just common sense?”
- “Sociologists are quirky individuals. Their ideas seem contrary to common sense.”
- “Now is not the time to commit sociology” – notion that sociology is only a relevant vehicle for ‘left-leaning’ persons who use it to justify social policies or a political agenda through a ‘pseudo-science’
- “Sociology is just labeling things. It has no practical use.”

Sociological Findings versus Common Sense Quiz (T or F?)

From:

Henslin, James et al. (2014) *Sociology: A Down-To-Earth Approach*, Sixth Canadian Edition,
Toronto: Pearson.

- 1) The earnings of Canadian women have just about caught up with those of Canadian men.
- 2) When faced with natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes, people panic and social organization disintegrates.
- 3) Revolutions are more likely to occur when conditions remain poor than when they are improving.
- 4) Most people on welfare are lazy and looking for a handout. They could work if they wanted to.
- 5) Compared with men, women touch each other more often when talking.

- 6) Compared with women, men maintain more eye contact when conversing.
- 7) How long people live depends on their genetic or biological makeup and therefore is not strongly influenced by any social differences.
- 8) Not long ago, the family was a stable unit, but today we face an explosion of broken and dysfunctional families.
- 9) Today, because women face more stress and anxiety at work and in the home, more women than men commit suicide.
- 10) Wars have been fought throughout history because humans have aggressive instincts.

Seeing the Same Image from Different Perspectives...

Sociologists traditionally approach social problems from either a macro- or micro-sociological perspective, or a combination of both.



What colour is the
dress..?

Overview of Lecture as It Relates to Chapter 1:

- The historical conditions of sociology's emergence
- Disciplinary traditions and the conventional history of sociology and its key theories
- Who are the discipline's key thinkers? The pioneers? Were there others..?
- Primary typologies (ways of conceptualizing the theoretical traditions)
- Contemporary/emergent typologies: alternate perspectives
- The sociological imagination

The Cultural and Historical Emergence of Sociology

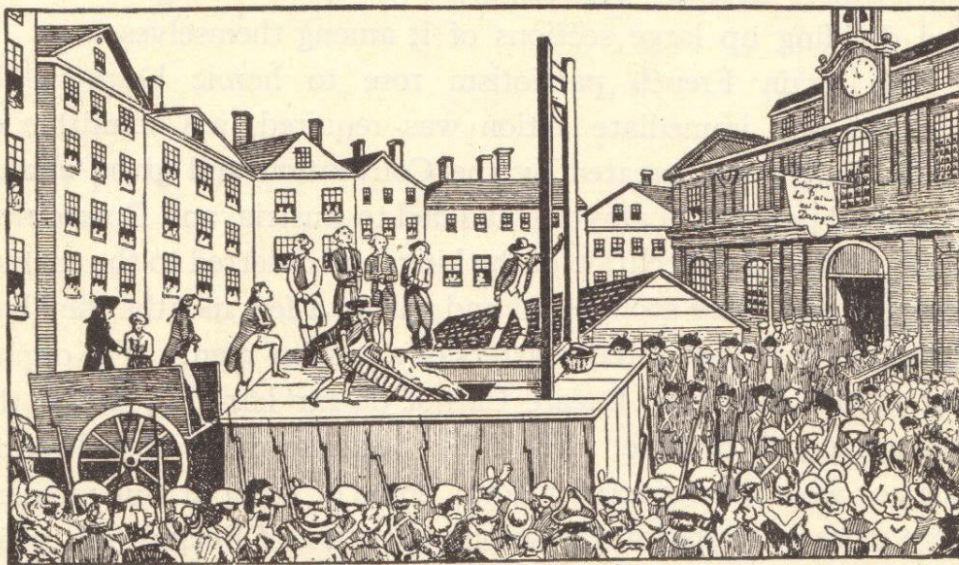
- How did early sociologists identify social problems?
- What were the social problems of the day?
- How did sociology take root as an established discipline?

Three Revolutions:

- Scientific Revolution (1550): base findings on evidence, not speculation
- Democratic Revolution (1750): American & French revolutions proved that people can organize society and humans can intervene and solve social problems
- Industrial Revolution (1780): mass industrialization in Europe, mechanization/factory work, accompanied by mass migration and urbanization in major cities, new division of labour force

Popular History of Sociology:

- 19th Century origins (especially after 1850)
- Questions arose following the two recent revolutions in Europe that caused widespread social reorganization at the end of the 18th and turn of the 19th C.

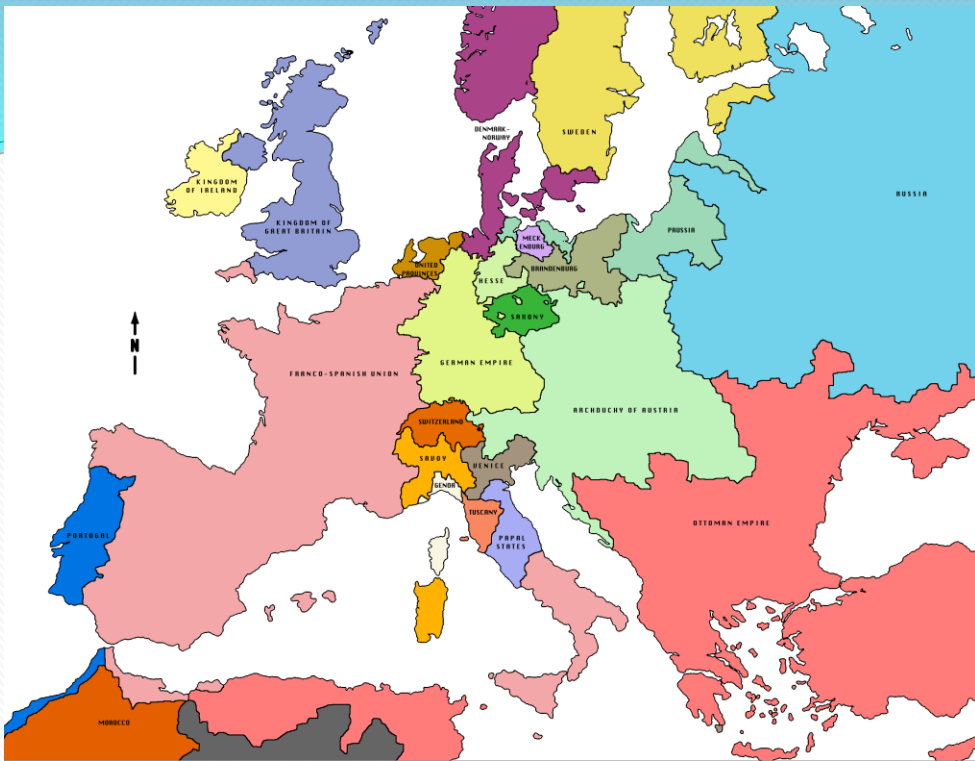


GUILLOTINE IN THE SQUARE BEFORE THE HOTEL DE VILLE

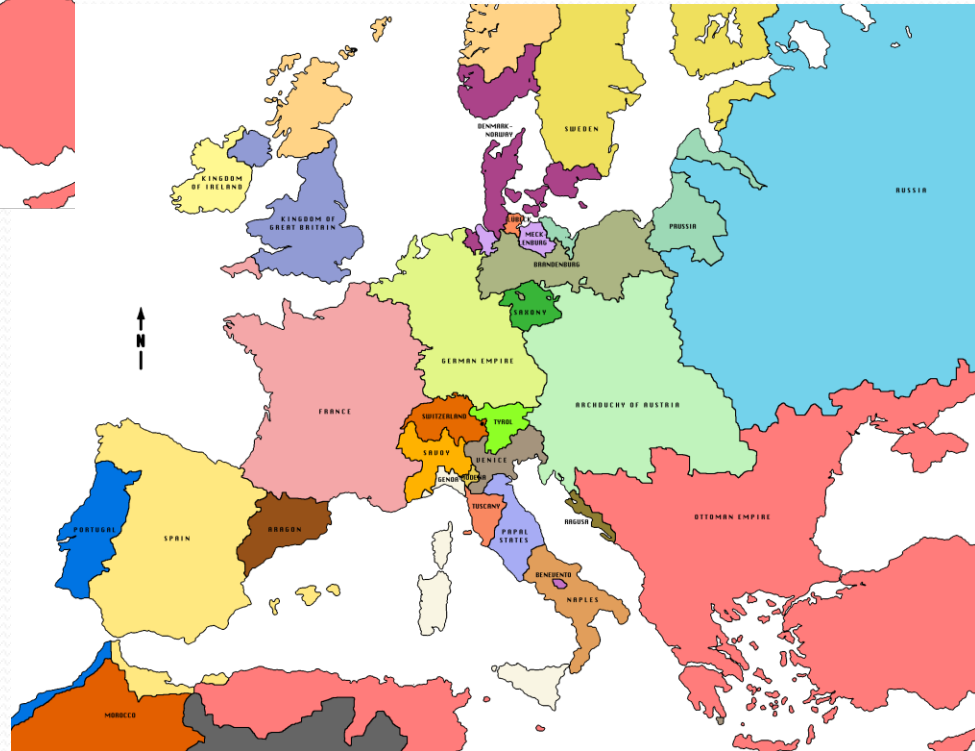
Illustration from a contemporary newspaper.



< Europe, 1800



Europe, 1850 >



Sociological Perspectives: Conflict and Order

- What holds society together (social cohesion) and what tears it apart or leads to reorganization/social change (e.g. through revolution, abandonment, etc.)?
- Why do some groups succeed while others struggle?
- Differs from focusing questions on the individual (e.g. contra psycho-analysis) and often arrives at different conclusions about how to address problems, looking at widespread issues and structures
- Study of society grounded in scientific conventions

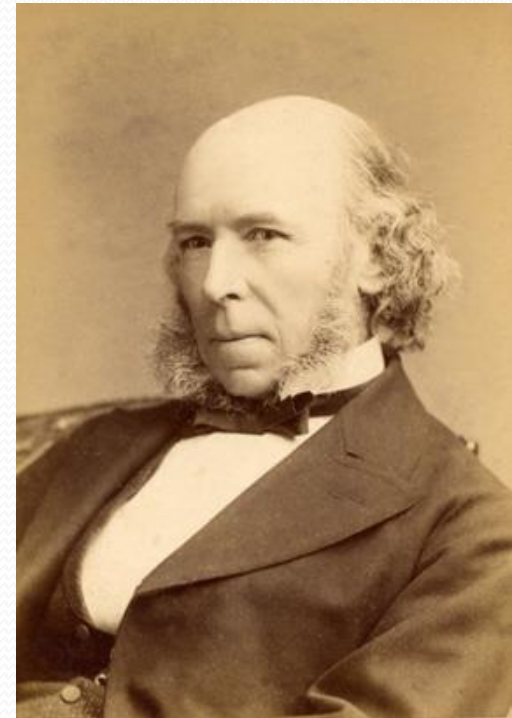
Coining the Term “Sociology”

Auguste Comte is deemed to be the person who first put the word into practice, in 1838



More 'founding fathers' ...

- **Herbert Spencer** – “Social Darwinism”: scientific laws governing operation of society
- Coined the term “survival of the fittest” before Darwin made it famous



Introduction to Traditional Sociological Thinking

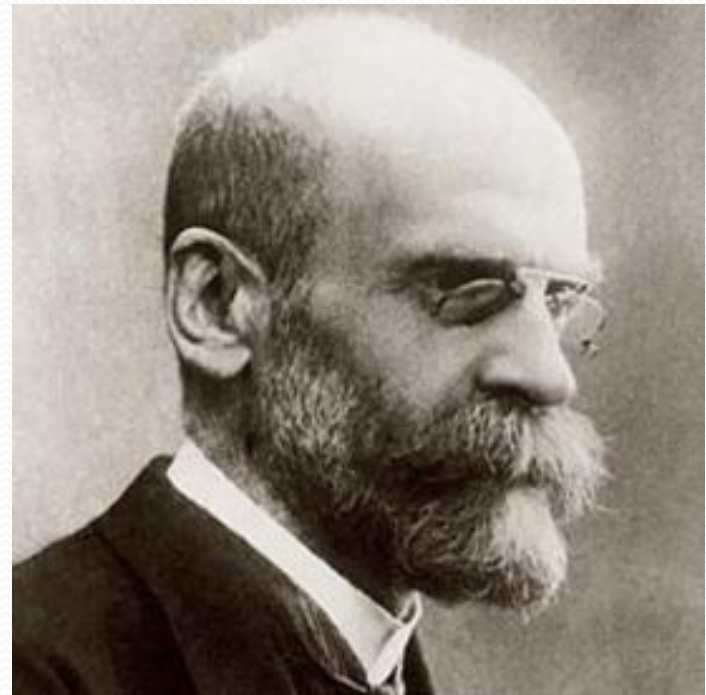
Examining Macrostructures and Microstructures

Disciplinary Legitimization:

Emile Durkheim's study of suicide helped to establish sociology as a discipline with unique, practical findings

Social Solidarity: the degree to which group members share beliefs and values; the intensity and frequency of their interaction

Emile Durkheim, 1858-1917 >



A New Understanding of Suicide and a New Way to Approach Society's Problems

- Durkheim's 1897 study of suicide found that there was no correlation between degree of mental disturbance and suicide rates, but rather, that social solidarity is the most important factor attributed to causation
- Evidence was grounded in systematic analysis of population statistics.
- Findings make a solid argument for the importance of understanding social structures in relation to human activity – and that patterns of practice are not based solely on individual agency/choice/motivations

More of Emile Durkheim's Contributions to Sociology

- The Division of Labour in Society (1893)
 - outlined historical changes in social organization following industrial revolution; implications of shift from mechanical to organic solidarity
- The Rules of Sociological Method (1895)
 - Durkheim's manifesto for sociology; he argued that the discipline should be about the study of "social facts"
- The Elementary forms of Religious Life (1912)
 - discussed religion as a normal social phenomenon with positive social functions; put society at the centre of religious engagement e.g. whereby definitions of the sacred and the profane rely on contact with the collective; outlined elementary forms (e.g. totems, rituals)

Functionalism:

Following from Durkheim's research, functionalism is widely considered to be the first major theoretical tradition in sociology:

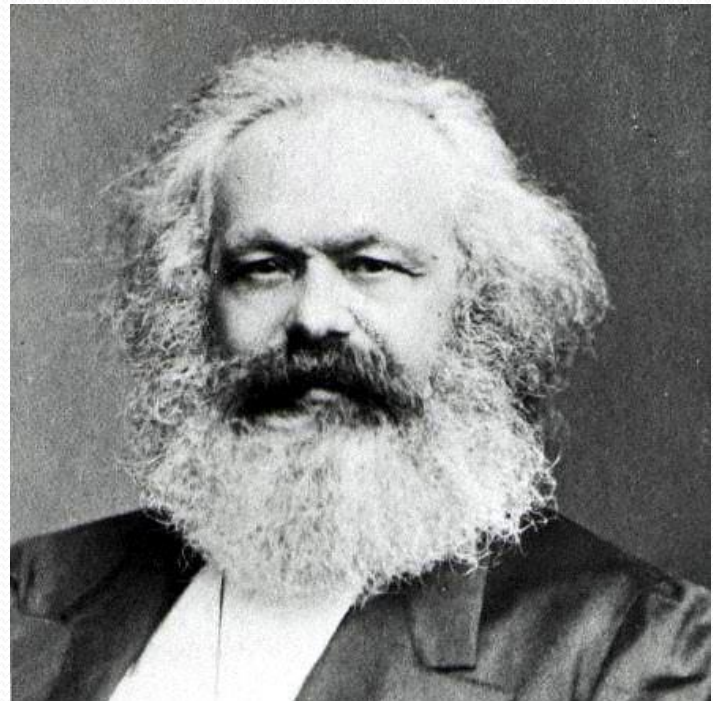
- 1) Relatively stable patterns of social relations (social structures) govern human relations
- 2) Concern with how social structures maintain or undermine social stability
- 3) Social structures are based on shared values
- 4) Social problems solved by re-establishing equilibrium

Conflict Theory:

- **Karl Marx:** theories of class conflict
- Developed concepts of class consciousness, false consciousness, alienated labour, historical materialism, theory of capital

Main claim to fame: the Communist Manifesto (co-written with Friedrich Engels)

Karl Marx, 1818-1883 >

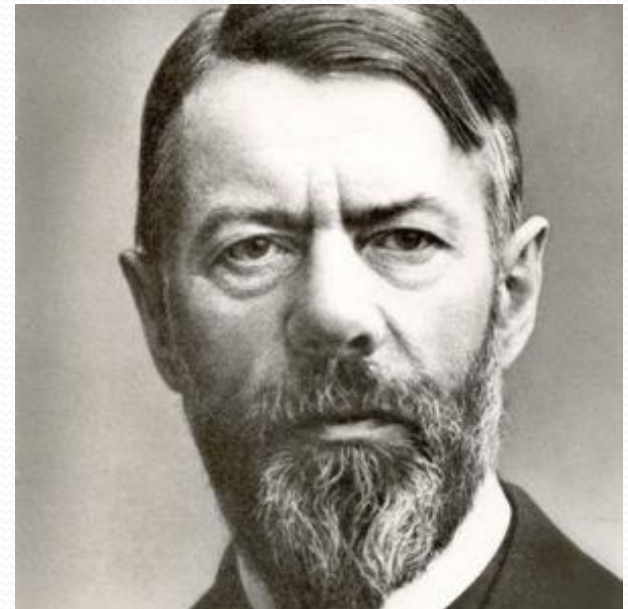


Outline of Conflict Theory:

- Focused on macro-structures such as “class relations” or patterns of domination/submission
- Stability and change through major patterns of inequality
- How members of privileged groups maintain advantages while subordinate groups struggle
- Maintains that eliminating privilege will lower the level of conflict and increase human welfare
- Precursor to various forms of ‘critical theory’ (associated with the Frankfurt School of sociology)

Symbolic Interactionism:

- **Max Weber** – associated with both conflict theory and (more frequently) symbolic interactionism
- Critiqued Marx's uni-dimensional view of history, and showed how politics & religion were as important as class
- Any complete sociological analysis requires analysis of subjective meanings and motives



Symbolic Interactionism in America & the “Chicago School”

- symbolic interactionism offers a more detailed study of connections between the individual and larger social structures (from the micro-level up)
- American individualism influenced the focus of “The Chicago School” (University of Chicago)
- **George Herbert Mead** (1863-1931): sense of self formed in course of interacting with others
- **Erving Goffman** (1922-82): dramaturgical analysis

Symbolic Interactionism's Main Features:

- 1) Focus on interpersonal settings & micro-level social settings
- 2) Social life only possible because people attach meaning to things
- 3) People help to create their circumstances and do not merely react to them

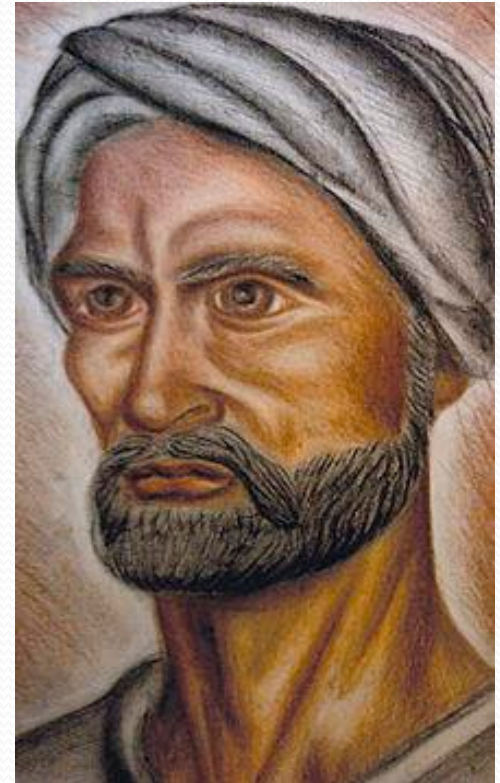
Overview of some popular social theories:

- Functionalism, Conflict theory, Social Constructionism, Symbolic Interactionism
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfKQ-ozKktM>

**Contributors Who
Sometimes Fall Outside
the Established Origin
Story**

Other 'Founding Figures'? Contributors to Social Theory in the Margins of Established Tradition

- **Ibn Khaldun** (1332-1406)
- Considered by some to be a founding father of sociology, economics, historiography
- Economic growth theory, social cohesion, supply and demand, cyclical theory of empires



- **W.E.B. Dubois** (1868-1963) American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist
- The rightful “father of modern sociology”?
Some have argued that knowledge of the extent of Dubois’ contributions was intentionally suppressed following conflicts with Booker T. Washington.
- believed capitalism to be a root cause of racism



- **Harriet Martineau** (1802-1876)
- frequently considered to be the first woman sociologist
- first to translate August Comte's works from French to English (in 1853)
- helped to introduce early sociological ideas to the English-speaking world



- Martineau's own works included writings on political economy, social class, religion, suicide, the state of American democracy/social structure, domestic relations and the struggles of workers, women, children, minority groups and slaves
- Wrote *Theory and Practice of Society* in 1837 before Comte coined the term sociology, using a detached, 'objective' writing style
- **Annie Marion MacLean** (1869-1964) born in P.E.I., raised in Nova Scotia, Canada
- retrospectively becoming recognized for her contributions to the Chicago School
- First woman to receive a MA in Sociology and 2nd to receive a PhD in Sociology (from U of Chicago)



- **Gabriel Tarde** (1843-1904): French sociologist, criminologist
- in direct conflict with Durkheim via his own theory of social interaction (“intermental activity”), which emphasized the individual in an aggregate of persons
- attacked extreme biological causation theories of Lombroso



Research streams that are difficult to box into traditional categories:

- studies of gender and sexuality, including feminist and queer theory and masculinities studies
- social constructionism, post-modernism & post-structuralism
- critical race theory
- cultural sociology
- science & technology studies
- environmental sociology

Feminism, Queer, Critical Race Theories

- many important feminist thinkers such as Harriet Martineau were often heavily involved in research methods, social movements projects
- there are different branches of critical studies of inequality (focusing on race, class, sex, gender, ethnicity) as well as intersectional approaches
- different waves of feminism (1st, 2nd, 3rd...)
- post-feminism & queer theory: questions binary categories of male/female, gay/straight
- sexualities studies, including masculinities

The Cultural and Historical Emergence of Post-structuralism

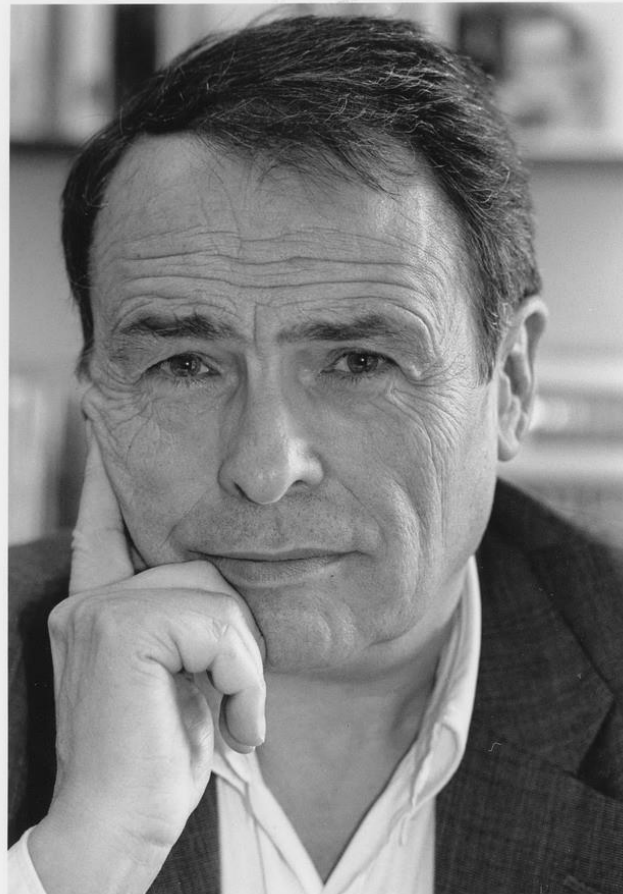
Historical and Cultural Conditions of Possibility

- Developed during and after World War II
- Atomic bomb > asymmetrical warfare
- Communism in Soviet Union/China/Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis
- Worker and student revolutions of 1960s
- anti-war movements
- sexual revolution
- influence of critical theory, cultural sociology, phenomenology, absurdist, surrealist, and avant-garde movements

Social constructionism & “Post-” theories (inter-related)

- social constructionism: taken-for-granted aspects of life are sustained by social processes and vary culturally and historically
- post-modernism: engages the uncertainties created by modernization; often questions our representation of things (no absolute truths or values); emphasizes failure of ‘the modern project’ (popular since 1970s)
- post-structuralism (e.g. Foucault, Derrida): society is not defined *en masse*; complex webs of interactions (e.g. power not conceived of as simply a top-down exercise in coercion; social and cultural realms not separate)

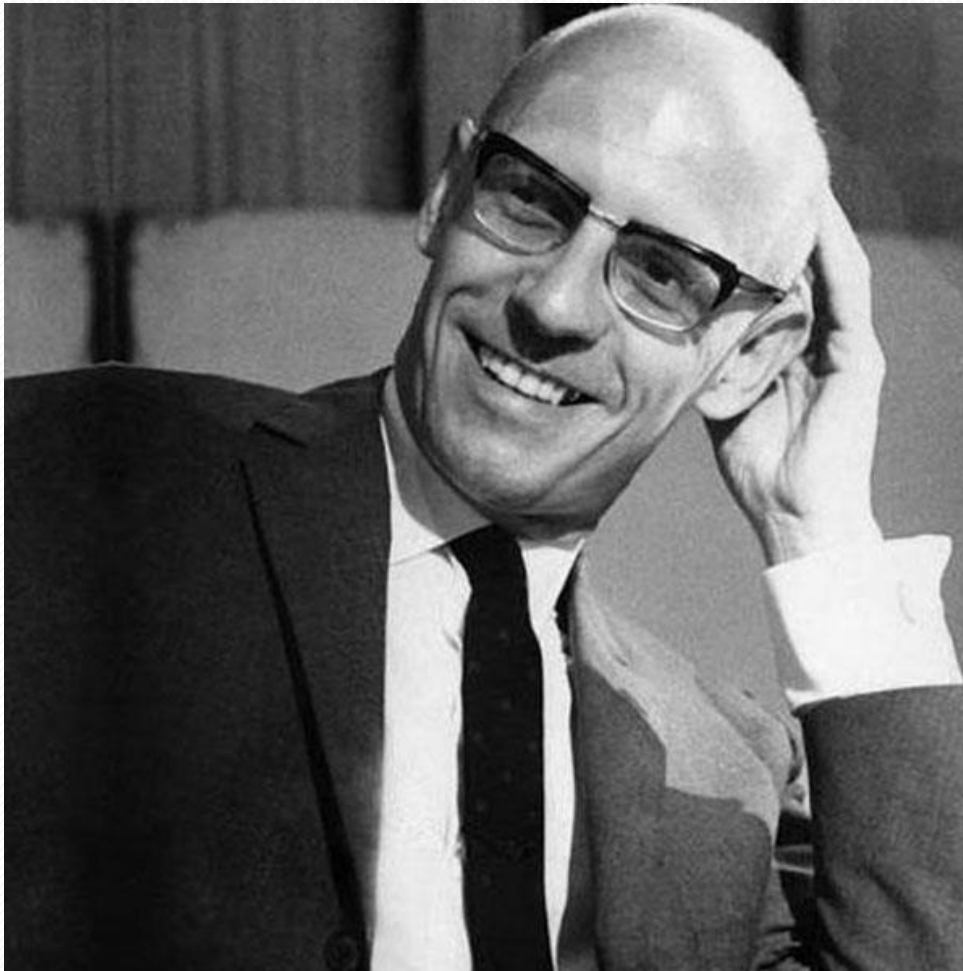
The Cultural Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002)



The Cultural Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002)

- Frequently associated with concepts of “habitus” and “embodiment” (concerned with how we learn to orient ourselves toward others, how we embody social values, routine gestures, etc.)
- Cultural studies of “masculine domination” with Lois Waquant (e.g. mapping common binary symbols and associations)
- Wrote books about how to conduct sociological research (e.g. *The Science of Science and Reflexivity* and *Outline of a Theory of Practice*) that place importance on contextualizing one’s own methods and orientation to social problems as historical and cultural products
- *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste*

Michel Foucault (1926-1984)



- Foucault's contributions continue to influence sociology, criminology, law, philosophy
- popular concepts: biopower; biopolitics; techniques of the self, governmentality; historical genealogy and discourse analysis as method
- Books include *Madness and Civilization*, *Birth of the Clinic*, *The Order of Things*, *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, *Discipline and Punish: Birth of the Prison* (focus on social control, docile bodies), *The History of Sexuality vols. 1-3*, *Care of the Self*

Reassembling the Social

- Bruno Latour: “sociology of the social” vs. “sociology of association” (also Michel Callon, Annemarie Mol, John Law)
- ANT (actor-network-theory) & STS (science and technology studies) include study of non-humans as actors when it comes to how agency is distributed; interest in hybrids
- traces construction of scientific facts, history of science
- follows “science in action”
- ‘anti-dualistic’: e.g. critiques notion that nature/culture exist separately in practice



Socioeconomics, Sociobiology, and more!

- Socioeconomics: different modes of justification via market, civic, domestic, religious, fame, industrial realms – all use different criteria to assess worth
- Socio-biology: takes into account inter-species relationships

Donna Haraway >



C. Wright Mills: the Sociological Imagination

involves the capacity for a person to see the connection between personal troubles and social structures.



C. Wright Mills: 1916-1962



Application:

- How might the study of sociology help us to explain contemporary social problems?
- Case study: Canada home to suicide capital of the world

Next Class (Tues. Jan. 17)

- Wrap-up introductory lecture content
- How sociologists do research (read chapter 2 before class)