

SY103 Test #1 Review

Chapter 1 & 2 (pg 1-29):

Social Structures:

- Determinate patterns of social relations
- ex. culture, sexuality, economy

3 types of social structures:

1) Microstructures:

- Patterns of social relations on the small scale
- 1 on 1 interactions, location interactions, etc.
- ex. status, personal social roles in society

2) Macrostructures:

- Patterns of social relations on a large scale, above and beyond individual relations
- ex. general socio-economic class, gender, racism

3) Global Structures:

- Structures that encompass all societies
- ex. global communications, international political organizations

Managing Emotions

Emotion management:

- Controlling one's emotions & following "feeling rules" in the private sphere (outside of the workspace)

Feeling rules:

- Socially shared norms that influence how people want to try and feel emotions in given social relations
- Arlie Russel Hochschild
- ex. when you get married, you're supposed to feel happy, when somebody dies, you're supposed to feel sad

Surface acting:

- Displays of affection that are inauthentic from what one is feeling on the inside

Deep acting:

- Express emotions simultaneously
- real feelings that have been self-induced
- not trying to fit a certain emotion for certain situations

Emotional labour:

- Controlling one's emotions & following "feeling rules" for the sake of getting paid

2 sides of emotional labour:

- 1) Managing other people's emotions
- 2) Managing one's own emotions

Additionally... the gendered division of labour

Rational jobs = masculine
ex. impartial judges

Emotional jobs = feminine
ex. care givers

Conclusions of emotional labour:

- it is gender separated
- extremely taxing
- causes burnout
- undervalued and unrecognized in society

4 Main Sociological Theories:

Functionalism

- Stable patterns of social relations or macrostructures govern human behaviour
- Social structures based on shared values and norms
- Social problems solved by finding an equilibrium
- how social institutions foster social stability

Conflict Theory

- Macrostructures create division and conflict between dominant and subordinate groups
- Ruling groups try to secure their advantages & produce social stability Vs. Ruled groups struggle to change the system and create one that is more equitable
- Social inequality produces conflict, not consensus
- social conflict between powerful and subordinate groups

Karl Marx:

- Capitalist societies defined conflict between the owning class (bourgeoisie) & the working class (proletarians).
- The bourgeoisie use social structures to maintain their power, while the proletarians struggle for equality
- If the working class can become conscious of their common exploitation (class consciousness) they will form a social movement that: Abolishes private property & Establishes a communist society

Antonio Gramsci:

- Famous Italian Communist
- Leader of Italian Communist Party & Elected to Parliament in 1924
- Imprisoned by Benito Mussolini's National Fascist Party from 1926-1934
- Died under government watch in a hospital in Rome (April 27, 1937)

Why do people accept social inequality?

The State = Force (Lion)

Coercive power: “legally enforces discipline on groups of people who do not consent to the dominant group” (p. 12).

vs

Civil Society = Consent (Fox)

•Cultural Hegemony: The interests of the dominant group are represented as the general interests of the society. Subordinate groups “spontaneously consent” to their interests and view them as commonsensical

Feminism

- Patriarchy: Social structure that subordinates females to male domination (examined in micro, macro, and global structures).
- Distinguish between biological sex & gender
- Male domination determined by social structures, not biology
- Eliminating gender inequality is beneficial for everyone in society
- Patriarchal social structure that subordinates females to male domination

Symbolic Interactionism:

- Social reality is constructed through the daily interaction of individuals.
- Micro-level interactions between individuals
- Erving Goffman

- Human Agency: people do not just react to social circumstances; they actively create subjective meanings

- Dramaturgical Approach:
 - People are social actors who manage their identities to create desired impressions from their audience (like actors).
 - Social interactions are similar to people being in a play
 - ex. front stage and back stage roles

Monday, January 21, 2019

SY103 Lecture 4 - The Environment

1. Risk Society
2. Two Waves of Environmental Risks
 - a) 1st Wave of Risk: Green Revolution
 - b) 2nd Wave of Risk: Bio-Technology Revolution

Ulrich Beck (1944-2015)

- German Sociologist
- Professor at University of Munich & London School of Economics
- his work falls under the conflict theory approach

Book he wrote: Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity (1992)

- 1986 in Ukraine, nuclear explosion occurred and was a shocking experience

Question: How has humanity's relationship to nature changed over time?

- we have had different relationships with nature over different time periods
- Beck agrees it has changed over time

3 Historical Periods of Risk in Western Societies

1. Pre-Modern European Society (pre 1800's):

- Humanity had no control over nature "fate"
- no risk assessment
- humanity lives in "Relative scarcity" of natural resources for survival
- population levels were much smaller because there wasn't enough resources to sustain the population like we have today
- basic needs like food, water, and shelter were in short supply
- natural disasters were conceived by something beyond human control; couldn't b stopped
- nature controlled humanity; humans didn't control nature

2. Modern Western Societies (1800-1950)

- Governments, Corporations, and Individuals started to perform risk assessments
- Collective insurance against risks
- start to become conscious of the surrounding world and each other
- wide spread belief that science and technology could conquer the natural world
- people thought human development was limitless
- humanity started to recognize that wars, natural disasters, etc were not beyond human control
- scientists and politicians started to argue that everything was within our control
- cities were started to be built after the industrial revolution, making lives longer and creating better nutrition and just making life on this earth more easily accessible and within our control
- governments and other people promoted population growth and producing lots of children and a bigger work force
- how a neighbourhood was deemed a risk was by how many people living in the property was minority group
- created a huge disproportion of inequality within the United States
- "white suburban population"
- protecting us against the environmental risk with the new bringing up and importance of science

3rd - Risk Society (1950s-present)

Risk Society:

A society that must confront uninsurable risks from unintended social and environmental consequences caused by industrialism. = reflexive modernity

- People started to become skeptical about science
- science is not necessarily the pursuit of human knowledge to enhance human life
- a widespread question of the value of science
- industrialization also led to a whole series of unintended consequences

- huge dangers of toxic chemicals that have been put onto our land
- food chains destroyed, species becoming endangered and extinct
- now living in a period of global warming
- starting to see science and technology in a completely different light
- too many unintended consequences
- a period where people start to become more reflective and critical on science (reflexive)

2 MAJOR EVENTS THAT OCCURRED DURING THIS TIME PERIOD:

1. Nazi extermination camps (1939-1945)
2. Atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan (1945)

Two Waves of Risk:

1. 1st Wave of Risk: Green Revolution (1940s to 1980s)
2. 2nd Wave of Risk: Bio-Technology Revolution (1980s to present)

1st Wave of Risk: The Green Revolution (1940s to 1980s)

Post-WWII: 44 victorious “allied nations” sought to establish political and economic global institutions that would prevent global wars (end economic depression and economic nationalism as well as develop and modernize “under developed” countries)

Underdevelopment Theory:

European colonizers flourished by exploiting and undermining the economic development of countries in the Global South.

Modernization Theory:

economic growth and development can be achieved by aggressively instituting the values and practices of modern capitalism

Green Revolution:

- Using industrial processes (technology, chemicals, and managerial practices) in agriculture to increase productivity.
- taking underdeveloped countries and making them developed
- if “third world” countries were to become equal players in the global marketplace, they needed to be transformed
- too many people working on rural farms and such, proves it is an underdeveloped (called peasant system)
- helped produce the dream of an urban society
- however had horrible consequences for the local society

3 Consequences of the Green Revolution

1. Pollution & Environmental Degradation

- Pesticides & Herbicides (e.g. DDT)
- Toxic Colonialism
- agricultural companies started enlisting chemists to speed up the processes of making food
- technology started to become superior to natural nature on how food was made
- everything was modernized; mostly because of the introduction of chemicals
- food became dependant on toxic chemicals
- we started investing these toxins on a mass level

2. Global Inequalities

- Loans from International Monetary Fund & World Bank --> open agriculture to multinational corporations Monocultural Crops & Loss of Biodiversity ("Banana Republics - country where their entire agriculture practice are completely changed. google this i actually don't know wtf he's saying rn man.)
- started to become very dependant on richer countries
- banks gave countries loans but in exchange they had to change their agricultural practices
- many rural people lost their land and ended up in the cities often jobs in sweatshop like conditions
- factory workers were very common, people were desperate for jobs
- MNC'S started to dominate local developments
- most crops were produced for exports and most goods were produced for the people
- major huge international farms started up

3. New Common Sense

- the natural world is "dirty"
- use chemicals to clean natural things
- ex. natural dirt is needed to make products but it is common for people to use chemicals to clean off these things
- green revolution taught humanity to treat natural things as if they needed to be destroyed.
- using pesticides, herbicides, etc. on agriculture
- the word dirt itself is conceived in a negative bad way in our society, it is natural its supposed to be seen as good
- issue: when chemicals we use to clean are flushed down our drains they are sent into our water system
- became a chemically dependant society
- chemical industry dominated agriculture

Lecture 5 - The Environment, Part II

2nd Wave of Risk: Bio-Technology Revolution (1980s to present)

1. Two Means:

- a) Technical Means
- b) Property Rights (Patent Laws)

2. The Social Distribution of Risks

- a) Risks for Countries in the Global South
- b) Class & Exposure to Risk in the Global North

2nd Wave of Risk: Bio-Technology Revolution (1980s to present)

“While the Green Revolution was based on the assumption that the earth was inert (not touched or moving, needs to be regenerated by human intervention), the biotechnology revolution robs the seed of its fertility and self-regenerative capabilities, colonizing it in two major ways: through technical means and through property rights” (Vandana Shiva, Biopiracy, p. 49).

Shiva:

- trans national feminist
- eco feminist
- conflict and feminist theory

2 Means of the Bio-Technology Revolution

1. Technical Means: Genetic Engineering

Recombinant DNA:

- Removing a segment of DNA from a gene or splicing together segments of DNA from different living things, thus effectively creating a new life form.
- Taking genes that were coded for one species and putting them in another one
- not just changing the external environment, changing the actual cell

- transgenetic species
- Frankenfoods
- this era gave humans a false perception that they could create life
- humans think they could dominate nature and control it

- Monsanto’s terminator technology: “suicide seeds”, seeds are made to only be used once

Genetic Pollution:

- The potential dangers of mixing the genes of one species with those of another” (Brym and Lie 2012: 270).

- Superweeds
- affect upwards of 7-10 million acres of soil in the US
- seeds cant reproduce themselves
- they require chemicals to grow

2. Property Rights (Patent Laws)

Patent: The grant of a property right to the inventor.

1st Patent on Life for General Electric (1971)

- Dr. Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty for genetically engineered pseudomonas bacteria (oil eating bacteria)
- Diamond v. Chakrabarty (1980)
- in court, it was won that Patent rights could be granted if one could prove that you have “invented a life”, or created a new form of life
- this ruling gave biotechnology firms control on new forms of life

TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights)

The Social Distribution of Risks: Bio-Technology Revolution

“It is this shift from ecological processes of production through regeneration to technological processes of nonregenerative production that underlies the dispossession of farmers and the drastic reduction of biological diversity in agriculture. It is at the root of the creation of poverty and of non-sustainability in agriculture” (Shiva, Biopiracy: pp. 50-51)

a) Risk for Countries in the Global South (e.g. Neem Tree in India)

- W.R. Grace & Co. patented Neem seed oil – registered as “Neemix”.
- Social Movements & Resource Mobilization Theory
- Overturned by European Patent Office (2000)
- forced massive changes on the laws put in place in which to perform agriculture
- ex. Neem tree in India plays important cultural role, sacred tree that has a lot of medicinal qualities, us took patented control of the natural product and created it into a brand to make profit
- India’s government fought against them saying it has been used for years and years already and they wont and got it overturned

b) Class & Exposure to Risk in the Global North (e.g. Genetic Pollution)

- Canadian farmer Percy Schmeiser
- “Genetic Pollution” from Monsanto’s GM “Roundup Ready Canola”
- issues with putting genetically engineered seeds in fields is that they do not stay in the fields
- Monsanto seeds require all of monsanto products to work, it is by law
- David vs Monsanto (farmer who has monsanto seeds blow onto his crop and get sued by him, tried to countersuit and lost).
- prime example of small farmers getting forced into buying into these private corporations dominating