

# Socialization

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## SOC

### - **Primary socialization**

- Occurs during childhood
- When develop a sense of 'self'

### - **Secondary socialization**

- Occurs later in life

What we're learning:

- **Social rules/norms**
- **Sanctions** (what happens when we dont follow the norms/break rules of social life)
- **Values** (particularly prominent in primary socialization)
  - e.g. respect, honesty (contribute to society that functions well)
- **Roles**
  - Behaviour expected at a certain status
  - Establish rules for how to behave (parent, daughter, employee)
  - Have role expectations but dont always meet them
  - "role set"
  - Roles = provide order + sense of predictability (to be relaxed + not always surprised)

Determinism

- When comes to socialization, ask yourself:
- Does socialization shape us entirely or do we have agency, that is the capacity to influence what happens in our life?
- Are we shaped mainly by bio factors or social ones (nature VS nurture)
- **Determinism:**

- Degree to which person's behaviour, attitude, other characteristics are determined / caused by specific factor
  - Bio determinism

### **Biological determinism**

- States that greater part of who we are is determined by our thousands of genes

### Social / Cultural determinism - Behaviourism

#### - **Behaviourism:**

- School of thought in psych that takes a strong cultural-determinist position
  - Behaviourists believe that any behaviour can be taught + learned
  - Much of who we are + what we do = consequence of how previous behaviour was responded to
  - Sociologists skeptical that bio factors can often lead to sexism or racism

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### Supporting behaviourism : socialization + isolation

- Must learn humanness
- What happens when children are isolated from human contact?
- E.g. Case studies:
  - Anna (K. Davis, 1947)
  - Institutional children (R. Spitz, 1952)
    - Romanian orphans developed less than other children
  - Harlow Study (1955)
    - Monkeys (Social isolation - develop abnormally)
  - Genie

### Disproving nature argument : race & IQ

- Sub-saharan African countries (primarily black populations) — demonstrated lower IQ than European populations

- Result of sociocultural factors
    - Evidence: flynn effect (1987-1006)
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### **Sociological insights : Sense of self**

- Charles Cooley
    - Our sense of self develops through interactions w/ other ppl
    - Look at others' reaction to certain behaviour
    - Symbolic interactionist
    - Introduced idea of looking-glass self as explanation of how self develops
      - Self-fulfilling prophecy
    - indiv.'s self image as based on how a person thinks they are viewed by others
    - 3 components to looking glass self :
      - How you imagine you appear to others
      - How you imagine those others judge your appearance
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### **Significant other and generalized other**

- Mead, a symbolic interactionist argued children are socialized by others + internalize norms +values
  - Mead distinguished between 2 categories of agents of socialization
    - Significant others: individuals, family, friends, whom young children imitate + model themselves after
    - Generalized others: attitudes, viewpoints, general expectations, of the society into which the child is socialized
  - Eventually "take the role of the other"
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## **Sense of Self**

- Mead argued that the socialization of a child unfolds as a developmental sequence in 3 stages:
    - Preparatory (imitative) stage: involves imitation of others
    - Play stage : child engages in role-taking + assumes perspective of significant others
    - Game stage : child considers simultaneously the perspective of several roles
  - Significant + generalized others continue to exert influence on an indiv. Life
  - Similar to Goffman's "impression management"
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## **Agents of socialization**

- Groups that have a significant impact on one's socialization
    - Family
    - Peers
    - Neighbourhoods/community
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## **Family**

- The first + often most powerful agent of socialization
    - Socialization of child is consistently seen as a key function of the family
    - however, approach to socialization varies from family to family and culture to culture
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## **Peer group**

- Can be defined as a social group that shares key social characteristics, such as age, social position, and interests
  - Peer pressure refers to social force exerted on an indiv. By their peers, to conform in behaviour, appearance, or externally demonstrated values

- Peer pressure is socialization in action
  - Paul Willis' study of informal culture of teenage working class boys
    - School was irrelevant, place to spend time w/ friends
    - They anticipated getting the same jobs as their parents, so didn't bother making more efforts in school
    - School system deemed them as failures : "unwise for working class kids to trust diplomas and certificates. These things don't push ppl up, but to maintain there those who are already at the top"
    - Promoted anti-authoritarian rules
    - Participation in the anti-school subculture
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### **Mass Media**

- Many debates about whether mass media affects our behaviour
  - eg. children seeing violence on television, movies, video games
    - Some studies suggest that exposure to violence desensitizes esp. young men
    - Other claim violence in media provides safe outlet for pent-up hostile emotions
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### **Video Games & Socialization**

- Do video games promote violent attitudes + behaviour?
  - "violent video game use has effect on aggression. Effect is manifested both as an increase in negative outcomes (aggressive behaviour, cognitions) and affect and as a decrease in positive outcomes (prosocial behaviour, empathy, sensitivity to aggression)
  - Critics suggested the opposite saying youth violence everywhere was currently "at a 40-yr low"
    - Is VG violence = "moral panic"?
      - There is no true evidence for it to be a concern for everyone
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### **Video games as moral panic**

- Ferguson (2008) "School shooting & Violent VG link" :
    - Research done is picked out to only support the view (vg = violence)
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### **Socializing agent - Education**

- Schools often first source of info that children receive about social group other than their own
  - Students socialized through teachers
  - Not a unitary process, everyone experiences socialization in diff ways
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### **Issues of Socialization**

- Observable gender differences in educational performance that are the result of differential socialization
  - Boys tend to be encourages to take up maths +sciences, girls: writing + reading
  - Both tend to discourage to take on subject matters assigned to opposite sex
    - Boys do dishes
  - much done to increase girls representation + performance in male dominated disciplines, but boys are still not encourages to enter female-dominated fields
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### **Secondary Socialization + Resocialization**

- Secondary socialization
  - **Resocialization**: process of unlearning old behaviours + attitudes +values + learning new ones upon moving into significantly diff social environment
    - Military, mental institutions, prisons
    - Can be voluntary or involuntary
    - Both can occur together
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**Involuntary resocialization + total institutions**

- Occurs when someone is forced to change + regulated under one authority
- When enter a total institution, you go through the same stages:
  - Staff tries to take away ppl's identity
    - "mortification of the self" - institutionalized embarrassment (hazing)
  - Efforts made to rebuild ppl's sense of self by imposing new identity + way of life