

Defining Family

What is Soc/Ant of the family?

- Examination of primary social groups
 - Learning the norms of behaviour
- Social systems
 - As a social system, interaction with education etc...
- Social forms and structures within a wider society
 - We perpetuate society and society perpetuates family
 - Education system Ex: you have kids, young adults, send them to school, get a job, married etc... (cycle)
- Does not focus on motivation

Why define family ?

- Law
 - taxation
 - The law cares to constitute a family because it sets standards on how families should interact with society
 - The rights and benefits and financial and support a person in a family may have
- Government services and access
 - Healthcare, welfare, foster care, etc...
 - Those who have access to pension
- Social resources
 - Daycare, support groups
 - Social support, who do you rely on when you need support?
- Values
 - Cultural, faith, social, personal
 - Some people have different ideas of what classifies a family
- Identity
 - sense of self, culture, demographics acceptance or denial of social identity, embodiment of action
 - Aunts, uncle, cousins, daughter, son etc...
 - Gives a more identity that we belong somewhere

Definition of a family

- Coontz (2000): band of slaves-authority relations vs. love relations
 - Bands of slaves: nothing to do with a biological or romantic connection

Family as a system

- Basic units of material or family system are interrelated statuses (positions) and the expectations (roles) accompanying statuses.

Primary group functions

- Socialization
 - Teach how to be a human being
- Realization of personal satisfaction
 - Families are supposed to support you
- “Social control” (Enforcer of norms and values of society, regulator of familiar behaviour.
 - Ex: things you’re not supposed to do with your siblings
 - Consequences

Secondary groups

- Education work, community, recreation, faith institutions
- Impersonal segmental and utilitarian contacts
- Goal oriented

Family Types

- Family of orientation
 - where you were (likely) born and raised
- Family of procreation
 - where we have an intimate relationship with someone or have children
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Kinship

- Organize marriage and family life
 - Primary group function, but through different means
 - More cultural oriented
- Define with when one may mate and marry
 - Important to the kinship structure because in some societies or cultures they have to marry within their own “group” or same sex marriage is not expected, vice versa.
- Rights, duties and obligations of kin positions

- Ex: Family from across the world, do you give them gifts? Not obligated too
- Socially defined
 - Language operates as a term of reference (Affinal Kin)
- Biologically
 - By blood (Consanguineal Kin)

Kinship system functions

- Property holding and inheritance
 - Under what conditions do you inherit whatever it is
- Housing and residential proximity
 - Who you can and cannot live with
 - Where do you go and who do you talk to when you're in a crisis?
- Keeping in touch and gift giving
 - Who are you responsible or obligated to send out greetings and gifts to
- Affection, emotional ties and primary relationships
 - Expected to have stronger relations with parents, rather than uncles and aunts → not always the case

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Methodologies

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative
 - Ask questions - research
 - Quantitative: numbers, statistical measure
 - Qualitative: asking about
- Surveys, interviews, time use studies
- Ethics - Informed consent

Biases in Families Literature (Eichler, 1997)

- Monolithic bias
- Conservatice bias
- Sexist - Gender roles
- Ageist
- Microstructural
- Racist
- Heterosexist

Macro vs. micro (Social structures)

- Macrosystems - Change in larger social structures
- Comparative family structures - Culture across societies
- Useful when doing comparative work

Microsystem

- Interactional and developmental issues
- Similarities and differences between relationships
- Intra Societal analysis - Cross-cultural, historical, patterns, processes

Structural Functionalism (Macro)

- Social patterns in terms of the contribution they make to the well- being of society as a whole
- Institution: a complex pattern that meets a societal need.
 - Family
 - Religion
 - Political system
 - Educational
 - Economic system
 - Govn. structures
- How structures function to create society
- Every structure is related to one another, they can not function without the other.

Characteristics of Institutions

- Supported by tradition (whose?)
- Have marital authority (whose?)
- Institutions are interdependent
- CHange is very slow to occur

Parsons and pales (1955)

- Primary socialization of children to reproduce society's values
- Protection of society's members through instrumental (things we do) and expensive labour.
- Maintain relationships
- Maintenance of adult relationships
- Organization of sexual relations - Productive
- Describe the nature of societal norms
- Integration within social system
- Affectivity and affective neutrality

- Collectivity or self

Marxist - Fredrick Engels (1884)

- Origins of the family. Private property and the state
- Families are evolutionary - according to economies
- Connection between patriarchy and monogamy
- Patriarchy promoted the capitalist system.

Inheritance

- Men control food surplus
- Women - “ Sexually Faithful”
- Secure lines of inheritance
- Spousal relations - socially organized as monogamous and near perfect
- Permanent, unequal, highly regulated and the means of moral organization of all society.
- Survival of family unit is also dependent on the fulfilment of four basic functions:
 - a. Economic cooperation
 - b. Role differentiation
 - c. Solidarity
 - d. Integration

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(18th -19th century)

- Family as a collective unit- social, economic, political
- Age was primary determinant of contributions to family economy - not sex → the point here is to survive
- Patterns of family life from the “old country” were not replicated → class structure based on occupation with stability neighbours were increasingly kin members
- Social Contacts also became associated with family
- Authority was invested in family
- Farm life helped to shape sexual division of labour

Larger settlement patterns (20th century)

- Women living in cities were young and single
 - Your worth is no longer related to who you can marry.
- Shifts towards men as “ Good Providers”
- Regardless of occupation - Judged on ability to care for family
- Send earnings home

Industrialization

- Increased perception of personal freedom
- Conjugal family evolved
- Further separation from immediate family
- Kinship group of pre-industrial society was becoming less important
- Increased reliance upon marital (Conjugal) family unit

20th Century Family

- Immigration
- Birth rate
- Divorce
- Social movement
- Technology
- Faith
- Economy

Intimate life and culture

- Role separability → separation of a spouse from being a parent
- Personal interchangeability - Choice of a spouse based on ability to fill certain roles

Nuclear family forms

- Corporate - inseparable and interchangeable
- Collected - unit roles
- Concatenated - role separation
- Cyclical / recycled - “Returned engagement”

Family functions

- Socialization → not only family
- Physical needs of family members
- Status functions, religious and ethnic status
- Affective needs - belonging ...

New functions

- Management - family manage time, aims goals
- “Social control” → enforcement of norms
- Agency of integration → how does the family operate into society

“Family Policy”

- Diversity - is it possible to agree upon goals
- Federal vs. provincial jurisdictions
- Private vs. public
- Government intervention
- Family creation
- Reunification/ reconstitution
- Chilcore
- Aging
- Economics

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Studying Work

- Time (to engage productivity / divisional labour)
- Tasks
- Responsibility (some split responsibilities by negotiation, others by gender for a sense of comfort)

Changes to Family Economics

- Demographics (Ex: Marital status and support)
- Economic events (who works? How many days do they work? Good/though times)
- Political arenas (Ex: When wages are set)

Assumptions

- “Male model of employment” 48 hours, for 48 weeks for 48 years (benefits, pension plan, stability)
- Unbroken commitment for labour market (You won’t take time off, no sick days, etc..)
- Men are paid more for their capacity to participate in the labour market
- Pattern for women has been part time work (flexibility)

Social Reproduction

- “ Economy is concerned with the creation, distribution and consumption of services.
- Family contributes labour and skills
- In return, the family receives services, insurance, prestige, etc..
- Financial stress

Inequities in the Workplace - Consequences

- Occupational distribution
- Race and gender gap (Ex: favoritism)
- Unions
- Sexual harassment
- Poverty (Even if you're making minimum wage, you might not be making a living)

Workplace

- Career primary women - upward mobility in career
- Career and family women (Mommy track) spend more time at home and often work "part time"
- "Mommy wage gap"
- Employees

Men and Employment

- May earn less when wives are employed - "Daddy penalty"
- Dual career couples
- Earnings and occupational types

Marital Quality and Family Life

- Job satisfaction
- Women's employment does not undermine marriage
- Marital conflict within marriage increases likelihood women will enter the labour market.

Families in Poverty

- Increased reliance on informal network supports
- Sidework in formal, informal and underground economies
- Local agency based strategies

Employment, Parenting and Health

- Social attitudes
- Employment experiences
- Stress and health issues

Work/ Life balance - Spillover

- Job stress has a negative impact on family life
- Technology
- Gendered effects
- Children's views of work

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Solving work- family balance

- Self- employment
- Redefining the domestic division of labour → Who does what?
- Daycare
- Corporate responses
- Technology

Policy potentials: Career strategy

- Male breadwinner/ Female caregiver
- Encourage and reward gender division
- May employ caregiver allowances, parental leave, and flexible work
- Part time work to balance caregiver roles

Policy potentials: Earner strategy

- Dual breadwinner model
- Active policies against gender discrimination in the workplace
- No effort made to address work/ family balance
- Does this create gender equality?

Policy potentials: choice strategy

- Work life balance primarily for women
- Parental leave, home care allowances, etc...
- Does not address inequalities in house work, childcare

Policy potentials: Earner career strategy

- Both unpaid and paid work is shared by both men and women
- Both men and women are encouraged to take leave in order to do care work
- Policies are set to diminish discrimination (race, class, gender)
- Higher availability of child care options

Paid and unpaid work

- “ Household work strategy”
- Combines sites “ House hold, workplace, other households
- Domestic work
- Informal and/or voluntary economy
- Paid employment and formal economy

Exchange Theory

- Wives will perceive the allocation of family work as unfair if they lack
 - Some valued outcomes
 - Comparison reference
 - Justification (What gets done, who does it?)

Influence on the division of domestic work

- Traditional attitudes towards gender roles
- Stage of family life cycle
- Example:
 - Perception of fairness
 - Work - Family spillover
 - Social class
 - Policy

Equitable DOL: conditions

- Men agree that both partners share housework equally if both work full time
- Men are living with women who accept this belief
- Women believe that men are not responsible for being the primary family earner
- Women believe they are not primarily responsible for housework and childcare

Culture is...

- Learned (Language...)
- Shared
- Trans-generational
- Symbolic
- Adaptive

Sharing and using culture

- Improved social networks
- Gender role dilemmas
- Education and employment opportunities

Family Strategies

- Unicultural → Sense of continuity
- Rapid assimilation → Avoid discrimination
- Bicultural

Family Forms

- Split households
- Upward extended family (grandparents)
- Downward extended families (Kids parents)
- Horizontal extended families (cousins)

Polygamy

- Polygyny - Marriage of one man to more than one women at a time
- Polyandry - Marriage of one woman to more than one man at a time

Economic

- Social and political
- lineage/ lines of inheritance solidified

February 3rd, 2020

Research Foci

- Neighbourhood characteristics and children outcome
- Social and Institutional mechanisms which by which neighbourhoods affect children
- Neighbourhood cohesion (sense of belonging)

Common Themes

- Economic statue (Who lives where, what kind of condition)
- Children
- Racial/ ethnic diversity
- Residential stability
- Social disorganization as “Epidemic”

Comparative Framework

- Disadvantaged to advantaged connected to “Problem Behaviour”
- Family Formation - Explain youth “ Problem Behaviours”
- Institution

Variables

- Level of education
- Social organization
- Relationship stability
- Non marital child-bearing
- Ignores variation in youth outcomes across communities with similarly high rates of social disorganization
- Obscures differences in family life and structure
- Ignores relationship quality - extended family structures

“ Healthy Neighbourhoods”

- Intergenerational local networks
- Mutually agreed upon cultural expectations
- Relative importance of poverty, family structure, housing...
Other examples : Low crime rate, good educational system...

Social Cohesion

- Norms, beliefs and values shared amongst members of a group
- Reciprocity
- Participation in society/ community
- Networks
- Web of social relationships

Putnam: Bowling Alone (2000)

- Bonding
- Creates in group loyalty
- Increased social solidarity and reciprocity
- Bridging

Social Networks

- Individual level
- Socialization networks
- Availability of resources
- Community level

Role Identities

- The role the individual relates to occupy a specific social position
- Belongingness- characteristics of the group (Social, Economic, Political, Language).

February 5th, 2020

Northern and rural communities

Instant towns - everything is built as required (Became part of structure related to business)

Boom towns - Part of economic sector

“ Suburbs the bush”

Boom and bust cycles (All start from the ground up)

- Discovery and exploration
- Booming construction → Build the support
- Operations phase
- Decline and industry shut down

Problems in similar instant towns

- Isolation → no social life
- Cabin fever → Psychological and physical (shingles)
- Social relationships according to time and occupation
- Two tiered social structures
- Social worlds
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Religion

- As a link to family
- Religion as part of culture
- Is religion universal? No
- Is it a durable human institution? Maybe it depends where.
- Connected with social, cultural, economic (religion ask for money) , and political institutions (Laws reflection of norms and values).

Four parts to analysis

- Religion is a form of culture
 - Involves beliefs and ritualized practices
 - Provides a sense of purpose
 - Afterlife
 - Does not claim that religious beliefs are either true or false
- Concerned with the social organization of religion

- Religion as a source of solidarity
- Religion as a social force

How does religion influence the family?

- Reciprocal relationship
- Source of celebrations and rituals
- Norms
- Roles and expectations
- Social cohesion
- Source of structure and connection to community

Things we know

- Increased stability within marriage
- Increased fertility rates
- More conservative politically
- Stress “traditional roles” for family members reinforce role of institutions

Education - Functions

- Socialization training
- Fosters social cohesion
- Transmit culture across generations
- Continues over the life cycle

Latent functions of schools

- Encourages development of youth culture
- Custodial service
- Job competition
- Higher education
- Promotes social change

Schools

- Support
- Coping skills
- Discipline and social skills
- Community network

Class and education

- Increased status
- Affluence - potential increase in support
- Concerted cultivation - Gain capital through education

Low income parents

- Low achievement expectations
- Parental skills
- Intimidation and stigmatization
- Teacher intervention