

What is Science:

The development of generalizations, such as laws and theories,

based on the systematic examination of facts.

What are the major components of science?:

Theories and systematic research

What is the connection between Sociology and Science?

Sociology develops theories about society, groups, and social interactions and tests them with systematic research

Why study sociology?

- Helps us clarify "reality" by applying science rather than tradition
- To better understand our own ethnocentrism
- To improve the social world we live in

What is the Sociological Perspective?

(also referred to as the sociological imagination)

opens a window to unfamiliar social worlds

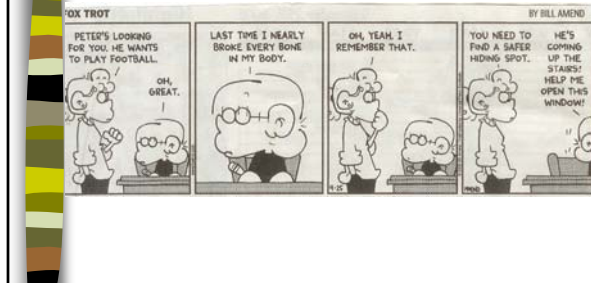
offers a fresh look at familiar worlds.

Paradigms in Sociology

What is a Paradigm?

A model or framework for observation and understanding which shapes both what we see and how we understand it.

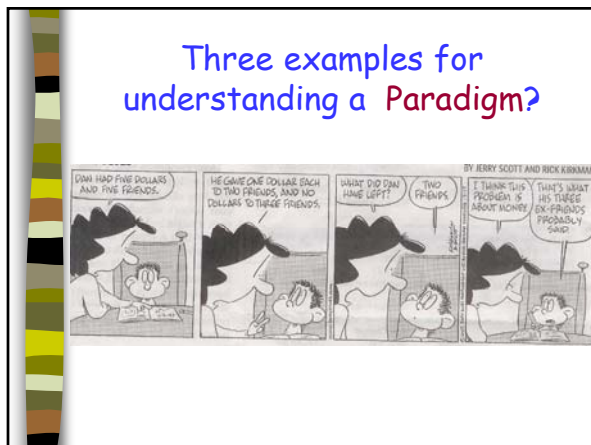
Three examples for understanding a Paradigm?



Three examples for understanding a Paradigm?



Three examples for understanding a Paradigm?



Theoretical Perspectives (or paradigms) in Sociology

There are **three social theories** that receive the most attention in sociology:

1. Symbolic Interaction Theory
2. Structure-Function Theory
3. Conflict Theory

Symbolic Interaction Theory

- Micro-level; people use **symbols to interact** (for example: language is a set of symbols; facial expressions)
- **Erving Goffman** explains **face-to-face** interactions and relationships.
- **Stage theory** to explain social interactions/behavior.

Structure-Function Theory

- Society is like a complex **organism**, made up of interrelated parts (structures) that work (function) together.
- Like an organism, if society is to function smoothly, its parts must **work together** in harmony.
- **Dysfunction**—when a part is not functional

Conflict Theory

- States that the nature of society is NOT one where everything works together but instead:
- there is constant competition or conflict for scarce resources.
- The result is constant battles between groups and individuals.
- Macro level

In Sum:

- Structure-Function approach looks at how social structures are working together.
- Conflict theory approach looks for the underlying conflicts among structures and within society
- Symbolic Interaction approach looks at the symbols being used during interactions

How might each theory be applied to the study of crime?

- Symbolic Interactionism
- Structure Function
- Conflict theory

Levels of Analysis: Macro and Micro

- Is functional theory macro or micro?
- What about conflict theory?
- Symbolic interaction theory?

Is Spencer a functionalist, conflict theorist, or symbolic interactionist?

What about Marx?

The Origins of Sociology:

Who were some of the most influential persons in the development of sociology?

Comte Durkheim
Spencer Weber
Marx

What was life like leading up to the scientific study of society, say Medieval times?

How was social order maintained?

What was the relationship between church and state?

The 1700s are sometimes referred to as the Enlightenment. Why is this?

Hint: Possible answers

Reason and Science?

Religion?

French and American Revolution?

August Comte
(1798-1857)

Presented a system of "positivism" where knowledge on a subject moves from theology to philosophical speculation to scientific explanation (a "positive" view).

Can you think of a subject that has moved through these stages?

Provided the basis for a major sociological theory: "structure-functionalism" (p.16)

- Society is like a biological organism. All the parts (family, church, state) work together to make a functioning whole
- All the parts are Interdependent

If society is a lot of interrelated parts, what holds the parts together?

Faith or morale sentiments through family, church, community
(Comte)

Economics
(Marx)

Collective Conscience
(Durkheim)

Herbert Spencer
"Social Darwinism"

- Spencer coined the phrase, "survival of the fittest" and supported Social Darwinism
- Spencer believed no one should intervene in the evolution of society.
- Do you agree with Spencer that we should not intervene and let society develop naturally? Why or why not?

Karl Marx 1818-1883



What do you know about Marx?

Karl Marx

- Economics is THE source of social change.

What is an example of social change?

Do you believe there are other factors or motivators, other than economics, that cause social change? If so, what are they?

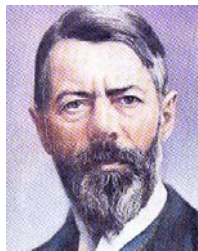
Karl Marx

- "the engine of human history is class conflict (resulting of economic difference)."
- Eventually socialism would emerge and then communism.
- Didn't anticipate the large middle class.

Marx was the first sociologist to highlight the conflicts within society rather than focusing on how and why all of the parts are "working together"

What would be examples of conflicts, where the parts may NOT be working together?

Max Weber 1864-1920



Max Weber

- Weber believed that religion was a major force of social change not just economics.
- Religious beliefs and practices allowed for capitalism to emerge.
 - Protestants believed that working hard, saving, and investing would bring financial success—a sign that one was favored by God.

Weber recognized the importance of the growing use of bureaucracy.

What is Bureaucracy?

How is bureaucracy different from earlier forms of organization?

Less nepotism
(hired for skill)

Based on efficiency

"Position" held the authority
not the individual

Emile Durkheim

Introduced the idea of the "collective conscience" or shared social thought.

Durkheim believed collective conscience was the people's God.

As society advances the collective conscience becomes weaker and so "God" becomes more distant.

Emile Durkheim

Demonstrated how science could be used to study society. Prior to his work, many people did not see the value/point in studying society.

Durkheim's major work, that demonstrated the value of studying society, was the study of suicide.

- Example: study of suicide showed that it was not necessarily caused by individual problems but rather social factors such as social integration

- Altruistic suicide—excessive social cohesion
- Anomic suicide—breakdown on morals

Applied Sociology
(including social reform)
vs
Theoretical Sociology

Racism and Sexism in Early Sociology

W. E. B. Du Bois
1868-1963



W. E. B. Du Bois

- Studied race relations—highlighted **economic prejudice** in southern U.S.
- Founded the **NAACP**—an organization with the goal of battling racism
- Argued for **racial pluralism** (rather than melting pot)

Jane Addams 1860-1935



Jane Adams

- **Social activist/reformer** to change or create laws, such as child labor laws
- Created "**Hull House**" in Chicago to address social problems in low-income areas
- Assisted women in their professional pursuits

Small Group Discussion

In small groups you will be assigned (1) a particular topic such as gang violence, homelessness, suicide, or teenage pregnancy and (2) a functionalist, a conflict, or a symbolic interactionist perspective. Explain the selected topic from that perspective. Be prepared to explain why your perspective is better than the others.

Doing Sociological Research

What is the purpose of social research?

How is sociological research related to social theory?

Hypotheses?
Reliability and validity?

Eight basic steps to Social Research

What do you think is involved in doing social research?

1. Selecting a topic

(e.g., What is the effect of "hours of sleep" on grades? Or do more hours of sleep affect a student's grades? Can a student get too much sleep? Not enough?)

2. Defining the problem or issue (why is it important)

(Students want to get high grades so that they will have look more attractive to employers. Students want to get the most out of the courses that they take.)

3. Reviewing the literature

(purpose: to determine what research has already been done looking at the relationship between sleep and grades.)

4. Formulating a theory and hypotheses (e.g., 7-10 hours of sleep results in better grades than less or more sleep.)

5. Choosing a research method(s) to test hypotheses

(What data will you collect & how? Survey research? Observation?)

6. Collecting the data

(Try to maintain validity & reliability.)

7. Analyzing the results

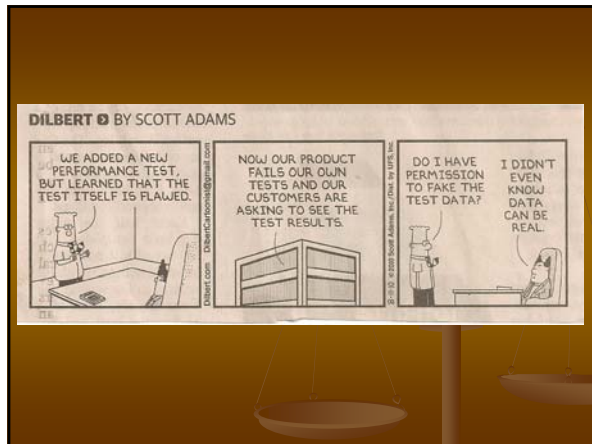
(What relationships will you look for in the data? What statistics will you use?)

8. Sharing the results

(Who will be interested? What reports & publishing will you do?)

Steps in the Research Process





Data Collection Techniques: Survey Research Methods

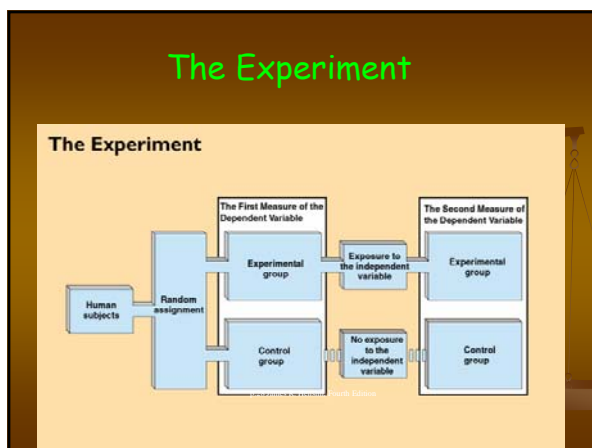
- Select a sample from the larger population.
- A random sample will reflect the population.
- When a random sample is used everyone in the population has the same chance of being included in the study .

Issues Surrounding Surveys

- Ask neutral questions
- Closed ended questions—followed by a list of possible answers,
- Open ended questions—which allow people to answer in their own words.

Data Collection Techniques: Observation (Fieldwork)

- Using Observation the researcher observes and records what is happening in order to determine the accuracy of the hypotheses.
Example?
- Unobtrusive measures—when researchers observe people who do not know they are being studied.



Ethics in Sociological Research

- Ethics condemn plagiarism.
- Research participants should not be harmed.
- Ethics require openness, honesty, and truth.
- Humphreys Tea Room Trade helped bring attention to ethics
- In sociology, we should remain value free—our values should not affect research.
 - Values—personal beliefs about what is good or worthwhile.

Class Discussion

Suppose we wanted to determine the effects of serving in the military in Afghanistan on a person's mental health. How might each of the following be used:

- survey research
- observation
- experimental method



Small Group Activity

Construct a research project addressing each research step

- (1) Selecting a topic (e.g., fatherhood)
- (2) Defining the problem or issue (effects on children)
- (3) Reviewing the literature (role of fathers are changing)
- (4) Formulating a hypothesis (e.g., fathers who spend time with their children have better adjusted children)
- (5) Choosing a research method (what data will you collect & how)
- (6) Collecting the data (validity, reliability)
- (7) Analyzing the results (statistics, SPSS, using tables)
- (8) Sharing the results (reports, publishing)