

Structure/ Agency

Agency (Will Power)

Negative and positive examples

Agency and blame

Agency and social structure

Structure/Agency in Connected

To what extent is Allison an agent?

Agent-

1. The condition of being in action; operation
 2. One that acts or has the power or authority to act.
 3. One empowered to act for or represent another.
- Cannibalism in North Korea shows a lack of agency for they are resorting to horrific acts just to stay alive.
 - Agency is Desire, intention, and creativity. It is Inherent in all humans and formed by available cultural schemas and resources. It varies culturally and historically.
 - Agency depends on the structure that limits or enhances it.
 - Orwell is an Agent because he takes his ideas and writes a book about things out of his own mind and the books effects others. He causes change instead of just reflecting it.
 - Protestors are strong examples of Agents because they put themselves and lives at steak to make a change in society and for what they believe in. Rosa Parks is a good example of a protestor who stood for what she believed in and caused a huge movement from her actions.

Agency and Blame

-Cat playing with a string example. "This stimulates the sensations of attacking a squirrel, so Im happy that he decided to throw this my way. I hope we play again in the future. "

The cat probably doesn't have agency and is thinking, kill, and prey instead of past present and future. You cannot blame a cat for not having agency like destroying earphones.

An understanding of Agency allows us to gauge the actions of certain people or things. It also allows us to blame or praises certain figures of our society.

The Relationship between Structure and Agency

Empowered to act. Knowledge and access. Control of resources.

Capacity to reinterpret and mobilize structures.

Dialectic- process of change in which a concept or its realization passes over into

Structure and Agency are directly related.

--With the circumstances that you are dealt, you are able to do certain things and act in certain ways.

Social Structures consist of many things. All the way from government, families, organizations, laws, and income. Laws may be one of the main concepts of structure in our lives.

--We may want to do anything we want but laws form our structures and limit to what we can and cannot do. Speed limit, 24 hours in a day, laws, economy.

1 We determine the structure of our network. Who we hang out with and who are in our friend groups. We shape it to how we like it. We can also shape where we are in the network with relationships.

2 Our network shapes us.

3 Our friends affect us. We control how central we are within the social network. Are you the life of the party? Are you somebody on the outside?

According to Fowler, a social network is different from a group of people because:

---It requires a specific set of connections among people in the group.

Discussion Jan 31

Degrees of Separation. Within Three degrees of separation most individuals are connected to 80,000 people.

Dyad- -Two people with a connection who know each other

Hyperdiatic spread- - transitivity spread along to multiple people and how all of them influence each other.

A social network is a type of structure and shapes who we are and what we do. We also shape the members of our social structures and have major influences on them and their lives.

February 4

Durkheim- Believes societies bond together and perform certain tasks to get things done.

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)- developed **social solidarity** in that social groups have common beliefs that hold them together. The group comes up with what is important to them and what aspects in life they want to live by.

----Two types of social solidarity.

Society as consensus- (Durkheim)

Anomie- A state of alienation. Being separate from the group, and having no purpose or compulsion to stay in the group. Small towns are good examples of having strong social solidarity and a low level of anomie. As societies become more complex, there is greater anomie because there are more variables to make people become separate and have different beliefs.

--Solitary confinement prisons create anomie and individuals lose worth in them and drive away from feeling like being in a social group.

Collective conscience- is the set of shared beliefs and moral attitudes, which operate as a unifying force within society. "It's wrong to hit someone unprovoked." Reaffirming the collective conscience could be stranger just repeating something that the society agrees on like " Don't you think the Sandy Hook incident was just Horrific?"

Collective effervescence- is a perceived energy formed by a gathering of people as might be experienced at a sporting event, a **carnival**, a **rave**, or a **riot**. This perception can cause people to act differently than in their everyday life.

--People talk about large events in society and emotions are displayed as they agree and give their insight on the situation and perform rituals such as the national anthem or clapping when their team does well, which makes people bond and strengthens our social solidarity. "Becoming part of the Crowd"

Mechanical and organic solidarity-

Mechanical- Going through similar experiences with the same threats and having to survive and act in the same way. Social solidarity is made because they all have common rituals and practices the same beliefs.

*Based on resemblances (predominant in less advanced societies)

*Segmental type (first clan-based, later territorial)

*Little interdependence (social bonds relatively weak)

*Relatively low volume of population

*Relatively low material and moral density

Organic- Having to rely on other people because they have different specialties and traits that you do not have but have to use. Society has