

Lecture Notes

1-22-14

- Sociology is the study of human groups

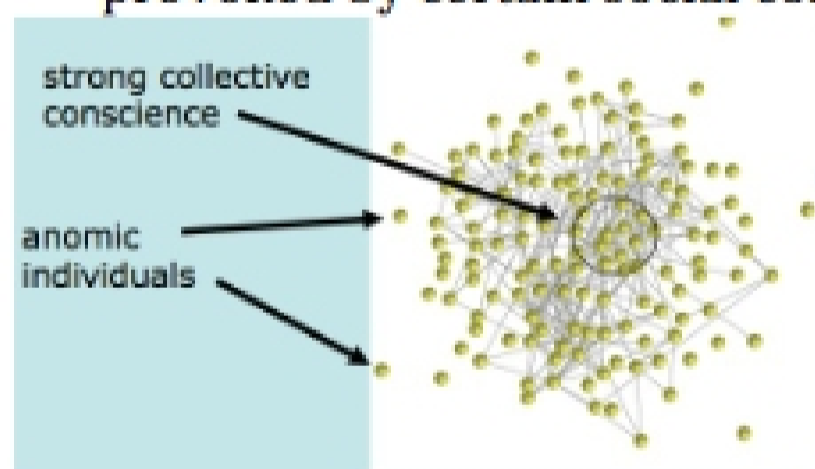
1-27-14

- Sociology is the study of groups.
- Groups are more than the sum of their parts.
- Social inequality is a big topic in sociology: race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, etc.
- Sociology involves “politics” (the world could be better) and “science” (evidence & research can prove/disprove things).
- **History of Social Network Analysis**
 - Bourdieu (“social capital”)
 - Granovetter (“weak ties”)
- **Network Effects**
 - Dyadic effects
 - Hyperdyadic effects
 - Three Degrees of Influence
 - Six Degrees of Separation
- A **Social Network**: consists of all the connections and ties within a group or collection of groups
 - A group is a collection of individuals defined by a common attribute (it need not contain information about connections)
- The shape of a network is its “structure” or “topology”
- “The strength of weak ties” (Granovetter)
- Dyadic Spread: the tendency of effects to spread from one person to their direct social ties
- Hyperdyadic spread: the tendency of effects to spread from person to person to person (outside a person’s direct social ties)
- **Happiness and Social Networks**
 - Happy and unhappy people cluster among themselves
 - Unhappy people are on periphery of the network
 - Our friends and their friends and their friends affect our happiness.
 - A person is 15% more likely to be happy if directly connected to a happy person (1 degree)
 - At 2 degrees 10% more likely to be happy
 - At 3 degrees 6% more likely to be happy
 - Each unhappy friend decreases the likelihood of happiness 7%

1-29-14

- Society as Consensus (Durkheim)
 - collective conscience
 - collective effervescence
 - mechanical & organic solidarity
 - anomie
 - functionalism



- Emile Durkheim(1858-1917)
 - One of the founding figures in sociology
 - Proponent of what is now called “functionalism” or the “consensus perspective”
- **Collective conscience**
 - “the totality of beliefs and sentiments common to the average member of society.”
 - a widespread moral compulsion to live in accordance with established rules and norms
 - Our collective conscience becomes visible when we voice “common sense.”
 - Crime reaffirms our collective conscience
 - Deviance reaffirms our collective conscience
- **Collective Effervescence**
 - Perceived social energy that emerges from crowd solidarity; produced by group rituals and actions
- Mechanical and Organic Solidarity
 - Mechanical Solidarity found in simple societies
 - Built on shared beliefs, rituals and experiences => similar mindset
 - Organic Solidarity found in complex societies
 - Build on division of labor to benefit society
- **Functionalism**
 - A sociological perspective that emphasizes society as an interconnected functioning whole that’s similar to organs in a human body.
 - Durkheim and *Connected* are good examples of functionalism.
 - Today, most sociologists do not identify themselves as “functionalists.”
- Anomie - Individual or group-wide feelings of aimlessness or purposelessness provoked by certain social conditions.



2-3-14

- Durkheim’s Typology of Suicide
 - Type: egoistic; altruistic; anomic; fatalistic
- **Durkheim’s Study of 19th Century Suicide Rates**
 - Jews < Catholics < Protestants
 - Married < Unmarried
 - Rural < Urban
 - Wartime < Peace

	Too Little Social Integration	Too Much Social Integration	Too Little Social Regulation	Too Much Social Regulation
Form of Suicide	Egoistic Suicide (too selfish)	Altruistic Suicide (too selfless)	Anomic Suicide Rapid poverty: Bulgarian suicide wave Rapid wealth: Suicidal lottery winners	Fatalistic Suicide Suicide in a prison or concentration camp Suicide in a dictatorship

Too Little Group Integration	Too Much Group Integration
<p>Egoistic Suicide</p>  <p>Sylvia Plath (American poet) and Claude (fictional Canadian teen). Neither found a place in a group. They focused inward, on their personal problems.</p>	<p>Altruistic Suicide</p>  <p>Mohamed Atta (9/11 terrorist) and Sharon Amos (Jonestown true-believer). Both were so committed to their group that they were willing to kill themselves for "the cause."</p>

2-10-14

- Arenas of conflict
- Karl Marx's
 - Theory of History – stages
 - Theory of Capital – labor/value
 - Theory of Culture – base & superstructure
- **Arenas of Conflict**
 - class
 - ethnicity and race
 - gender and sexuality
 - region
 - religion
- Marxist Theory of History
- Primitive accumulation (master/slave) □ Feudalism (lords/serfs) □ Capitalism (bourgeoisie/proletariat) □ Socialism
- Class stratification
 - A form of social stratification based on income and access to resources
 - Classes are fluid. Upward and downward class mobility is possible.
 - Social classes are, to some extent, achieved rather than ascribed at birth.
 - But the social class we are born into influences our social outcomes more than we think.