



The Sociological  
Perspective

# What is Sociology?

 Cheers Example

❖ Trends

❖ Marriage

## Seeing the Broader Social Context

- ❖ **The Sociological Perspective ( Imagination)**
  - Understanding human behavior by placing it within its broader social context
- ❖ **Ex. homeless shelter**



Social Location - Where you are located in life based on your life experiences



The world is always changing...



Video of MMA

## **C. Wright Mills: Connection Between History and Biography**



**History-Location in Broad Stream of Events**

**What role do women and men play in a particular society?**

**Biography-Individual's Specific Experiences**

**❖ Camels Blood or Hamburgers**

## **The Growing Global Context**

### **❖ The Global Village**

❖ Battle of New Orleans - War of 1812



### **❖ Instant Communication**

❖ Columbian Demonstration on Facebook



**❖ Sociology Studies both the Global Network  
and Our Unique Experiences**



Multiple answer

What is the first goal each scientific discipline?

A

explain why something happens

B

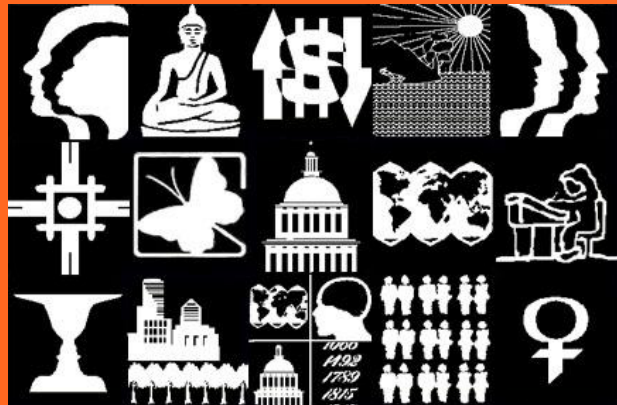
C

D



## Sociology and the Other Sciences

❖ **The Natural Sciences-Explain and Predict Events in Natural Environment**



❖ **The Social Sciences-Examine Human Relationships**

## The Other Social Sciences

- ❖ **Anthropology** -Studies Culture
- ❖ **Economics** -Studies the Production and Distribution of Goods and Services
- ❖ **Political Science** -Studies How People Govern Themselves
- ❖ **Psychology** -The Study of Processes Within Individuals

## To review...the goal of science?

- ❖ Explain Why Something Happens
- ❖ Make Generalizations
- ❖ Predict What will Happen



- ❖ Ex. Mary goes to College or becomes an armed robber
- ❖ Look for patterns of behavior that reoccur

## Common Sense...

☞ **More US students are likely to get killed in shootings now than ten to fifteen years ago?**

☞ **Most Rapist are mentally ill?**

☞ **Most people on welfare are lazy and looking for handout. They could work if they wanted to.**

☞ **Compared with women, men make more eye contact in face to face conversations.**

☞ **Couples who live together before marriage are usually more satisfied with their marriages than couples who do not live together before marriage.**

The screenshot shows a game interface with the following elements:

- Buttons:** Two buttons labeled "Edit" and "Start" are located in the top-left corner.
- Score Bar:** A red horizontal bar at the top right contains the number "100".
- Instructions:** A large orange box on the left contains the text: "Press Start to begin." and "Press Edit to customize."
- Grid:** A 4x5 grid of empty white cells is positioned to the right of the instructions.
- Stats Panel:** A purple box at the bottom left displays: "Time bonus 100", "Score 0", and "Top score 0".

The image shows a game interface with an orange border. At the top left, there are two buttons: "Edit" and "Start". To their right is a red progress bar with the number "100" at its end. In the top right corner, there is a circular icon containing a question mark. The main area is divided into two sections. On the left, a brown box contains the text "Press Start to begin." and "Press Edit to customize." Below this, a purple box displays the following statistics: "Time bonus 100", "Score 0", and "Top score 0". On the right, there is a 4x5 grid of empty white cells.

## **Origins of Sociology**

- ❖ **Tradition vs. Science**
- ❖ **Magic v. Systematic Research (scientific method)**
- ❖ **Emerged mid-1800s**
- ❖ **Grew Out of Social Upheaval (sudden change)**
- ❖ **The Industrial Revolution**
- ❖ **American and French Revolutions**
- ❖ **Rise of Imperialism and began to question**
- ❖ **The Success of Natural Sciences**

## The founders of Sociology

### **Auguste Comte: French**

❖ **Positivism** - Applying the Scientific Method to Social World

❖ What holds societies together?

❖ What creates social order?

❖ What causes society to change?

❖ **Big Goal: Make society a better place to live**

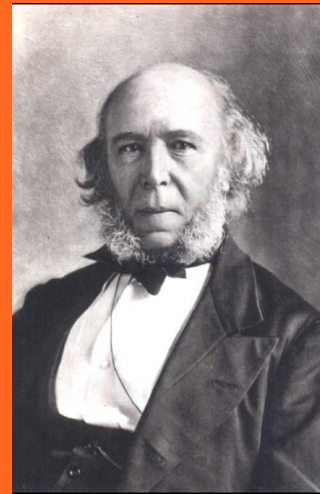
❖ **Coined the term Sociology**

❖ **Not exactly scientific more likely informal observation**



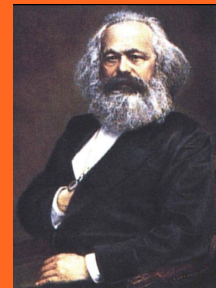


## **Herbert Spencer: English**



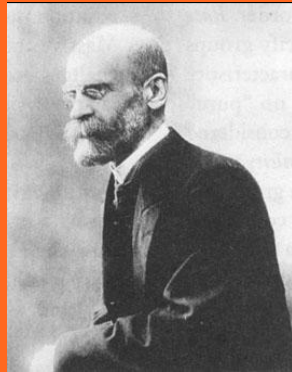
- ❖ **Social Darwinism**
- ❖ **Second founder of Sociology**
- ❖ **Lower and Higher Forms of Society**
- ❖ **Coined Phrase - Survival of the Fittest**
- ❖ **Disagreed vehemently with Comte that Sociology should guide social change**
- ❖ **Well liked by who in society?**
- ❖ **Eventually Social Darwinism disproved**

## **Karl Marx and Class Conflict**



- ❖ **Engine of Human History is Class Conflict**
- ❖ **The Bourgeoisie (capitalist) vs. The Proletariat (exploited workers)**
- ❖ **Unite and throw off the chains of bondage**
- ❖ **Marxism Not the Same as Communism**
- ❖ **Communism was a later application of his ideas**
- ❖ **Introduced the conflict theory**

## **Emile Durkheim and Social Integration: French**



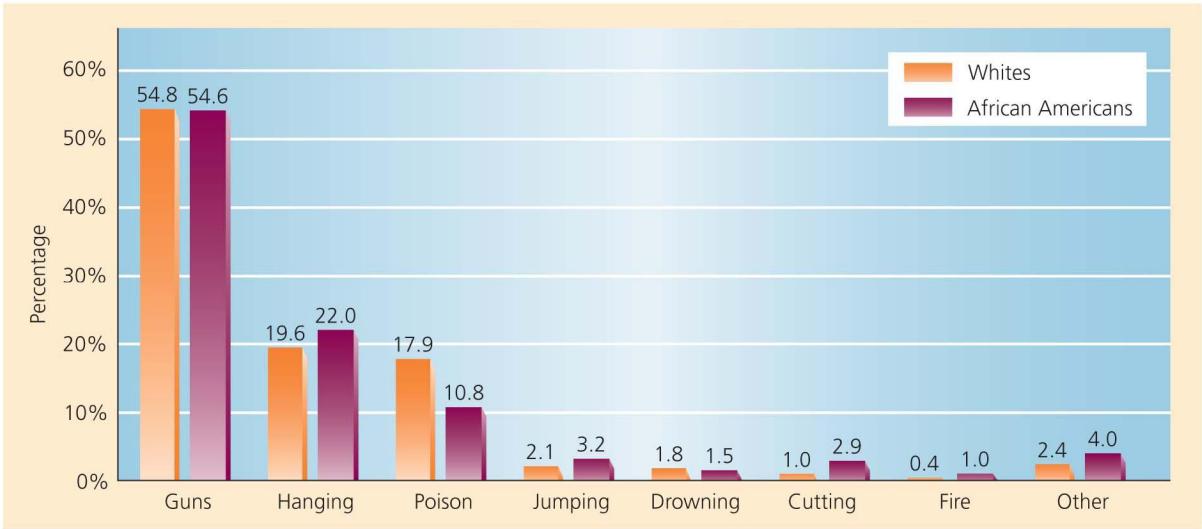
❖ **Got Sociology Recognized as Separate Discipline**

❖ **Studied How Social Forces Affect Behavior**

❖ **Identified Social Integration -Degree to Which People are Tied  
to  
Social Group**



**Figure 1.1** How Americans Commit Suicide



Note: The source lists no separate totals for Latinos.  
Source: By the author. Based on Centers for Disease Control 2002.

## **Max Weber and the Protestant Ethic**

- ❖ **Religion and the Origin of Capitalism**
- ❖ **Religion is Central Force in Social Change**
- ❖ **Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism**
- ❖ **How does this work? Its Salvation duh!**
- ❖ **Judgment Day -Money was connected to heaven, the more you have?**
- ❖ **In turn this led to the birth of capitalism**



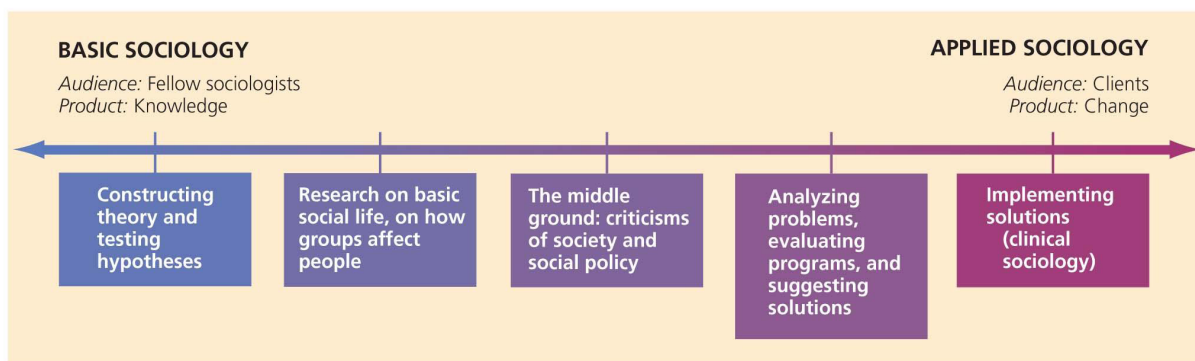
## **Values in Sociological Research**

- ❖ **Sociology Should be Value-Free**
- ❖ **Sociology Should be Objective**
- ❖ **Research Should Involve Replication**
- ❖ **Goals and Uses of Sociology**

**Figure 1.2 The Debate over Values in Sociological Research**



**Figure 1.3** Comparing Basic and Applied Sociology



Source: By the author. Based on DeMartini 1982.



How can Dora the Explorer be an example of applied sociology? The text explains the reason.



## ***Verstehen* and Social Facts**

### **❖ Weber**

- ❖ Verstehen -To Grasp by Insight**
- ❖ Importance of Subjective Meanings**
- ❖ Example -how the author felt in the homeless shelter as he was doing research**
- ❖ Feeling of despair and understanding**

### **❖ Durkheim**

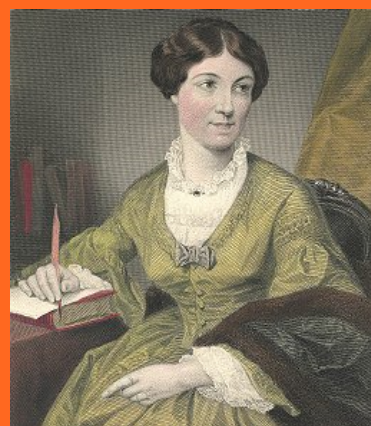
- ❖ Stressed Social Facts**
- ❖ Babies born on Tuesday; June Weddings**
- ❖ Explain Social Facts with Other Social Facts**
- ❖ How do Social Facts and Verstehen Fit Together?**

## **Sociology in North America**

- ❖ **Early History: Tension Between Social Reform and Sociological Analysis**
- ❖ **Jane Addams and Social Reform**
- ❖ **W. E. B. Du Bois and Race Relations**
- ❖ **Talcott Parsons and C. Wright Mills: Theory vs. Reform**
- ❖ **Continuing Tension and Rise of Applied Sociology**

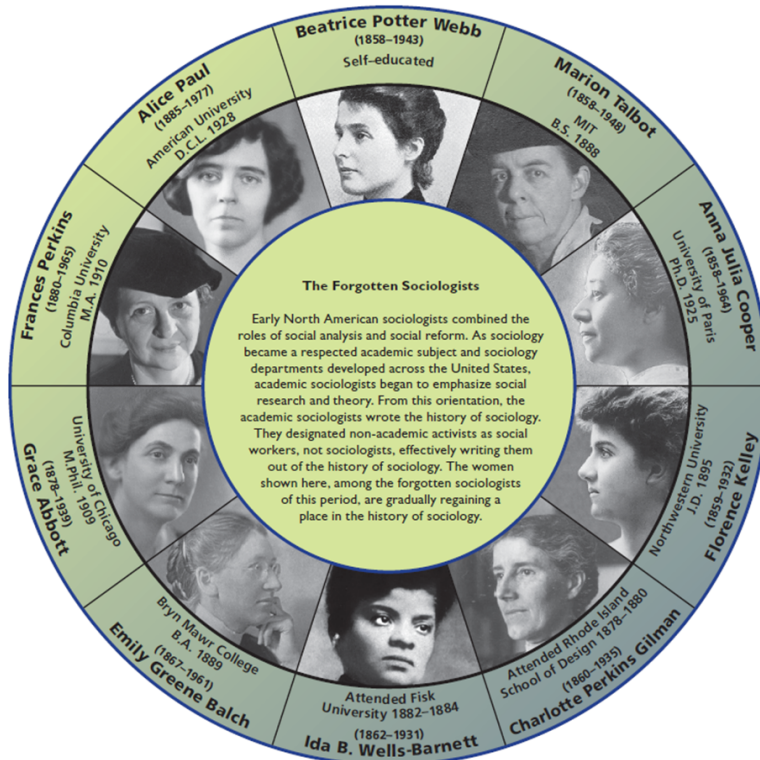
## **Sexism in Early Sociology**

- ❖ **Attitudes of the Time**
- ❖ **1800s Sex roles rigidly defined**
- ❖ **Few people educated beyond basics**
- ❖ **Harriet Martineau**
- ❖ **Published Society in America Before Durkheim and Weber were born**
- ❖ **Her work was ignored**



# Forgotten Sociologist

**FIGURE 1.3** The Forgotten Sociologists



Source: Photo wheel copyright 2014 © James M. Henslin.

## **Theoretical Perspectives**

- ❖ **Symbolic Interactionism -How People Use Symbols in Everyday Life**
- ❖ **Applying Symbolic Interactionism -Changing the Meaning of Symbols Affects Expectations**

## **Applying Symbolic Interactionism Examples**

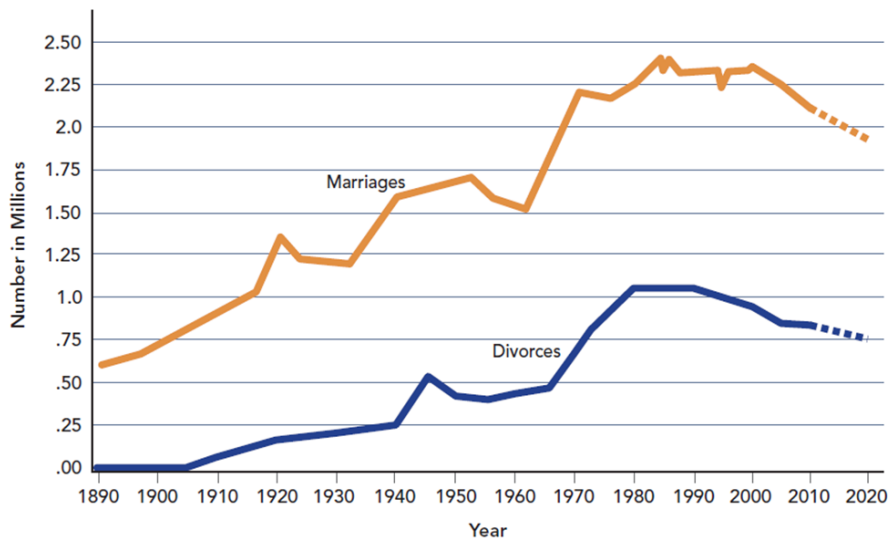
❖ **Emotional Satisfaction**

❖ **The Love Symbol**

❖ **The Meaning of Children**

❖ **The Meaning of Parenthood**

**FIGURE 1.6** U.S. Marriage, U.S. Divorce



Source: By the author. Based on *Statistical Abstract of the United States* 1998:Table 92 and 2013:Tables 81, 134; earlier editions for earlier years. The broken lines indicate the author's estimates.



## **Applying Symbolic Interactionism Examples**

- ❖ **Marital Roles**
- ❖ **Perception of Alternatives**
- ❖ **The Meaning of Divorce**
- ❖ **Changes in the Law**

## **Functional Analysis**

- ❖ **Society is a Whole Unit Made Up of Interrelated Parts that Work Together**
- ❖ **Functionalism, Structural Functionalism**
- ❖ **Robert Merton -Functions and Dysfunctions**

## **Applying Functional Analysis**

**❖ Economic Production**

**❖ Socialization of Children**

**❖ Care of the Sick and Elderly**

## **Conflict Theory**

❖ **Karl Marx and Conflict Theory**

❖ **Conflict Theory Today**

❖ **Feminists and Conflict Theory**

❖ **Applying Conflict Theory**

## **Levels of Analysis**

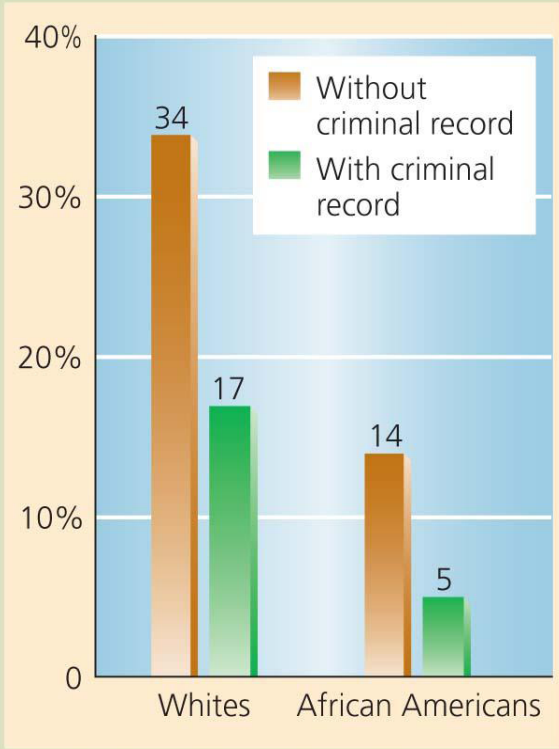
❖ **Functionalists and Conflict Theorists -Macro Level**

❖ **Symbolic Interactionists -Micro Level**

## **Trends Shaping the Future**

- ❖ **Sociology Full Circle: Reform vs. Research**
- ❖ **Public Sociology**
- ❖ **Diversity of Orientations**
- ❖ **Globalization**

**Figure 1.5 Call-Back Rates by Race-Ethnicity and Criminal Record**



Source: Courtesy of Devah Pager.





## Attachments

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Cheers\_-\_We\_Will\_Rock\_You.avi