

**Redefining Sustainability:
Conversations with CU Graduate Students**

March 2, 2011 * 5:30-7pm * UMC Ballroom

What is possible? What is changing and how do we support the wellness of people and planet? Using an interactive conversation format, undergrads are invited to meet and speak with current graduate students from 10 different disciplines that are converging environmentalism and sustainability within their fields. Learn more about the process of grad school, the research, and how CU is redefining sustainability through our academics.

Housekeeping

- Study guide, practice test, lecture notes on web.
- My office hours cancelled next week.
 - Check in with your TAs!
- Review session on Tuesday ~ some sample questions will be provided but it's important YOU come with questions to explore!


As You Read >>

- What makes up society?
- How does social structure shape individual action?
- How do sociologists describe traditional versus modern societies?

What comprises the **structure** within which these interactions occur?

- Social statuses (p103)
 - Socially defined positions
- Social roles (p105)
 - Set of expectations attached to social status

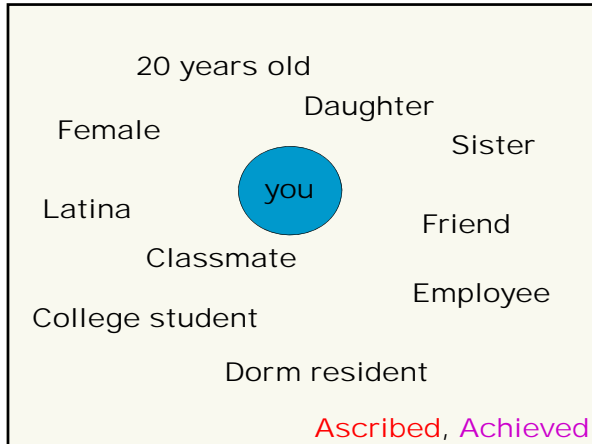
Social "framework"




Board, pieces, rules, but comes to life when played

comes to life when played (interaction): context (board), actors (pieces), culture and structure (rules)

- Ascribed status
 - No regard for the person's unique talents or characteristics
 - Has social meaning
 - Examples?
- Achieved status
 - attained largely through personal effort – within our power to change
 - Has social meaning
 - Examples?



Is there an association between ascribed and achieved social statuses?

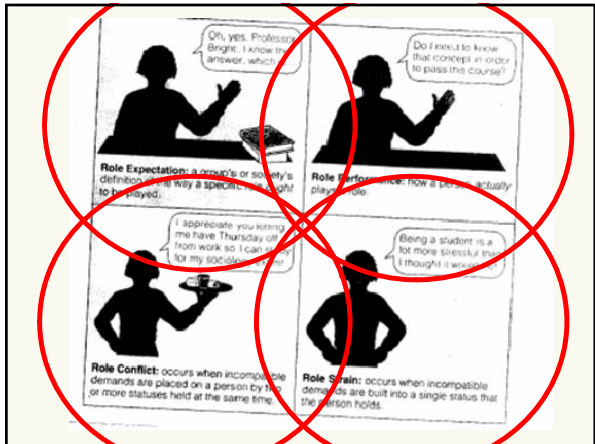
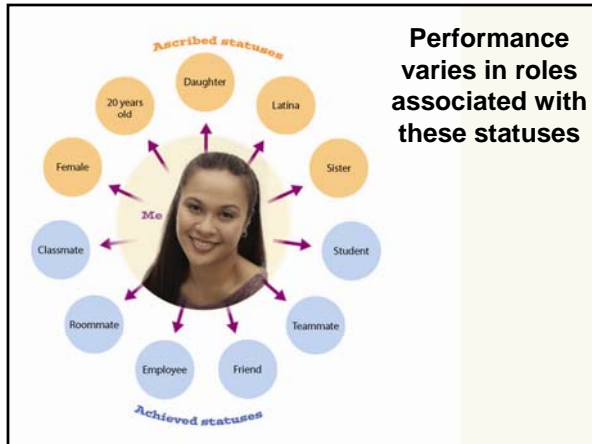
- Yes
- No
- I have no idea

- Master status (p104)
 - dominates others;
 - determines general position
 - Race, gender, others?
 - Tall?
- Yours?





Disability as master status

- Physical/socially created barriers more confining than biological ones? (p105)
- Non-material values → Material culture?
- ADA, 1990



Role exit:
Process of
disengagement
from role
important to self-
identity (p94)

4 stages:
doubt, search,
action, creation





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Dramaturgical approach ! (Goffman)





- Have you undertaken any other role exits?
- Redefined self?

Six elements of social structure (p103)

- **Statuses**
- **Social Roles**
- Groups
- Social Networks
- Virtual Worlds
- Social Institutions


content

context

Six elements of social structure (p103)


- Statuses
- Social Roles
- **Groups**
- Social Networks
- Virtual Worlds
- Social Institutions

- Groups: any number of people with similar norms, values, expectations with regular interaction (p107)



Primary group	Secondary group
Generally small	Usually large
Relatively long period of interaction	Relative...
Intimate	Interaction is often instrumental, goal-oriented
Day-to-day	Some groups generally superficial
Some emotional depth to relationships	More formal and impersonal
Cooperative, friendly	

• In-groups / out-groups




UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Cool Kids and Losers: The Psychology of High School students in Peer Groups and Cliques

Classic Video


- Race, social construction of meaning as applied to ascribed characteristics, implications
- Dramaturgical model – performance of social structure through social interaction

Video1 – old, terminology
Video2

- Social construction of social status based on ascribed characteristic
 - Teacher used selective evidence
- Social structure based on ascribed characteristic shaped social interaction
- Social status shaping achievement



- “this is a fact, blue eyed people are better than brown eyed people” --- then used selective evidence to “prove” point.
- Socially constructed meaning and implications
 - “brown eyed people are smarter less wasteful ...”
- Children acted out status
 - Aggression on playground – called “brown eyes”
- Yard stick (tendency toward violence), might take 2 lunches (dishonest), vocabulary test (intelligence)



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context

Social Institutions (p113)

- Organized pattern of beliefs and behavior centered on basic social needs

Durkheim

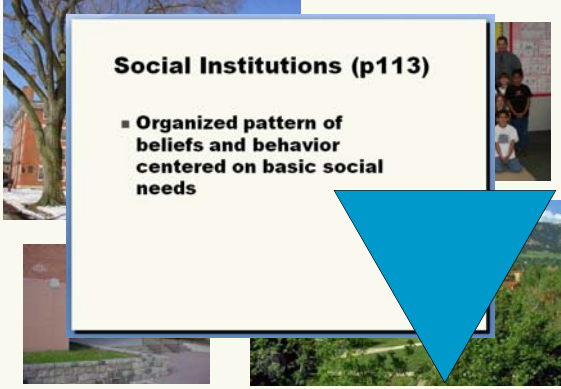

- "sui generis": more than sum of parts
 - Beyond indiv
- imagine a landscape
- educational "institution" > CU + CSU + UW + Dartmouth ...

Education: teach knowledge and skills to be members of wider society

Social Institutions (p113)

- **Organized pattern of beliefs and behavior centered on basic social needs**

Family: reproduces societal membership and perpetuates culture.

Social Institutions (p113)

- Organized pattern of beliefs and behavior centered on basic social needs

Economy: produces goods and services to fulfill society members needs.

Social Institutions (p113)

- Organized pattern of beliefs and behavior centered on basic social needs

Indiv may come/go.

Social Institutions:
Economy, Family, Education

- "the framework of society ... that was already laid out before you were born."

Institutions change, as does the broader social framework ...

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Structural Change: Tönnies

- Rise of city life, Germany, 1800s
- **Gemeinschaft**: rural life, similar backgrounds, intimate, familiar, informal social control
- **Gesellschaft**: city life, strangers, lack commonalities, formal social control

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Structure (and change in) shapes (and reshapes) social interaction

Structural Change: Durkheim

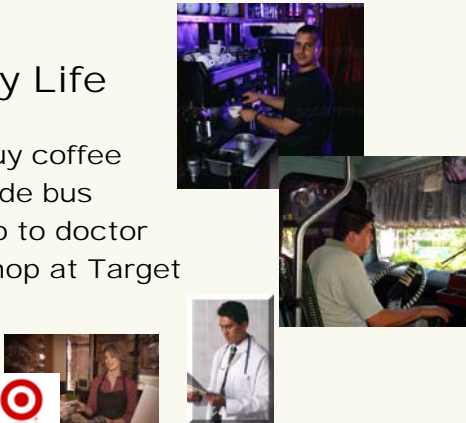
- **Division of labor**
 - Specialization of tasks
 - Participating in it this minute!
- **Less technologically advanced societies – common conscience – mechanical solidarity (p120)**
 - “first duty is to resemble everyone else”
 - little specialization

Structural Change: Durkheim

- **With DoL – interdependence increases – organic solidarity (p121)**
 - Specialization changes social interaction
 - Collective consciousness resting on mutual need
 - ‘organic’ – each performs vital function, can’t exist alone (like organs of body)

Daily Life


- Buy coffee
- Ride bus
- Go to doctor
- Shop at Target



Daily Life

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“each performs vital function, but none can exist alone.” (p121)



Structural Change: Lenski


- Preindustrial
 - Hunting and gathering
 - Horticultural
 - Agrarian

Solidarity per Durkheim ?

Structural Change: Lenski

- Industrial
 - Mechanization to produce goods/services
- Home workshop → factory
 - Workers left homestead for production
 - Evolution of social institution of family "breadwinner" model

Structural Change: Lenski




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 - Workers left homestead for production
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Slater Mill, RI, 1793

per Durkheim ?

Structural Change: Ritzer

- Bureaucratization (p117+)
 - As way of life
 - DoL, hierarchy of authority, written rules/regs, impersonality, emphasis on tech qual
- McDonaldization of society

World's Only Drive-Thru Strip Club

Congruity, Pennsylvania

The drive-thru window at the Cline's Gentlemen's Club offers the novelty of a drive-thru with the I'll-do-it-in-my-car convenience of a drive-thru McDonald's. A special gravel driveway leads to a order-bkoo airport at the back of the building, where patrons can watch the indoor activity from their vehicles, through a (dimension-shaped) window. A "pay here" booth takes credit cards, and displays an autographed photo of Fred "The Honzman" Honsburger, a right-wing radio talk show host on Pittsburgh's KDKA. Current rates are \$20 a minute for two or more people; \$10 a minute for one person. If you're someone in front of you, you just have to wait in line.

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/15326>

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