

Chapter 1 : Popular Sociology Books

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Sociology is a branch of the social sciences that uses systematic methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop and refine a body of knowledge about human social structure and activity, sometimes with the goal of applying such knowledge to the pursuit of government policies designed to benefit the general social welfare. Its subject matter ranges from the micro level to the macro level. Micro-sociology involves the study of people in face-to-face interactions. Macro-sociology involves the study of widespread social processes. Sociology is a broad discipline in terms of both methodology and subject matter. Its traditional focuses have included social relations, social stratification, social interaction, culture and deviance, and its approaches have included both qualitative and quantitative research techniques. As much of what humans do fits under the category of social structure or social activity, sociology has gradually expanded its focus to such far-flung subjects as the study of economic activity, health disparities, and even the role of social activity in the creation of scientific knowledge. The "cultural turn" of the 1980s and 1990s brought more humanistic interpretive approaches to the study of culture in sociology. Conversely, the same decades saw the rise of new mathematically rigorous approaches, such as social network analysis. The social world is changing. Some argue it is growing; others say it is shrinking. As will be discussed in more detail below, sociology has its roots in significant societal changes. Early practitioners developed the discipline as an attempt to understand societal changes. Some early sociological theorists. The founders of sociology were some of the earliest individuals to employ what C. Wright Mills a prominent mid-20th century American sociologist labeled the sociological imagination: The sociological imagination enables its possessor to understand the larger historical scene in terms of its meaning for the inner life and the external career of a variety of individuals. In employing the sociological imagination, people are able to see the events and social structures that influence behavior, attitudes, and culture. The sociological imagination goes beyond armchair sociology or common sense. Many people believe they understand the world and the events taking place within it, even though they have not actually engaged in a systematic attempt to understanding the social world, as sociologists do. Humans like to attribute causes to events and attempt to understand what is taking place around them. Just as sacrificing two goats to ensure the safe operation of a Boeing and propitiate Akash Bhairab, the Hindu sky god is an attempt to influence the natural world without first trying to understand how it works, [5] armchair sociology is an attempt to understand how the social world works without employing scientific methods. It would be inaccurate to say sociologists never sit around even sometimes in comfy armchairs trying to figure out how the world works. But induction is just a first step in understanding the social world. In order to test their theories, sociologists get up from their armchairs and enter the social world. They gather data and evaluate their theories in light of the data they collect. Sociologists do not just propose theories about how the social world works. Sociologists test their theories about how the world works using the scientific method. Sociologists, like all humans, have values, beliefs, and even pre-conceived notions of what they might find in doing their research. But, as Peter Berger, a well-known sociologist, has argued, what distinguishes the sociologist from non-scientific researchers is that "[the] sociologist tries to see what is there. He may have hopes or fears concerning what he may find. But he will try to see, regardless of his hopes or fears. It is thus an act of pure perception History[edit] Sociology is a relatively new academic discipline. It emerged in the early 19th century in response to the challenges of modernity. Increasing mobility and technological advances resulted in the increasing exposure of people to cultures and societies different from their own. The impact of this exposure was varied, but for some people included the breakdown of traditional norms and customs and warranted a revised understanding of how the world works. Sociologists responded to these changes by trying to understand what holds social groups together and also exploring possible solutions to the breakdown of social solidarity. Auguste Comte and Other Founders[edit] The term sociology was coined by Auguste Comte in from the Latin term socius companion, associate and the Greek term logia study of, speech. Comte hoped to unify all the sciences under sociology; he believed sociology held the potential to improve society

and direct human activity, including the other sciences. While it is no longer a theory employed in Sociology, Comte argued for an understanding of society he labeled The Law of Three Stages. Comte, not unlike other enlightenment thinkers, believed society developed in stages. The first was the theological stage where people took a religious view of society. The second was the metaphysical stage where people understood society as natural not supernatural. In the scientific stage, society would be governed by reliable knowledge and would be understood in light of the knowledge produced by science, primarily sociology. Other classical theorists of sociology from the late 19th and early 20th centuries include W. As pioneers in Sociology, most of the early sociological thinkers were trained in other academic disciplines, including history, philosophy, and economics. The diversity of their trainings is reflected in the topics they researched, including religion , education , economics , psychology , ethics , philosophy , and theology. Perhaps with the exception of Marx, Stanton, and Woolf, their most enduring influence has been on sociology, and it is in this field that their theories are still considered most applicable. As a descendant of the French Enlightenment, Comte was impressed, as were many of the philosophes, with the Newtonian revolution. Comte argued for a particular view of sociological theory: All phenomena are subject to invariable natural laws, and sociologists must use their observations to uncover the laws governing the social universe, in much the same way as Newton had formulated the law of gravity. Comte emphasized this agenda in the opening pages of Positive Philosophy: The first characteristic of Positive Philosophy is that it regards all phenomena as subject to invariable natural Laws. Our business isâ€”seeing how vain is any research into what are called Causes, whether first or finalâ€”to pursue an accurate discovery of these Laws, with a view to reducing them to the smallest possible number. By speculating upon causes, we could solve no difficulty about origin and purpose. Our real business is to analyze accurately the circumstances of phenomena, and to connect them by the natural relations of succession and resemblance. The best Illustration of this is in the case of the doctrine of gravitation. Several points are important in this view of sociological theory. First, sociological theory is not to be concerned with causes per se but, rather, with the laws that describe the basic and fundamental relations of properties in the social world. Third, clearly the goal of sociological activity is to reduce the number of theoretical principles by seeking only the most abstract and only those that pertain to understanding fundamental properties of the social world. Comte felt that philosophy had done as much as possible in terms of understanding the human condition. He believed that it was time for a "positivistic" approach. That meant studying things that were of an empirical testable nature. He thought that sociology must be based on observation, not intuition or speculation. Comte thus held a vision of sociological theory as based on the model of the natural sciences, particularly the physics of his time. For this reason, he preferred the term social physics to sociology. The Development of the Discipline[edit] The first book with the word sociology in its title was assembled in the 19th century by the English philosopher Herbert Spencer. In the United States, the first Sociology course was taught at the University of Kansas, Lawrence in under the title Elements of Sociology the oldest continuing sociology course in America. The first full fledged university department of sociology in the United States was established in at the University of Chicago by Albion W. Small , who in founded the American Journal of Sociology. International cooperation in sociology began in when Rene Worms founded the small Institut International de Sociologie that was eclipsed by the much larger International Sociologist Association starting in Karl Marx Early Sociological Studies[edit] Early sociological studies considered the field to be similar to the natural sciences , like physics or biology. As a result, many researchers argued that the methodology used in the natural sciences was perfectly suited for use in the social sciences. The effect of employing the scientific method and stressing empiricism was the distinction of sociology from theology , philosophy , and metaphysics. This also resulted in sociology being recognized as an empirical science. This early sociological approach, supported by August Comte, led to positivism , a methodological approach based on sociological naturalism. The goal of positivism, like the natural sciences, is prediction. But in the case of sociology, it is prediction of human behavior, which is a complicated proposition. The goal of predicting human behavior was quickly realized to be a bit lofty. Scientists like Wilhelm Dilthey and Heinrich Rickert argued that the natural world differs from the social world, as human society has culture , unlike the societies of most other animals e. As a result, an additional goal was proposed for sociology. Max Weber [7] and Wilhelm Dilthey [8]

introduced the concept of verstehen. While arriving at a verstehen-like insight into a culture employs systematic methodologies like the positivistic approach of predicting human behavior, it is often a more subjective process. The inability of sociology and other social sciences to perfectly predict the behavior of humans or to fully comprehend a different culture has led to the social sciences being labeled "soft sciences. Any animal as complex as humans is bound to be difficult to fully comprehend. Qualitative Sociology[edit] The contrast between positivist sociology and the verstehen approach has been reformulated in modern sociology as a distinction between quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches, respectively. Quantitative sociology is generally a numerical approach to understanding human behavior. Surveys with large numbers of participants are aggregated into data sets and analyzed using statistics, allowing researchers to discern patterns in human behavior. Qualitative sociology generally opts for depth over breadth. The qualitative approach uses in-depth interviews, focus groups, or analysis of content sources books, magazines, journals, TV shows, etc. These sources are then analyzed systematically to discern patterns and to arrive at a better understanding of human behavior. Drawing a hard and fast distinction between quantitative and qualitative sociology is a bit misleading. The first step in all sciences is the development of a set of questions and ideas that may be empirically examined. After this initial stage, however, researchers typically take one of two paths, which may be seen to varying degrees in both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. While most qualitative researchers begin analyzing data in hopes of generating theories that could later be tested in other studies, [10] most quantitative researchers begin by elaborating testable hypotheses from existing theories. While this initial step demonstrates nuanced variations in methodology, the approaches really begin to differ in relation to the second step - data collection. Quantitative sociology mostly focuses on numerical representations of the research subjects e. Qualitative sociology generally focuses on the ideas found within the discourse, rhetoric, and activities of the research subjects e.

Chapter 2 : Free Sociology Books & eBooks - Download PDF, ePub, Kindle

Introduction to Sociology 2e adheres to the scope and sequence of a typical, one-semester introductory sociology course. It offers comprehensive coverage of core concepts, foundational scholars, and emerging theories.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution, families lived on smaller farms and every able member of the family did work to support and sustain the family economy. There was a lower standard of living and because of poor sanitation people died earlier. After the Industrial Revolution, farm work was replaced by factory work. Women became the supervisors of homework. Much was still done by families to develop their own home goods while many women and children also went to the factories to work. Cities became larger and more diverse heterogamy. Families became smaller less farm work required fewer children. Eventually, standards of living increased and death rates declined. Hard work was the norm and still is today for most women. Homemaking included much unpaid work. For example, my 93 year old Granny is an example of this. She worked hard her entire life both in a cotton factory and at home raising her children, grand-children, and at times great grand-children. When I was a boy, she taught me how to make lye soap by saving the fat from animals they ate. Then she burned twigs and small branches until a pile of ashes built up in the bottom of the bucket. After that she filtered water from the well through the ashes and collected the lye water runoff in a can. She heated the animal fat and mixed it in the lye water from the can. When it cooled, it was cut up and used as lye soap. The corn kernel shells would become loose and slip off after being soaked. These pre and post-industrial changes impacted all of Western civilization because the Industrial Revolution hit all of these countries about the same way: The Industrial Revolution brought some rather severe social conditions which included: The new social problems required a new science that was unique from any scientific disciplines of the day. Comte wanted a strong scientific basis for sociology, but because of various distractions he never quite established it. He was also French and took the first position at a university as a sociology professor. Durkheim discussed Social Facts, a phenomena within society that typically exists independent of individual choices and actions. Durkheim approached a subject that most thought of as being exclusively individualistic in nature-suicide. But, he defined suicide from a social fact perspective which helped him to establish the unique wisdom of sociological analysis. Social Integration is the degree to which people are connected to their social groups. On a piece of paper right down how many close family members you have. Then add in how many close friends and coworkers you have. Finally add in all others whose name you know and they know yours. This number is one measure of your social integration. But, to really get an idea you might evaluate these relationships. In other words list your top 6 closest relationships in order. Make a short list of the 6 closest relationships you have. Now, rank 1 for the closest, 2 for next closest and so on up to 6th. Durkheim realized from his suicide studies that the closer we are to others, the more socially integrated we are and the less likely we are to commit suicide. The second concept to understand is called anomie. Anomie is a state of relative normlessness that comes from the disintegration of our routines and regulations. Anomie is common when we go through sudden changes in our lives or when we live in larger cities. Sudden changes bring stress and frustration. To illustrate this, I often tell my students to remember how they felt the day after high school graduation. They walk for graduation then wake up the next morning with very few demands on their time and energies. This sudden shift in demands from very intense to almost absent, leads many to feel extremely frustrated and lost. One of my college students told me that at the end of last semester she had 4 finals, one paper, two presentations, and one lab project all due in the last 5 days of class. She finished it all, packed, and moved back home. The first morning she woke up at home she got out her planner and realized that all she had to do that day, in other words all the demands placed upon her were to eat and shower. She was not a full-time university student for now and was between significant roles. As a larger social fact, anomie is a byproduct of large complex societies, especially around large cities. Durkheim and others were aware that society impacted the life of the individual even if the individual had very little impact on society. By the way, Durkheim measured suicide rates and so do we in our day. Suicide Rate is the numbers of suicides per , people in a population. Altruistic Suicide is suicide which occurs when people are over involved and over committed to a

group or society as a whole. This occurs when the needs of society as a whole override the needs of the individual. Soldiers often do this to protect their comrades. Egoistic Suicide is suicide which occurs when people are under-involved or under-committed to groups. This is the loner-type suicide when an individual is disconnected or never connected to others. Certain social pressures isolate us more than others and suicide becomes more risky for the isolated. Certain social forces within society create this isolated state within us TV viewing, video games, online time, and other solo activities that preoccupy us with our own interest and isolate us from our groups and relationships; see [www](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org). Interestingly, the Suicide Prevention Resource Center gives a few suicide prevention strategies that relate to social integration: Goals and Objectives for Action, The next 2 types of suicide described by Durkheim have to do with the levels of social control and social regulation. Anomic Suicide is suicide which occurs when people are under-regulated by familiar norms that serve as anchors to their social reality. Fatalistic Suicide is suicide which occurs when people are over regulated or over-constrained. This might happen in oppressive societies where people prefer to die rather than continue under the hopeless state of oppression IE: He found lowest rates for Jews, Catholics, females, marrieds, and poor persons. Many of these are still common predictors of suicide today. The World Health Organization reported that worldwide the suicide rates show clear patterns being higher for males at all ages and especially higher for the elderly retrieved 23 April, from SOURCE. I use many figures and charts in this book so let me just point out a few tricks to reading them. Look at the actual measure which typically show up on the left vertical side and across the bottom side. In this figure you are seeing death rates per , people in the population and on the bottom side you are seeing the sequences of years You are also seeing a graph for males and females. The numbers under each specific line show the age group specific death rates. If there were one over-riding trend this chart is portraying it would be that death rates for males and females of all ages have generally declined between Death rates, by age and sex: Final data for National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 4. National Center for Health Statistics. Look at Figure 2 below. Notice that Figure 2 comes with a legend. Typically, the legend is on the side or bottom of the charts. It tells you which lines represent which categories. Also look at the title to make sure you read the details of what is being represented. Durkheim would argue that these rates are social facts and that at the core of the problem lies social level processes that either facilitate or inhibit personal choices by exerting social pressures. Health, United States, With Special Feature on Prescription Drugs. Karl Marx was an influential person in the development of sociology as a strong academic discipline. He was not a sociologist. He was an economist, philosopher, and revolutionary. Marx was born in Germany and his writings on the class struggles that existed in society wherein the poor masses are exploited by the few wealthy elite still apply today perhaps even more so than in his day. His philosophy and the timing of his writings helped early sociologists in the development of social theories and scientific approaches. We will talk more about Marx and Conflict Theory in Chapter 3. Another key German founder of sociology was Max Weber pronounced vey-bur He was a very intelligent person who strongly influenced the development of sociology and taught some of the other early sociologists of his day. He studied religion and the economy and published a work called, "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism. Ideal Types are given as hypothetical examples and we can compare current economic systems to them. Another early sociologist was a British man named Herbert Spencer Herbert is remembered for his failed ideas about survival of the fittest in society not the animal kingdom. In other words, he believed that survival of the fittest applied to classes within society and that the wealthy aristocrats were the fittest. Whatever the wealthy people did was in effect better for society in the long run.

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Chapter 4 : Introduction to Sociology 2e by Heather Griffiths on Apple Books

Introduction to Sociology by Anthony Giddens, Mitchell Duneier, Richard P. Applebaum, and Deborah Carr is close to new condition without the slight bent on front soft cover. Besides that, the book has.

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Chapter 5 : Introduction To Sociology : 01 History and Introduction

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Which of the following scenarios is an example of intragenerational mobility? Which of the following scenarios is an example of intergenerational mobility? Which theorist claimed that people rise to their proper level in society based solely on their belief in a meritocracy? Which theorist claimed that people rise to their proper level in society based solely on personal merit? An Introduction to Sociology, Section: Auguste Comte

Figure caption: Auguste Comte played an important role in the development of sociology as a recognized discipline. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons Location: The Sociological Approach to Religion, Subsection: Over two thousand years ago, Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living. Education, Introduction, last paragraph Add the following footnote to Table 1. The higher number is for individuals in households not reporting food stamp receipt in the SIPP. Is the United States an Oligarchy? Government and Politics, Section: Forms of Government, Subsection: Revise the answer for question 14 to c. The term mercantilism can best be defined as: An economic system in which there is private ownership as opposed to state ownership and where there is an impetus to produce profit, and thereby wealth. When children tend to enter the same or similar occupation as their parents. An economic policy based on national policies of accumulating silver and gold by controlling markets with colonies and other countries through taxes and customs charges. Work and the Economy, Test Bank, Question 14 Revise the definition of gender in the first paragraph of section "Sex and Gender" as follows: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality, Section: Sex and Gender, 1st paragraph Update link in Further Research: Media and Technology, Further Research, 8. Population, Urbanization, and the Environment, Further Research, Groups and Organizations, Section: Group Size and Structure, Subsection: Group Leadership Revise the second paragraph of section "Genocide" to replace the word "decimation" with "destruction", as follows: Race and Ethnicity, Section: This History of Sociology, Subsection: Theories of Self-Development, Making Connections: Sociological Research Revise the definition of intragenerational mobility as follows: Social Stratification in the United States, Section: Social Mobility Replace Table 1. There is an instance in the Preface where the book is referred to as "Introduction to Sociology. Race and Ethnicity in the United States, Subsection: African Americans Revise the second to last paragraph as follows: Some groups may keep only symbolic gestures of their original ethnicity. However, for the rest of the year, other aspects of their originating culture may be forgotten. Page 41 The life of Harriet Martineau is given as

but the paragraph about her says that she published her book in Society and Social Interaction, Section: Types of Societies Revise exercise 7 as follows: Charlotte was born to a lower class family in rural Pennsylvania. After taking a job in the mail room of a large corporate office, Charlotte is slowly promoted through the ranks and becomes CEO of the company by the age of

Chapter 6 : Introduction to Sociology by Henry L. Tischler

Book Preface. An affordable, no-nonsense introductory text for today's students. The Ninth Edition has been reorganized to include only what students need to master the sociological concepts taught in the introductory course.

Chapter 7 : Introduction to Sociology - George Ritzer - Google Books

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