

CONCEPTS: Culture, Manifest and Latent Functions, Society, Symbols, Values, Beliefs, Norms, Multiculturalism, Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativity, Social and Cultural Change, Groups

CULTURE

Ask yourself what would make you feel shame or guilt. That is culture.

Culture = shared beliefs, meanings, values, attitudes (the knowledge that helps us interact that we take for granted)

Vs. Society = a group of people who interact often and whose interaction is guided by their culture

Examples: Tipping, what is polite, traffic signals, crossing heart with a US flag, how we express emotions, humor, naming, food, music, beauty, permitted public sexual behavior, Culture is contextual — changes from place, time, people

Ex. Fear (police uniform and badge)

Ex. Murder (contexts: drive by, war, death penalty)

We learn culture through internalization.

If not ---- big problems. (Movie Nell)

Also Culture Shock

Theoretical perspectives on culture

1. Functionalism:

- **Manifest function** of speeding up interaction, smoothing interaction
- **Latent function**: culture constrains people

2. Conflict theory: Whose values? In the US and many societies it is white, male, heterosexual values

3. SI: Culture is a central concept to SI.

How do people experience culture? How do they change it?

Ex. Disco days. What did it mean to people? How did it influence their life? How did they create it? Change it?

Symbols

Language

does language influence reality or does reality influence language

Ex. Snow, masturbation

Values - right/wrong, good/bad (pg. 36-37, Macionis)

U.S. values: Ownership

Achievement/work

Freedom/democracy

Individualism and independence

How did these come about?

What characterizes them? Many associated with men and masculinity. Why? Androcentrism.

Not on list: Leisure

Children/family — this is why housewives aren't valued, child care low pay

Knowledge — this is why teachers aren't paid well

Beliefs -- What you think is true (related to values)

Ex. Religious beliefs

Aliens

Crime and punishment

Homosexuality

Norms – rules and expectations

Ex. Academic vs. Business world dress, schedules, autonomy
(Computer business vs. other business)

What if no norms? New interactions.

Ex's? Internet. Starting a new job.

Subculture

Ex. Regional, race, sexuality

Often hierarchy to them: dominant culture. Why?

Multiculturalism

Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativity

Ex. Child labor, female circumcision

Cultural/Social change: takes a long time

must change social structures (laws, institutions), values, attitudes and everyday life

Examples: Racism, valuing women, men and child care, gay rights

The more comfortable a society is with change, the better off they are (with limitations)

Example: USA political system: change every 2, 4, 6 years. Other countries would have major social unrest with this amount of change

example. Divorce

Too much change can be unhealthy for a society

-ex. Stock market crash: too much change too quickly (anomie)

-ex. 18th century France: too much change across time, no consistency in social life, no habits, assumptions

Creating Social Change: changing beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors

- social movements: civil rights, environmentalism, fundamentalism and the moral majority
- demographic change
- technology
- power: one culture/country over another (wars)
- environmental change/crises

GROUPS: = 2 or more people interacting

most aspects of your life are influenced by groups: work, family, friends, church, recreation

Primary and Secondary Groups

Reference Groups

In and Out Groups

Group Leadership: every group has a leader

Group Conformity: groups are more conservative in their actions than individuals (group think)

Group Size

dyad = not stable

triad = more stable because if one leaves group remains, but subject to coalitions