SOCIALIZATION

Socialization = lifelong process of internalizing culture and learning necessary behavior to function in a given society. Learn through social interaction.

  internalize = adopting/accepting a group’s set of norms, values, beliefs, etc...
  social interaction = interaction between people

Ex. Child raised outside of a society.

Nature vs. Nurture

Nature = hard wired, physical, psychological
Nurture = learned behavior

criminal behavior
emotionally expressive
rational
competitiveness
bonding
productive

Studies of twins

Nature’s influence via height, weight, disease, eye vision, etc...

  These influence behavior but don’t dictate: ex. Basketball

Exception: hormonal behavior (post partum depression, sex drives
Genetic and physical illnesses (Turretz, Down’s)
Psychological illnesses (Clinical depression, ...)

Agents of Socialization

Family, School, Religion, Peers, Media

Lifecourse

Much emphasis placed on childhood socialization

ex. Freud, Dr. Drew (MTV)
Sociologists argue that events after childhood have huge influence on who we become/are:

Work  
Culture (what we promote, tolerate...) Ex. Drugs, smoking  
Friendships  
Marriage  
Struggle and trauma (ex. Death, losing job, financial depression)  
Accomplishments  
Travel  
Civic life/volunteering  
Growing older

All these events shape us and teach us about ourselves and our society

**Resocialization + Total Institutions**  
military, prison, mental hospitals

**How Socialization Occurs**  
George Herbert Mead

socialization = development of the self

self = self image, self-identity, who you are, your values, attitudes, beliefs, preferences

Self = I (individual impulses, desires)  
  Me (reactions of important people to us and society in general)

Humans learn through self-reflection - we evaluate stimuli and our responses to them

1. We use symbols  
   Ex. We learn our name, other’s names  
   We learn that behavior depends on situations: TV on/off, company over, etc...

2. **We take the role of other**: by putting ourselves in other’s shoes we see how that person would respond to us if we acted in a given way.  
   Learn about yourself and other people through this.  
   Learn expectations  
   Learn to act “appropriately”

3. **Looking glass self**: we imagine ourselves as other’s see us.  
   This shapes who want to be, who we try to be  
   Most people act in such a way to maximize other’s opinions of them
4. The process: increasing social experience/interaction = more socialized/developed self
   a. infants mimic - recognizing others
   b. through interaction realizes “significant others”
   c. through interaction with significant others realizes self
   d. Through taking the role of other and looking glass learn about self, “roles, status”
      Role = behaviors associated with a status
      status = social position in a hierarchy
   e. through interaction with “generalized other” realizes society, culture

This learning process is different than animals and infants
   - learn purely through stimulus/response or through “hard wired” impulses
   - no situational awareness

Social Construction of Reality
Through socialization society has power/influence over us, but we have influence over society/reality too

We create reality through everyday life

Ex. Civil rights
Ex. Sexism - names

Other influences on social behavior

Status: ascribed, achieved, master

Definition of the situation:
   self-fulfilling prophecy

Presentation of self - impression management
   every interaction has actor(s) and audience
   ex. With physicians, boss, advisor

   verbal communication: vocabulary, interrupting, pauses,
   eye contact touching body language
   dress facial expression
   humor (to save face if subordinate, to dominate by superior)