

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

Exceptions: 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)

