#### КАЗАНСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ МЕДИЦИНСКИЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ



# SOCIOLOGY OF MEDICINE



## What is sociology?

 Socilogy is the scientific study of human life, social groups, whole societies and the human world as such.



#### Why are they a couple?



#### Why are they a couple?



- Sociology teaches us that the social world guides all our life choices in much the same way that the seasons influence our choice of clothing.
- Sociology is the systematic study of human society. At the heart of sociology is a special point of view called the sociological perspectiv



#### Seeing the General in the Particular

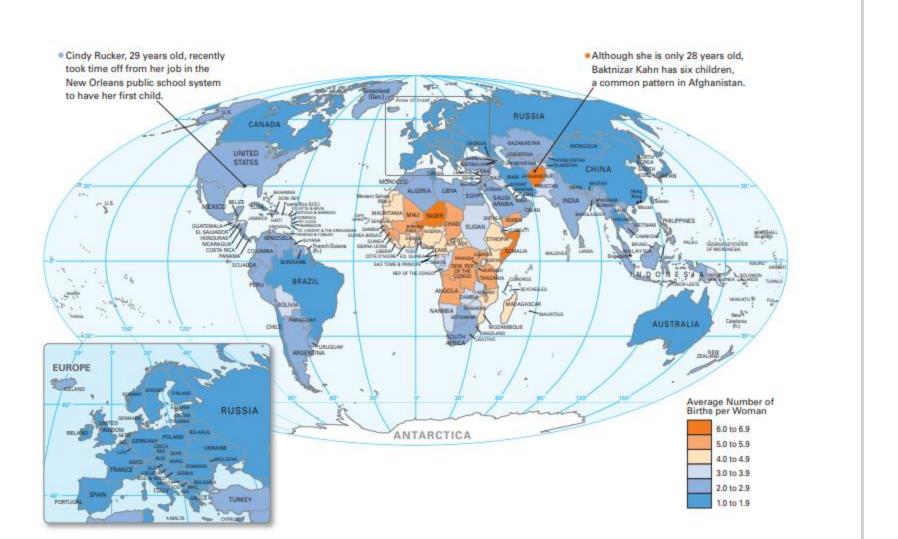
• One good way to define the sociological perspective is seeing the general in the particular (Berger, 1963). This definition tells us that sociologists look for general patterns in the behavior of particular people.



## Seeing the Strange in the Familiar

 This principle highlights the idea that even the most everyday and seemingly familiar aspects of our lives can be studied and understood in new and insightful ways. By examining the familiar from a fresh perspective, sociologists can gain new insights into the underlying structures and dynamics of society, and explore the ways in which social norms, values, and institutions shape our experiences and behavior. In this sense, "Seeing the Strange in the Familiar" is an invitation to question and challenge taken-for-granted assumptions about the social world, and to explore the underlying complexities and contradictions of our daily live

# GLOBAL MAP . Women's Childbearing in Global Perspective Is childbearing simply a matter of personal choice?





#### The importance global perspective

• Global awareness is a logical extension of the sociological perspective. Sociology shows us that our place in society shapes our life experiences. It stands to reason, then, that the position of our society in the larger world system affects everyone in thedescribes a "global village"

The "global village" is a term coined by Marshall McLuhan to describe the idea that the world has become a small interconnected community due to advancements in communication technology and increased cultural exchange. This concept suggests that the world has become a single, interconnected society where information and culture are shared widely, making geographical distance seem less important. In the global village, national borders and cultural differences become less significant as people are brought together by the rapid flow of information and cultural exchange.

#### The importance global perspective

- Where we live shapes the lives we lead.
- Societies throughout the world are increasingly interconnected.
- Many social problems that we face in the our countries are far more serious elsewhere
- Thinking globally helps us learn more about ourselves.

Sociology is an invitation to learn a new way of looking at the world around us.



#### The Birth of Sociology

- Sociology emerged in the middle of XIX century during a period of social upheaval
- The Industrial Revolution challenged traditional ideas about social life
- Millions of people were moving into cities and many people were turning away from their traditional religious beliefs.
- The scientific method, which was used in the physical sciences, led to the birth of Sociology

#### Auguste Comte (1 798-1857)

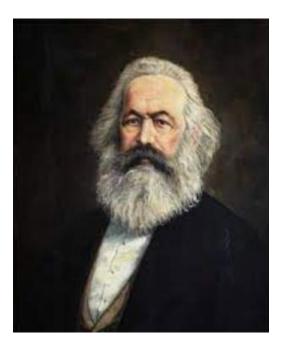
- Sociology as a Science: Comte argued that sociology should be considered a science, like physics or chemistry. He believed that sociology should adopt the scientific method of observing and measuring social phenomena in order to better understand and explain them.
- The Law of Three Stages: Comte believed that human knowledge and societies evolve through three stages: theological, metaphysical, and scientific. He argued that sociology, as a scientific discipline, represented the final stage of human intellectual development.
- The Object of Sociology: Comte believed that the main object of sociology was to study society and human behavior as a whole, rather than focusing on the individual or a small group of individuals.
- Positivism: Comte believed that sociology should be based on the principles of positivism, which asserts that knowledge should be based on observable and verifiable facts, rather than on speculation or intuition.
- The Importance of Sociology: Comte believed that sociology was important because it helped individuals and society understand the complexities of human behavior and social organization. He believed that a better understanding of society would lead to social improvement and the betterment of humanity.



#### Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Karl Marx's theories on sociology focus on the ways in which economic and social conditions shape the development of society. Some of his key theses include:

- The materialist conception of history: Marx believed that the economic structure of society drives its development and shapes its social, political, and cultural institutions. He argued that people's material circumstances, such as their access to resources, shape their relationships with others and their beliefs and values.
- Class conflict: Marx believed that the basic conflict in society is between the owners of the means of production (the bourgeoisie) and the workers (the proletariat). He argued that this conflict arises from the exploitation of the working class by the capitalist class, and that it drives historical change.
- Capitalism: Marx saw capitalism as a social system characterized by the exploitation of the working class, the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few, and the production of commodities for profit. He believed that capitalism was a transitory stage in the development of human society that would eventually be replaced by a more equitable socialist system.
- The state: Marx argued that the state is an instrument of class domination, serving the interests of the ruling class and suppressing dissent. He believed that the state would wither away in a socialist society.
- The Communist Manifesto: Marx co-wrote The Communist Manifesto with Friedrich Engels, outlining his vision of a socialist society and a call to action for the working class to overthrow the capitalist system and establish a socialist order.
- These theses are central to Marx's contributions to sociology and remain influential in the field today. However, some sociologists have criticized Marx's ideas for being overly deterministic, and for not taking into account the complexity of human behavior and social change.



### Objectivist sociology

• It holds the social phenomena can be studied and understood in a systematic and scientific manner, just like natural phenomena. Objectivist sociologists view society as a set of objectively existing social structures, patterns of behavior, and relationships that can be objectively analyzed and understood. They seek to uncover the underlying laws andregularities that govern social life, without being influenced by their own personal values or biases. Some well-known objectivist sociologists include Emile Durkheimand Talcott Parsons.

# Emile Durkheim, French Sociologist, (1858-1917)

- Social Fact: Durkheim defined social fact as any aspect of society that exercises a constraint on individuals, regardless of their opinions or beliefs.
- **Division of Labor**: Durkheim saw the division of labor as a key aspect of modern society, referring to the differentiation of tasks and responsibilities within society.
- **Organic Solidarity**: Durkheim believed that in modern societies, social cohesion comes from the interdependence of different parts of society, like the organs of a body.
- **Mechanical Solidarity**: Durkheim argued that in traditional societies, social cohesion was based on similar beliefs, values, and experiences among individuals.
- Anomie: Durkheim used the term anomie to describe a state of normlessness, where individuals lack clear guidance on how to behave.
- Collective Conscience: Durkheim defined collective conscience as the shared beliefs, values, and moral codes of a society.
- **Functionalism:** Durkheim is often credited with developing the functionalist perspective in sociology, which argues that all parts of society contribute to its stability and functionality.

These terms and definitions continue to shape the study of sociology today and are still widely used by sociologists in their work.

#### Talcott Parsons

- 1. The "pattern variables": Parsons developed a theory of social action that organized social behavior around four ideal-typical "pattern variables". These were universal, biologically determined personality traits that influenced individuals' social behavior.
- 2. "Action frame of reference": Parsons developed a concept of the "action frame of reference" which refers to the individual's subjective understanding of social situations. This concept played a key role in his later theory of "structural functionalism."
- 3. "Functionalism": Parsons is best known for his theory of "structural functionalism," which views society as a complex system that is maintained by the interdependence of its various parts. He argued that social institutions serve specific functions in society, and that their successful operation is essential for the stability and survival of the entire system.
- 4. "Value-neutrality": Parsons argued that sociology should be a value-neutral discipline, and that sociologists should strive to understand and explain social phenomena without imposing their own values or opinions.
- 5. "Grand Theory": Parsons is also known for his efforts to develop a comprehensive, "grand theory" of society that would provide a unified explanation of social behavior and organization. This theory, sometimes referred to as "Parsonian functionalism," remains a subject of ongoing debate and criticism in the discipline of sociology.

#### Subjectivist approach in sociology

- It views society as a product of individual thoughts, beliefs, values, and actions, rather than as an objective reality that exists independently of individuals.
- In this approach, sociologists study the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals to understand social phenomena. They pay attention to the meanings that individuals attach to their experiences and the ways in which these meanings shape their actions and social relationships.
- Some of the prominent sociologists who are associated with the subjectivist approach include ( example Max Weber, George Herbert Mead, and Harold Garfinkel). These sociologists believe that an understanding of the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals is crucial to understanding the complex dynamics of society and social change.

#### Max Weber (pronounced 'veybur') (1864-1920)

- Max Weber, a German sociologist and philosopher, introduced several key terms and definitions that are central to the field of sociology. Some of these include:
- 1. Verstehen: This term refers to the interpretive understanding of social action and behavior. Weber believed that understanding social actions requires a subjective interpretation of the motives and meanings behind them.
- 2. Social action: Weber defined social action as the behavior of individuals that takes into account the meaning and motives of other people involved in the situation.
- 3. Ideal type: This refers to an abstract, theoretical concept used by Weber to analyze and compare different forms of social action and institutions.
- 4. Bureaucracy: Weber identified bureaucracy as a form of organization characterized by a hierarchical structure, impersonal relationships, and a system of rules and regulations.
- 5. Charismatic authority: This is a form of authority that is based on the personal qualities of a leader, such as their charisma, vision, or leadership abilities.
- 6. Rationalization: This term refers to the process by which traditional, emotional, and religious motives are replaced by more rational and calculated forms of thought and behavior.
- 7. The Protestant Ethic: This concept refers to the idea that the values and beliefs of Protestantism helped to create the conditions necessary for the development of capitalism.



1864-1920

#### Harold Garfinkel

- Harold Garfinkel was an American sociologist and ethnomethodologist who is best known for his study of the everyday practices and common sense knowledge of society. Some of the terms and definitions introduced by Garfinkel include:
- 1. Ethnomethodology: a sociological perspective that focuses on the ways in which people make sense of and produce their everyday social world.
- 2. Bracketing: the process of setting aside one's preconceptions and assumptions in order to understand social practices from the perspective of those who engage in them.
- 3. Indexicality: the way in which words and actions are meaningfully related to their context and the social practices in which they are used.
- 4. Membership categorization: the way in which individuals categorize themselves and others based on social roles and membership in social groups.
- 5. Generative rules: the implicit and explicit norms and expectations that govern social interaction.
- 6. Common sense knowledge: the shared understanding and taken-for-granted norms that people use to make sense of their social world.



