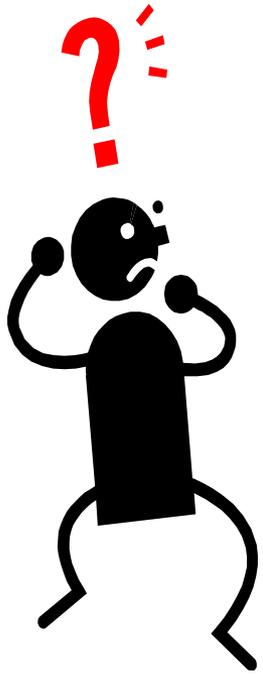


Paradox of Sociology

- The power of society over its members versus the power of social actors to change society
 - Society is created, sustained, and changed by people
 - Social forms often take on sanctity of tradition
 - Social structures are imperfect

Fundamental Questions of Sociology



- What do all human societies have in common?
- How can we make a better society?
- Are we in control of our own destiny?
- How much of our personal lives are determined by our culture?
- How much do we owe to others?
- How much do others owe us?
- How do we change culture?

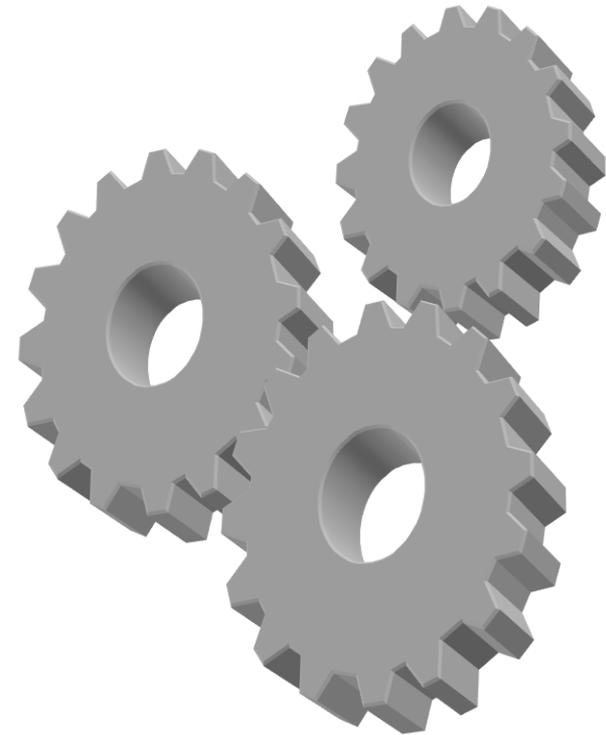
Sociological Paradigms

Different Answers to these Questions

| Functionalism | Conflict | Constructionist |
|--|---|---|
| Change occurs naturally to balance system | Change occurs as a result of resolving conflicts | Change occurs in each individual human interaction |
| Fundamental & universal social institutions provide stability | Social institutions provide both stability & instability and must be managed | Stability occurs as a discourse in which patterns in behavior are observed |
| Individuals have little choice – we are more determined by our socialization than we care to admit | Individuals must form groups in order to effectively change their social worlds | Individuals are constantly changing the world, but their collective effect is only seen in retrospect |

The one thing that these perspectives have in common is that the human condition requires a common ground – we need each other.

Function in Functionalism: Social Institutions



- Institutions are how societies “DO”
- Functionalists (and some conflict theorists) argue that purposes are served by these institutions
- No order = no purpose
- Metaphor of Machine
- What societies have in common



Manifest & Latent Functions

- ***Manifest function*** – what an organization or group ***explicitly declares*** is its purpose
- ***Latent function*** – purposes served by an organization or group that ***actually benefits*** either society as a whole or a power elite group

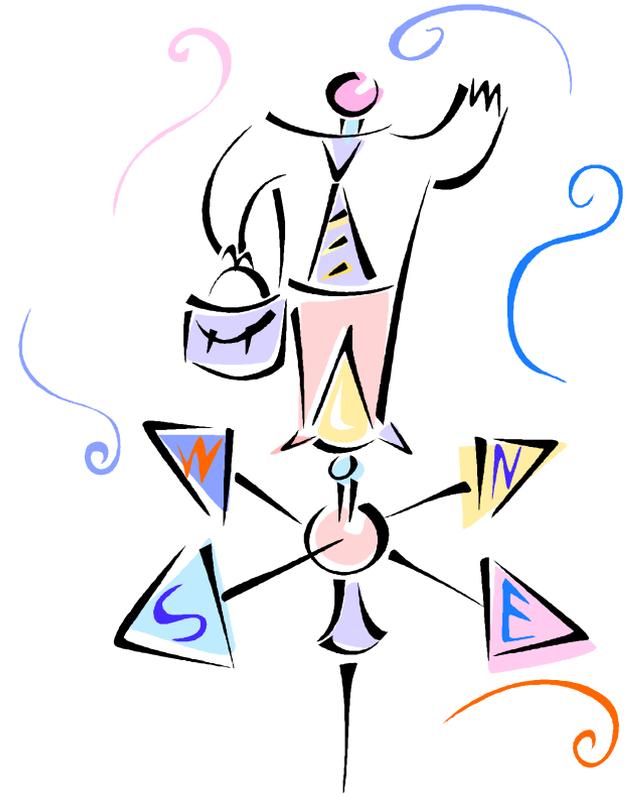


Social Institutions

- A **Social Institution** is a set of organized beliefs and rules that establish how a society will attempt to meet its basic social needs
- What is the difference between a group and social institution?
 - Group is made up of specific identifiable persons.
 - Institution is a standardized way of doing something.

Social Change: Macro Level

- Utopia/Distopia
- Revolutions
 - Birth of Sociology - France
 - Critical Mass
 - Violence
- Social Movements
 - Politically Based
 - Culturally Based
- Cultural Development
 - Fashion & Fads
 - Memes



Social Change: Micro-Level



Family Life-Cycles

- Marriage
- Children
- Teenagers
- Empty Nest
- Retirement

Aging Life-Cycles

- Cohorts/Birth
- Childhood
- Adulthood
- Vocation / Avocation
- Old Age / Retirement

What makes a problem social?

- **Public versus Private**
- **Objective realities**
- **Uneven division of power**



Construction of Social problems claims

- **Claims**
- **Claims-Making**
- **Claims-Makers**
- **Audience**
- **Public Solutions**



An Inconvenient Truth

1. What social change(s) is this movie trying to encourage?
2. What methodology(ies) does the movie suggest for making those changes?
3. Who or what is/are the villain(s)?
4. Who or what is/are the victim(s)?