Chapter 4:
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self

LECTURE SLIDES

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Getting Warmed Up!
Lecture Launcher Questions

Nature is to nurture as ______ is to ______.

a. environment; biology
b. biology; environment
c. biology; sexuality
d. sexuality; environment
Socialization

a. occurs until the age of 5, when children start school.
b. concludes when children complete school.
c. is a lifelong process.
d. does not occur as an adult.
The idea that “if people define situations as real, they are real in their consequences” is also known as

a. the Thomas theorem.

b. the reality theorem.

c. the looking-glass self theorem.

d. situational understanding.
Getting Warmed Up!
Lecture Launcher Questions

Which agent of socialization has the most impact during the earliest stages of a child’s life?

a. school
b. peers
c. mass media
d. family
Getting Warmed Up!
Lecture Launcher Questions

Match the term with the correct definition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. achieved status</td>
<td>1. a status with which we are born</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. ascribed status</td>
<td>2. a status generated by physical characteristics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. embodied status</td>
<td>3. a status we earn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Getting Warmed Up!
Lecture Launcher Questions

As people spend more time texting one another and less time in face-to-face interactions, ____ is becoming less frequent.

a. copresence
b. dual interaction
c. co-interaction
d. facetime
Getting Warmed Up!

Lecture Launcher Questions

_____ are socially constructed norms regarding the appropriate feelings and displays of emotions.

a. Emotion rules
b. Feeling rules
c. Emotion folkways
d. Feeling folkways
What Is Human Nature?

- The *nature vs. nurture debate*: Are we the people that we are because of our genetics or our socialization? This debate asks which factor determines individual behaviors and traits.

- Ultimately, both sides play a role in making us the people that we are.
The Process of Socialization

- **Socialization** is the process of learning and internalizing the values, beliefs, and norms of our social group.

- The socialization process begins in infancy and lasts throughout the lifetime.

- Language facilitates socialization.
The Development of the Self

- The self is our experience of a personal identity, which is separate and different from all other people.
- Sociologists believe the self is created and modified through interaction during the lifespan.
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)

• **Sigmund Freud** is usually associated with psychoanalysis, but his theories have also helped sociologists gain a better understanding of social behavior.

• Freud developed the idea of the subconscious mind and the unconscious mind, which he believed control most of our drives, impulses, thoughts, and behaviors.
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)

- **Charles Cooley** believed that the sense of self depends on seeing oneself reflected in interactions with others.

- The *looking-glass self* refers to the notion that the self develops through our perception of others’ evaluations and appraisals of us.
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)

- **George Herbert Mead** expanded Cooley’s ideas. Mead also believed that the self was created through social interaction and that this process started in childhood.

- Mead believed that the self develops through three stages: the preparatory stage, the play stage (taking the role of the significant other), and the game stage.
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)

• The acquisition of language skills coincides with the growth of mental capacities, including the ability to think of ourselves as separate and distinct and to see ourselves in relationship to others.
• Erving Goffman believed that meaning is constructed through interaction.

• His approach, called *dramaturgy*, compares social interaction to the theater, where individuals take on roles and act them out for an audience.
The Development of the Self (cont’d.)

- Goffman saw social life as a sort of game, where we work to control the impressions others have of us, a process he called *impression management*. 
The Thomas Theorem

- W. I. Thomas stated that “if people define situations as real, they are real in their consequences.” This is now called the **Thomas theorem**.

- Because we encounter ambiguous situations every day, many meanings are possible. The way we define each situation, then, becomes its reality.
Agents of Socialization

- Agents of socialization are the social groups, institutions, and individuals that provide structured situations where socialization occurs.

- Major agents
  - Family
  - Schools
  - Peers
  - Mass media
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)

- The family is the single most significant agent of socialization in all societies and teaches us the basic values and norms that shape our identity.
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)

• Schools provide education and socialize us through a *hidden curriculum* (a set of values and behaviors such as punctuality, neatness, discipline, hard work, competition, and obedience) that teaches many of the behaviors deemed important later in life.
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)

• Peers provide very different social skills and often become more immediately significant than the family, especially as children move through adolescence.
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)

- Mass media has become an important agent of socialization, often overriding the family and other institutions in instilling values and norms.
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)

- **Resocialization** is the process of replacing previously learned norms and values with new ones as a part of a transition in life.

- A dramatic form of resocialization takes place in a *total institution*, an institution (such as a prison, cult, or mental hospital) that cuts individuals off from the rest of society so that their lives can be controlled and regulated.
Agents of Socialization (cont’d.)
Statutes and Roles

• A status is a position in society that comes with a set of expectations.

• An ascribed status is one we are born with that is unlikely to change.

• An achieved status is one we have earned through our individual effort or that is imposed by others.
• Our **master status** is a status that seems to override all others and affects all other statuses that we possess.

• **Roles** are the set of behaviors expected from a particular status.
• **Role conflict** occurs when the roles associated with one status clash with the roles associated with a different status.

• **Role strain** occurs when roles associated with a single status clash.

• Either of these processes may lead to **role exit**.
Emotions and Personality

• Though we tend to believe that our emotions are highly personal and individual, there are social patterns in our emotional responses.

• Emotional responses are *socially constructed*, meaning they are influenced by social and cultural context.
Emotions and Personality (cont’d.)

- **Emotion work** refers to the process of evoking, suppressing, or managing feelings to create a public display of emotion.
New Interactional Contexts

- Sociologists are interested in interactions that occur in *copresence* (when individuals are in one another’s physical presence) and the way that modern technology enables us to interact with people very far away.
New Interactional Contexts (cont’d.)

• Postmodern theorists claim that the role of technology in interaction is one of the primary features of postmodern life.

• We are now exposed to many more sources that help us shape our sense of self than the generations before us were.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

The process of learning and internalizing the values, beliefs, and norms of a social group is called

a. culturization.
b. nature.
c. socialization.
d. social isolation.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

In the nature vs. nurture debate, *nurture* refers to the

a. environment you were raised in.

b. genetics you were born with.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

Sociologists primarily view the self as

a. fixed at an early age and based largely on genetics.

b. created and modified through interaction with others.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

When does the process of socialization end?

a. once a child begins to understand language
b. when a child starts school
c. when a person gets their first job
d. when a person gets married
e. never—the process lasts throughout the lifetime

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Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

Who stated, “If we define situations as real, they are real in their consequences”?

a. Sigmund Freud
b. Charles Cooley
c. George Herbert Mead
d. Karl Marx
e. W. I. Thomas
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

A big agent of socialization for Americans is

a. the family.
b. schools.
c. peers.
d. the mass media.
e. all of the above
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

A status that seems to override all others and affects all other statuses that we possess is called a(n)

a. ascribed status.
b. achieved status.
c. master status.
d. embodied status.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Concept Quiz

Given what you have learned about roles, if your boss calls and asks you to work during class time, you will know you are experiencing

a. role conflict.

b. role strain.
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—
Participation Questions

In your opinion, what has a stronger influence in how a person “turns out”?

a. the person’s parents
b. the person’s genetics
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Participation Questions

Which group do you think influences your taste in clothing or music the most?

a. family
b. friends
c. school
d. TV and other mass media
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Participation Questions

Which group most strongly influenced your decisions about smoking cigarettes, using drugs, and drinking alcohol?

a. family
b. friends
c. school
d. TV and other mass media
Socialization, Interaction, and the Self—Data Workshop Activity

• Refer to the Data Workshop on page 106 to prepare for this activity.

• Outside class we may all be markedly different people, but here and now we all have some things in common, so let’s look at this experience.

• Working individually, answer the questions in bullet points on page 106. Be prepared to share your thoughts with the class!
This concludes the Lecture PowerPoint presentation for Chapter 4