

# A taste of Sociology?

<https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/reference/why-study-a-level-sociology-open-day-evening-video>



- What is sociology?
- What are sociologists interested in examining?
- What is the point of studying Sociology?

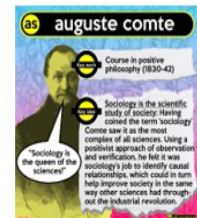


Use the carousel activities to reflective on the following questions

- ❖ In small groups you will complete the following tasks in rotation
- ❖ Each tasks is designed to give you an insight into the transformative nature of Sociology
- ❖ During each task you will complete a reflection sheet addressing questions that you may have about this subject



- ❖ What questions might sociology help you answer?
- ❖ What topics might Sociology explore?
- ❖ What methods might Sociologist use to study society?
- ❖ What ideas might Sociology explore?
- ❖ What might Sociology help us think about?
- ❖ How might Sociology involve other subjects you may study at Coopers?
- ❖ How is Sociological thinking different (how is it different from your other A Level choices/other subjects offered at A Level)



# 1.Questioning Sociologically



One way of introducing Sociology is to introduce some of the big questions sociologists ask.



Think about your opinion on each of the questions on your sheet.  
Jot down a few ideas



**\* Now Discuss!**

**\* Now create your own questions**

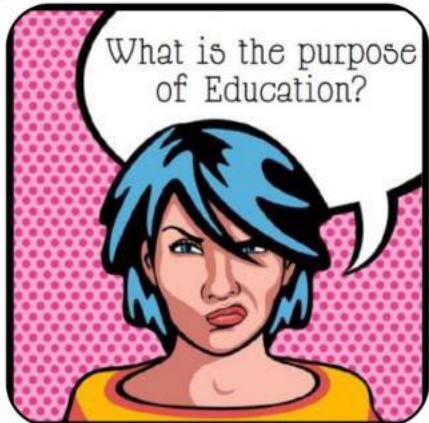
To what extent are families equal, in terms of power, housework and decision making?



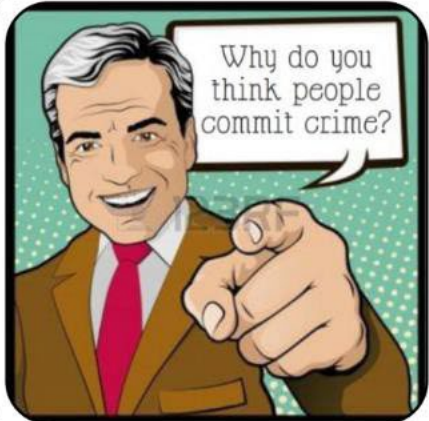
To what extent is childhood better today than it ever has been?



What is the purpose of Education?







Open with ▾

Does science make  
religion irrelevant?



Why do  
people join  
cults and  
sects?

## 2. Sociological perception



observable

Unobservable



One way of introducing Sociology is to introduce what sociologists are interested in examining .

### Over to you



You will be given a set of images. In a small group think about what the images say about society, its relationships and interactions.



Then complete the sentence  
“Sociology involves the study of ....”

**“Sociology involves  
the study of ..... “**



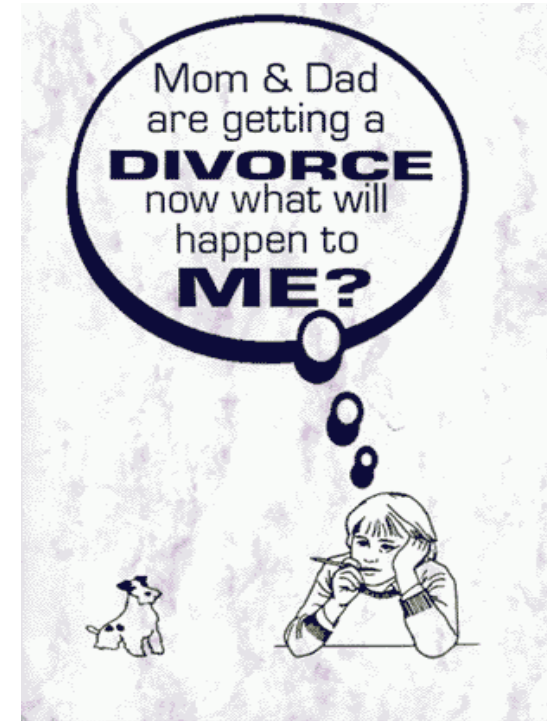


Sociology is the study of society. Sociologists are concerned about many issues and problems in society. Some of the issues and problems we investigate are shown below.

### Task

Think about what the images on this page say about society, its relationships and interactions. Then complete the sentence below on a 'splat' card.

“Sociology involves the study of ..... “





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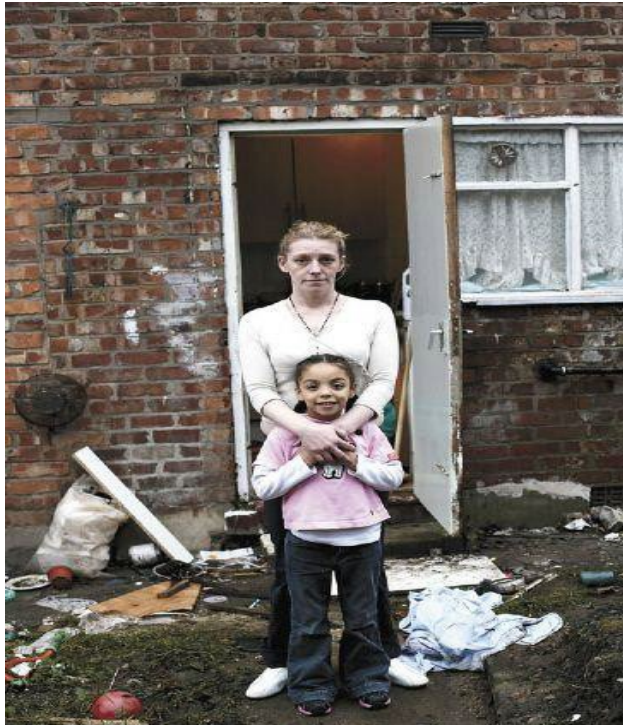
## CITY BONUSES

**4,200** City executives taking home annual bonuses of £1m or more – up 3,000 on last year

**£1.2million** the amount in savings owned by the average City executive

**£8.4billion** paid in bonuses by Goldman Sachs this year – up from £6billion last year

**10%** rise in the use of private jets in the last year





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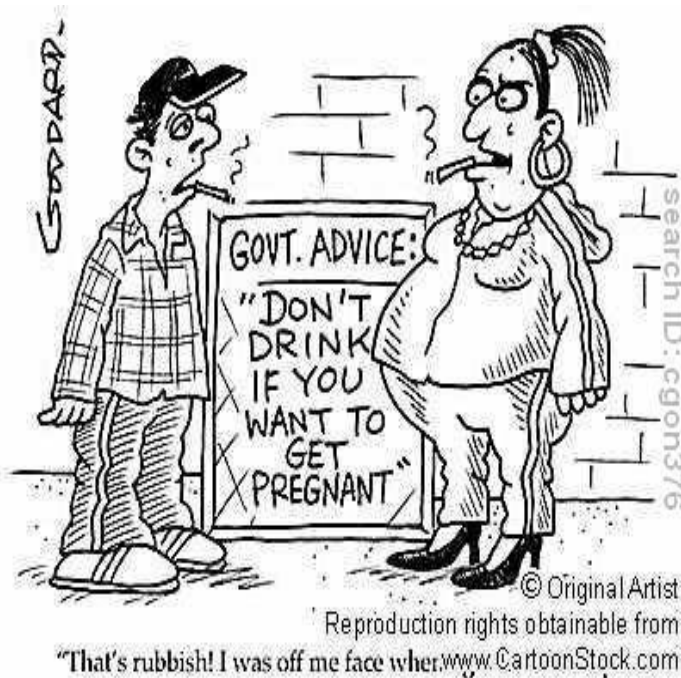


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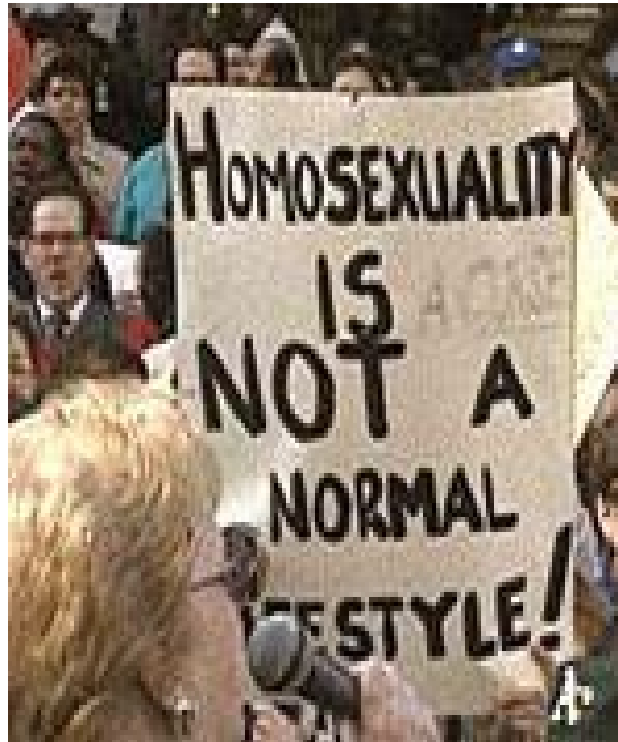
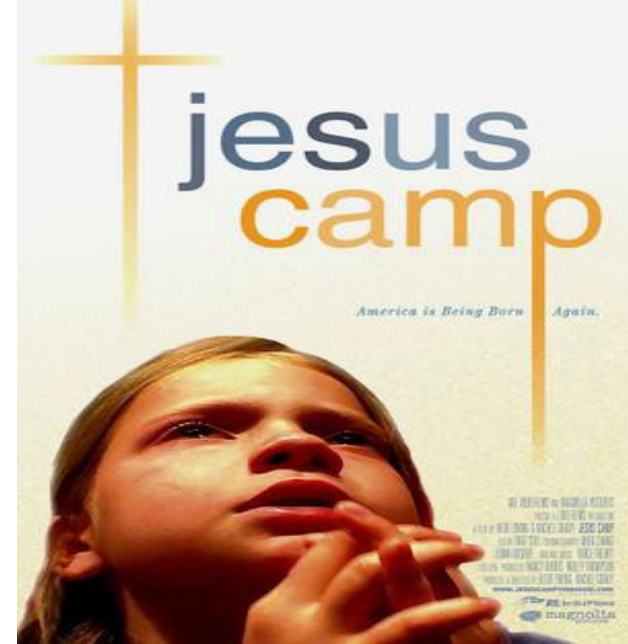


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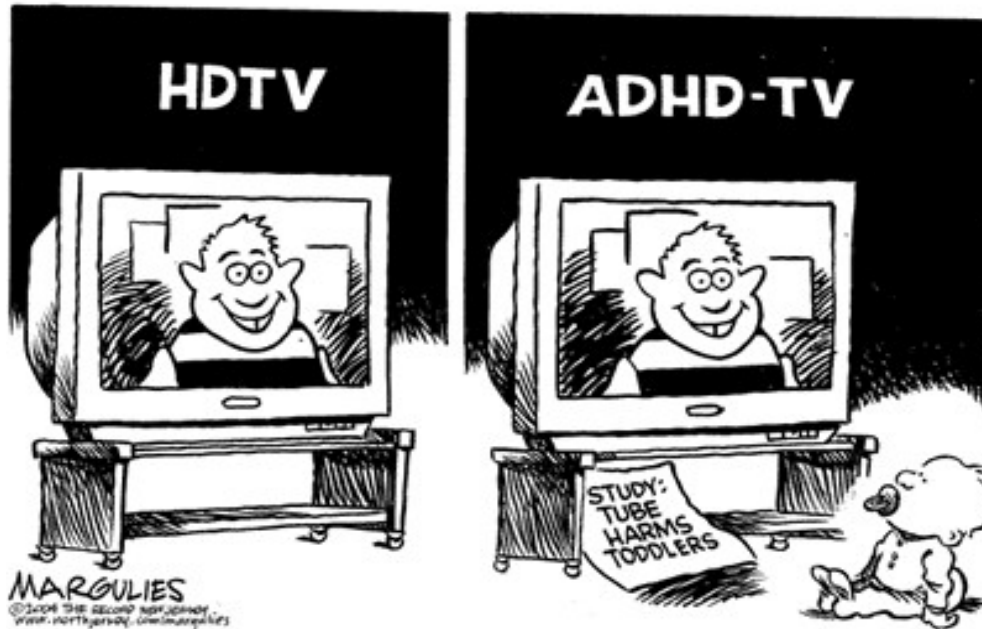


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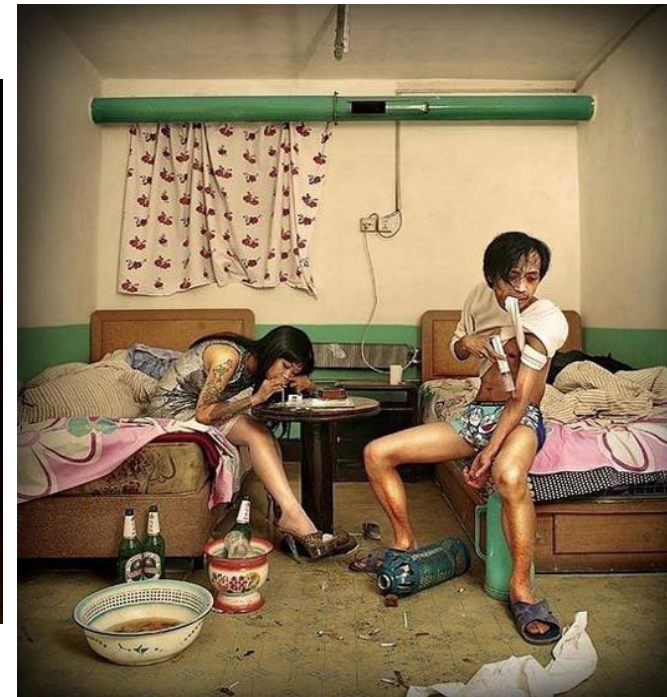


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# 3. Speaking Sociology



One way of introducing Sociology is to introduce some most influential spoken words by leading sociologists.



Unpack the meanings behind each one



**Can you create your own!**

"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance."  
- bell hooks

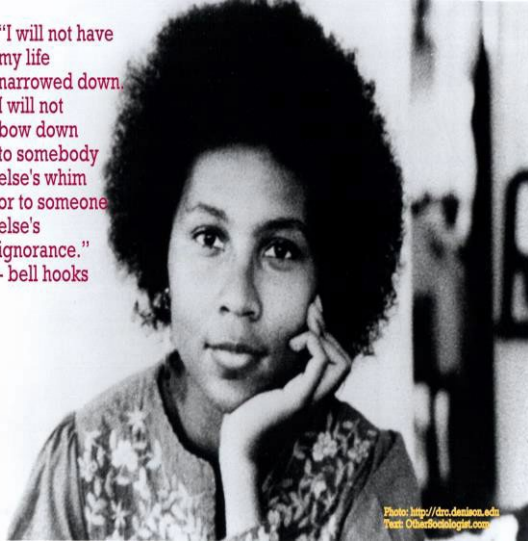
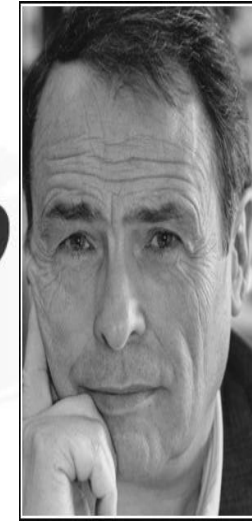


Photo: <http://lisa.daniels.edu>  
Text: [OxfordSociologist.com](http://OxfordSociologist.com)

Sociology Quotes | Applied Worldwide

# SOCIOLOGY “ QUOTES ”

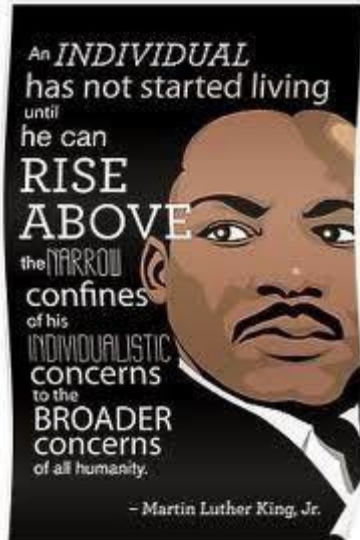
Unpack their meanings



The difficulty, in sociology, is to manage to think in a completely astonished and disconcerted way about things you thought you had always understood.

— Pierre Bourdieu —

AZ QUOTES



You can never really understand an individual unless you also understand the society, historical time period in which they live, personal troubles, and social issues

— C. Wright Mills —

AZ QUOTES



Masculine and feminine roles are not biologically fixed but socially constructed.

— Judith Butler —

AZ QUOTES

Harriet Martineau



It is hard to tell which is worse; the wide diffusion of things that are not true, or the suppression of things that are true.

# 4. Seeing society through sociological lenses



One way of introducing Sociology is to introduce some of ways society is seen differently .



Read an overview of each theory



Create an analogy or a shape that would represent that theory

Create an analogy or a shape that reflect this theory's view of society



Functional  
Functionalist

Magnificent  
Marxist



Fierce  
Feminists

Insightful  
Interactionists





# Functionalism

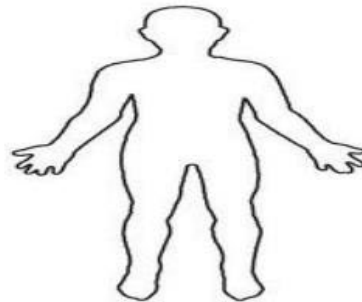
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The Sociology Guy  
thesociologyguy.com



Key Functionalists include: Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons and Robert K Merton

Functionalism is one of the '**grand narratives**' of society and the oldest attempt to understand how society might influence social behaviours

They suggest that society is structured through **norms and values** that people are socialised into. This help to develop a **value consensus**, or shared agreement on the rules of society.



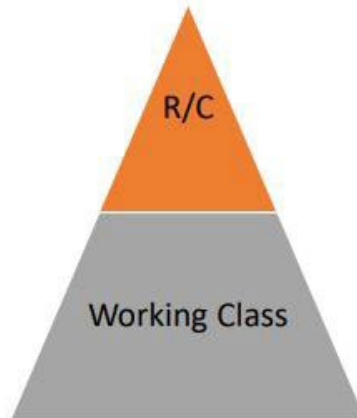
Functionalism relies upon Social institutions to perform **primary or secondary socialisation** in order to allow the next generation of society to learn the value consensus

Functionalists also suggest that these institutions provide members with functional pre-requisites, the basic needs of society, such as food and shelter

Functionalists suggest that society operates in a similar manner to the human body with each organ or institution performing vital functions.

# Marxism

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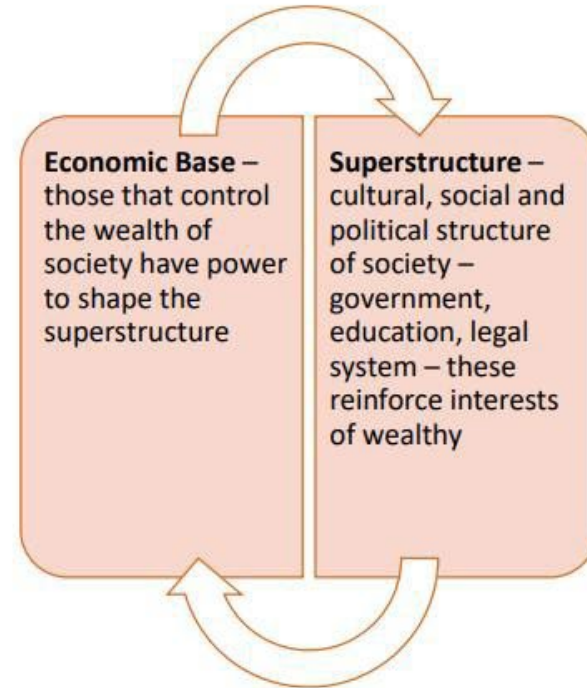
Marxism is based upon the ideas of Karl Marx. It is a structural theory that looks at the **conflict** between social classes

The Bourgeoisie owned the **means of production** (factories and machinery) which made them the **dominant class**

Marx suggested that the **infrastructure** of society was divided into two classes – the **Bourgeoisie** or ruling class and the **Proletariat** or Working class

The Proletariat only have their ability to work. This allows the Bourgeoisie to **exploit** them as they need to work to survive in a capitalist society

Marxists are critical of the organisation of capitalist society. They believe that the ruling class have a distinct **ideology** that looks to control the working classes in society. They do this in several ways.



As the Bourgeoisie control wealth they are able to control other institutions. This leads to **false class consciousness**, as the Proletariat are taught that the reason they are poor is because they are less able or don't work hard enough. Marx argued that when the workers realised this exploitation, they would **revolt** and create a **communist society**.



# Feminism

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**Harriet Martineau** is often credited as being one of the first female sociologists. Others include **Sylvia Walby** and **Anne Oakley**



Feminism is a movement to achieve the **political, social and economic equality** of the sexes. There are various branches of Feminism and there have been different waves of Feminism throughout history.

Feminism is a **conflict theory** that suggests there is a conflict between males and females as society is **patriarchal** – i.e. it is male dominated



They suggest **women are controlled by males** in all spheres of life: family, education, work, law, media and religion

**First wave Feminism** was concerned with women gaining political equality with men and culminated in the **Suffragette and Suffragist** movements of the early 1900s and led to women being given equal rights to vote



**Second wave Feminism** was concerned with women gaining social and economic equality, challenging gender stereotypes and unfair working practices – this led to legal reforms such as **Equal Pay and Sexual Discrimination** laws in the 1970s

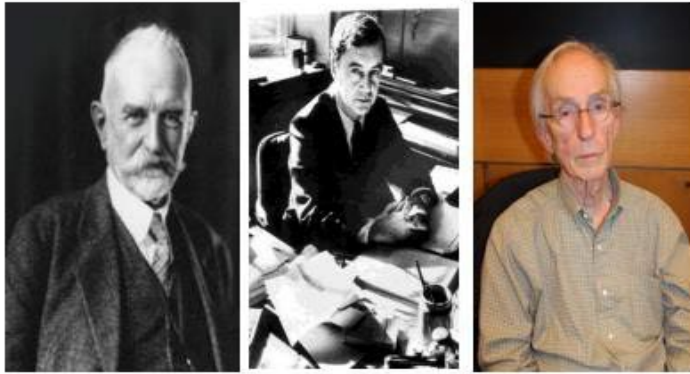
**Third wave Feminism** was concerned with tackling the inequalities that women faced everyday and also the differences between women's experiences. This movement dealt more with the **intersectionality of gender and class, ethnicity, sexuality and (dis)ability**





# Interactionism

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Key interactionist sociologists include:  
G.H. Mead, Erving Goffman and Howard Becker



Unlike structural theories, Interactionism is concerned with **social action** and how individuals **interpret their interactions** with others in society. It looks at the **self** rather than society

Becker suggested that people are **labelled** by others and that these labels are internalised by individuals and become part of a **self-fulfilling prophecy**, one that becomes true because the person labelled believes it.



In society, often people are given a **master status** because of a certain aspect of their lives. This master status, such as a thief or criminal, then over-rides all other characteristics of that person, so we see the label not the person behind it.

Goffman suggested that individuals are like actors on a stage, taking on different **roles** in different **social contexts**. This was referred to as the **Dramaturgical Model**, and suggest we have different behaviours in different social contexts and around different people.



Interactionists look at the use of **symbols, language and gestures** and argue that we learn these in order to **negotiate** living in wider society so we can understand what is expected of us in a certain situation.



# 4. Contemporary sociological explorations

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sociology

Sociology  
Research



One way of introducing Sociology is to introduce some of the ways in which Sociologists research contemporary society.



A study from each of the different units we will look at has been picked out



What is interesting about Sociological research?

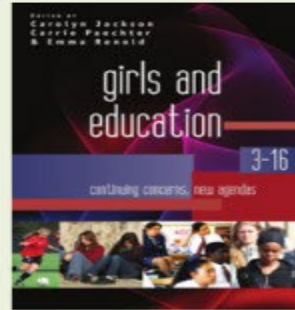
## 21<sup>st</sup> Century studies – Education (Teacher guides)

1

**Theorists:** Jackson, Paechter & Renold

**Name of study:** Girls and education 3-16: Continuing concerns, New agendas (2010)

**Outline of study:** Carried out in British schools, this research looks at some of the new agendas that girls are facing in education today. Girls are more likely to be suspended or expelled than in the past and also becoming involved in anti-social behaviours such as underage drinking and smoking. This study dispels many of the myths that the education system is now based on equality or even feminised and that in actual fact subjects and career paths remain highly gender divided.



### Focus on the method

This study used the method of unstructured interviews. In total just over 150 year 9 pupils across 6 secondary schools were interviewed. The interview technique could be considered semi-structured as there were initial starting questions for each girl but then the interviewee was able to go off track and express their views and opinions on a range of matters. The interviews particularly looked at power and knowledge relations in and between girls and how the relationships girls have with each other impacts their happiness levels.

What did we find interesting about this study

Question we would ask

How does it relate to Sociology

How would we carry it out

**Theorists:** Rushing & Powell

**Name of study:** Family Dynamics of the Stay-at-Home Father and Working Mother Relationship (2015)

**Outline of study:** Based on qualitative interviews with 20 working mothers who were with a husband who stayed at home, this research offers an interesting insight into the rather new phenomenon of househusbands. The study indicated that the family dynamic of a working mother and stay at-home father provided 'a positive parent-child relationship, enhanced parenting cohesion, and enhanced quality time'.



What did we find interesting about this study

Question we would ask

How does it relate to Sociology

How would we carry it out

2

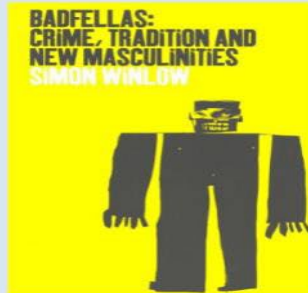


## 21<sup>st</sup> Century studies – Crime & Deviance (Teacher guides)

Theorists: Winlow

Name of study: **Badfellas: Crime, tradition and new masculinities (2001)**

Outline of study: Focusing on professional criminals and violent men, this research looks at how for some men, violence is just a way of life and in fact something that is desired. The research is conducted on nightclub bouncers in the North East of England and identifies how the masculine role of the job replaced the shipyard and factory work that disappeared in such areas. The study shows that for some males there are high levels of intrigue and excitement when there is even a possibility of violence.



### Focus on the method

This is an ethnographic form of research focussing heavily on participant observation. Being of a large build himself, Winlow applied for and became a nightclub bouncer in order to interact and build rapport with other local nightclub bouncers. This was no doubt a difficult and dangerous covert operation and Winlow found himself heavily involved in the action, he even admits that 'I did not easily adapt to this new environment and sought to flee the short distance back to the place where I knew instinctively how to act'.

3

What did we find interesting about this study

Question we would ask

How does it relate to Sociology

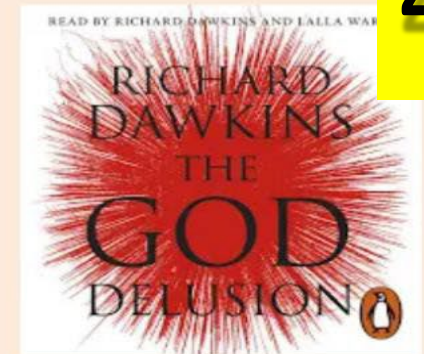
How would we carry it out

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century studies – Beliefs in society (Teacher guides)

Theorists: Dawkins

Name of study: **The God Delusion (2006)**

Outline of study: As an evolutionary theorist, Dawkins has long asserted that a belief in God is both irrational and profoundly harmful to society. His research uses a scientific angle to show how religion lacks logic and is also responsible for a large amount of worldwide suffering. In the book Dawkins constructs a 7 point scale of religiosity from 1 (those who have 100% certainty in God) to 7 (those who have 100% certainty that a God does not exist). By 2014 the book had sold 3 million copies worldwide.



4

What did we find interesting about this study

Question we would ask

How does it relate to Sociology

How would we carry it out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHPbjGvH4bg>



The UK has undergone huge social, scientific and technological change over the last 70 years - but Queen Elizabeth II has remained a constant, stabilising presence.

Take a visual journey through this incredible period of history the Queen has witnessed and been part of.

1952

2022

## The Incredible Change The Queen Has Seen



One way of introducing Sociology is to look at how sociologists inspire action



Look at the different changes the late Queen Elizabeth II has seen in the last 70 years. Many of our basic rights today / what we consider ordinary were considered wild and crazy notions in the past e.g. women at the ballot box was considered wrong, we now have a collective attitude towards expanding on women's rights



- \*How would sociologists explain some of the changes the Queen has seen (cause and impact)
- \*Can you link two events together?
- \*Do you connect to any of these eventful changes?

WE PROTEST  
SCHOOL  
SEGREGATION  
NAACP

WE PROTEST  
SCHOOL  
SEGREGATION  
NAACP



### 6. Seeing sociological impacts on societal changes

Sociologists are interested in studying both "what is" and "what changes." In this sense, social change refers to any alteration in how a society is organized. Sociologists thus seek to explain the causes and affects of these social changes.



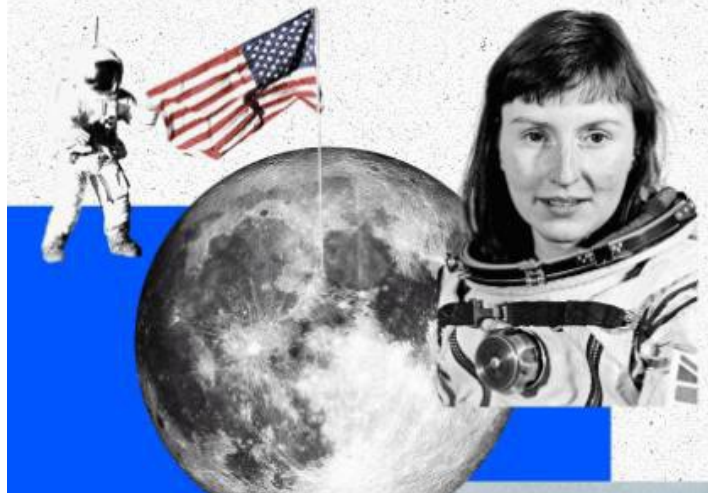




## From the dawn of the Space Age, to plans to populate Mars

The Space Age kicked off with the launch of the first space satellite, Sputnik 1, in 1957. Just over a decade later humans landed on the Moon for the first time, but the race into Space also brought challenges. The Apollo 13 mission had to be aborted in 1970 and the space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after launch in 1986.

Helen Sharman became the first British astronaut in space in 1991, while Briton Tim Peake was the first to be publicly-funded. Now, Nasa rovers continue to explore Mars and plans are afoot to populate the red planet.





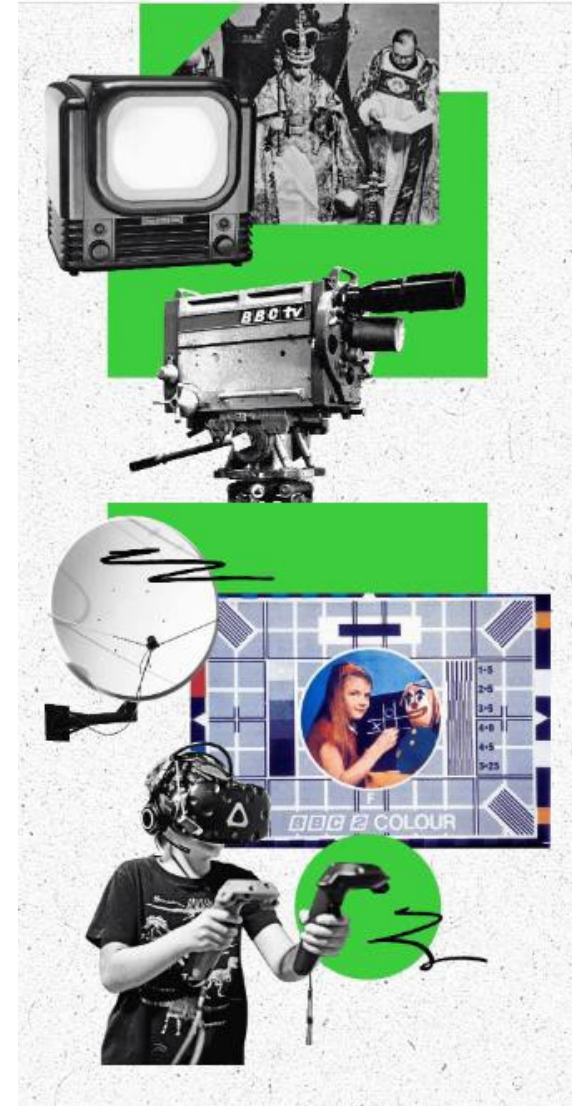
## From televisions entering homes, to virtual reality

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The 1950s saw TV sets become standard in homes and commercial channels begin to emerge. In 1953, the Queen's coronation was a national TV event, with more than 20 million people gathering to watch.

The 1960s saw the beginnings of colour TV and viewers become gripped by popular TV programmes like Doctor Who.

Cable and satellite TV arrived in the 1980s and the UK's parliament is televised for the first time. Programmes are now watched on demand and virtual reality is the new frontier.







## From the birth of rock 'n roll to music streaming

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Elvis Presley bursts onto US TV screens in 1956 as vinyl sales began to soar. In the 1960s, Beatle-mania took the world by storm, while icons Aretha Franklin, Bob Marley, David Bowie and the Sex Pistols went on to take music to new places.

Hip hop emerged from New York's Bronx district in the 1970s and the 1980s saw Madonna earn her title 'Queen of Pop'. Rave music swept the UK in the 1990s and Grime became a major British export a decade later. Music fans can now listen to any kind of music wherever they want on demand.







## From civil rights, to black lives matter

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The US outlawed segregation in schools on the basis of race in 1954 but a voting rights march in Selma, Alabama, a decade later was met with violence from authorities. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King was shot dead in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968.

Apartheid ended in South Africa in the early 1990s and Nelson Mandela was released from jail, before going on to become South African president. In the US, meanwhile, riots took place in Los Angeles over the acquittal of four police officers accused of beating African-American Rodney King.

The #blacklivesmatter hashtag was used for the first time in 2013 and has grown into a political movement, particularly after the death of African-American George Floyd, murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis.



## From Cold War, to the end of the Soviet Union

Communist East Germany began building a wall through Berlin in 1961 to stop mass defections. A year later, the Soviet Union threatened to deploy nuclear missiles to Cuba - not far from the US.

The US and Soviet Union then agreed not to increase arms, while pro-democracy movements in eastern Europe led to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The US and Russia signed another agreement and West and East Germany became reunited. The Soviet Union broke up and US President Bill Clinton and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin announced a new era in relations.

In recent years, Russia invaded Ukraine twice, bringing it in conflict with the West once again.







## From the decriminalisation of homosexuality, to same-sex marriage

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Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1967 but the gay community continued to campaign for equal rights. The Stonewall riots in 1969 in New York, in response to police harassment, galvanised gay and lesbian activists.

The Aids epidemic devastated lives in the 1980s. Thousands marched against "Section 28" and Stonewall UK was set up. A bombing at the Admiral Duncan, one of Soho's oldest gay pubs, in 1999 killed three.

The first same-sex marriage was celebrated in 2014 and the pride movement's flag was later updated to celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.







## From the dawn of the tech industry, to voice-activated devices

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Tech giants Apple and Microsoft were founded by Steve Jobs and Bill Gates in the 1970s. The work of US engineer Radia Perlman helped computers talk to each other, leading to the birth of the internet in the 1980s.

British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee then invented the world wide web in 1989, The web nurtured platforms such as eBay, Google, Wikipedia, Facebook and Twitter.

Mobile technology advanced from brick phones to smaller devices and smartphones. Voice-activated and wearable tech at home and on the move means we can now access information wherever we are.



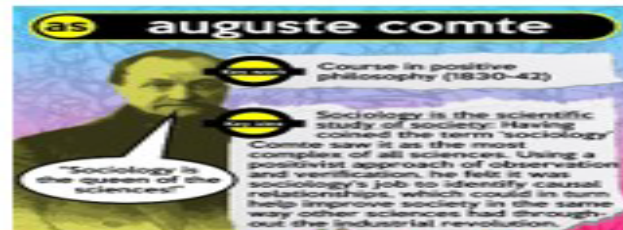


# Reflective sheet

## CCCS taster session for budding sociologists

Use the carousel activities to reflect on the following questions

- ❖ What questions might sociology help you answer?
- ❖ What topics might Sociology explore?
- ❖ What methods might Sociologist use to study society?
- ❖ What ideas might Sociology explore?
- ❖ What might Sociology help us think about?
- ❖ How might Sociology involve other subjects you may study at Coopers?
- ❖ How is Sociological thinking different (how is it different from your other A Level choices/other subjects offered at A Level)







**EVEN A GLOBAL  
PANDEMIC**



**COULDN'T STOP ME  
SOCIOLOGY**

*Graduation 2021*

THIS IS WHAT AN

**AWESOME**



**SOCIO  
LOGIST**  
LOOKS LIKE

# SOCIOLOGIST

## INFORMATION AND NUTRITIONAL FACTS

AMOUNT PER SERVING (UN)

%DAILY VALUE\*

HARDWORKING	100%
CAFFEINE	100%
PATIENCE	100%
MULTITASKING	100%
PASSION	100%
DEDICATION	100%
SLEEP	0%

\*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to success