

Social Phenomena and the Relationship of Sociology to Other Sciences

1. Introduction to Social Phenomena and Sociology

You are the reader of a sociological text. Only you know exactly why you are reading this material. But as you are, most likely you are either pondering certain social occurrences that are probably quite distressing or perplexing to you, or else dealing with a subject matter that may have become more perplexing to you because of your experiences in other fields of study or in business or government service. Thus, you might be reading this book in the hope of finding answers to puzzling questions regarding crime, discrimination, or poverty. On the other hand, you might be reading this material in order to look for a systematic framework designed to organize the knowledge you have acquired from other disciplines.

In casual interaction and in everyday life, almost everyone is frequently involved in forming explanations of others' behavior. However, such explanations are generally given in rather simplistic, lay terms. Basically, we attach labels to classes (or categories) of people who happen to behave in the same or in similar fashions. Then, we attach mental shorthand explanations to such labels. Since all of us are involved in making sense of each other's actions, the entire process is not highly conscious, and we rarely pause to evaluate the meanings or implications of our behavior.

2. Theoretical Frameworks in Sociology

Theoretical Frameworks in Sociology. The goal of the course is to introduce students to some issues of sociology. This introduction is a somewhat untraditional task for sociologists working in academic institutions. It probably has special features because of the very high percentage of intellectuals among the audience at these institutions, particularly students in the early stages of their education. The course is more advanced than introductory because the level of maturity among its students is generally high, and therefore it is possible to address the issues using a more sophisticated theoretical approach. The academic work undertaken by students to pass the course is a form of initiation into research and provides preparation for Ph.D. work. The course is, in fact, methodology.

The sociology of science can take a fresh approach to questioning existing intellectual practices by demystifying received ideas, and it can play a role in dismantling the political and social systems and power relationships that condition the definition and functioning of the dominant concepts. It can thus provide an introduction to sociology as it affects scientists and other researchers, and it can serve as an introduction in the very early stages of this activity to the methodology of scientific study. The discussion addresses the definition of science and scientists, the relationship between the sociology of sciences and the history of sciences, the relationship between epistemology and sociology, and the relationship between the sociology of sciences and other fields, particularly the history of science. Throughout the discussion, the sociology of sciences is considered a field within sociology and a paradigm and a method for sociologists.

3. Methodologies in Sociological Research

Contemporary sociologists typically use one or several common methods as well as historical methods to produce good work. They're aware that this can take practice, and they develop skills to become as good at their methods as possible. Even projects that are exclusively focused on theory production often start with data collection and analysis. The primary data gathered only serves to test refined hypotheses formed by the researchers' experience of a theory on the ground. Even then, this is rarely as straightforward as it seems. As straightforward as it might sound to go ask people questions about topics, it makes sense to ask if you could use that data to 'represent' people somewhere with the answers they give. Many sociologists use a multimethod approach where they repeatedly gather data from individuals about whom they also have social-administrative data, to perhaps show differences between work productivity and worker grades, and other related individual-level measures. Data from individuals may also be used in the studies.

To help reach these goals, there are a range of methods and tools that sociologists utilize. The relative balance might depend in part on their research goals. Many projects rely on in-depth fieldwork. Fieldwork refers to the experience of the sociologist as a primary participant and observer of a culture or a time. The aim is to immerse oneself in the situation studied so that they can observe multidimensional aspects of the time. Participant research is often combined with interviews to collect data that produce substantial qualitative information. These are vulnerable to bias, meaning that the inferences we propose based on the data might not hold. Large-scale studies are needed in addition to control variables that take into account the

non-independence of interviewers and interviewees. Statistical analysis is the usual tool used by sociologists to test research hypotheses.

4. Sociology and Anthropology: Similarities and Differences

Some may argue that sociology and anthropology are virtually the same; indeed, there are areas and subareas within both disciplines that overlap. But there are also significant distinctions. Sociology deals primarily with society. The key concept of this science is social structure, a reality that differs from individual behavior. Its object of focus is social interaction in the specific forms it takes: gestures, symbols, emotions, cooperation, and conflict. These peculiar social phenomena could not exist without primary groups, kinship, and association. The behavioral, physical, and social sciences together show that human nature as well as human society is dynamic and always in the process of making, never made.

However, society is more than social phenomena alone. For, as seen, society is more than cooperative associations that are rational rather than traditional. It encompasses the sum total of all the relationships—all the associations—that bind individuals to one another in a political and administrative whole. It includes the rules, laws, norms, and ethos that enable society to thrive and endure. Society, finally, is more than an association, a partnership, or a multiplication of each. For, as realized, society is at once individual and collective, both internalized and externalized. The study of society, then, covers a great deal of territory—in effect, all of man's social behavior, from his relationship with neighbors to his relationship with God. Yet, if we accept this view, it is clear that sociology and anthropology cannot be the same. The master key of each may unlock the other's lock, but still each has a separate lock of its own.

5. Sociology and Psychology: Interdisciplinary Connections

The close relationship between sociology and psychology is well established. Their content overlaps to some extent. It is not merely possible but highly imperative that these social sciences should be taught together in the same institution, and that the knowledge derived from the study of the institutions of society should be reflected in a study of human behavior, and in the methods used in their investigation.

Sociologists need to explain the developmental process of their subject matter, especially as it applies to society and community, while a proper understanding of psychological factors is absolutely necessary for the elucidation of that process.

People's sense and their ability to get on with one another and to get things done jointly have to be explained in terms of the right behavior pattern. Leading social psychologists are establishing the nature of the content of psychology appropriate to sociology. Its relationship should move in a U-shaped function, with some discrepancy in the center, towards a more integrated conception of human behavior theory. Others have been successful in delineating materially the overlap in content. At last, a properly coherent conception of behavior working through the institutions of society is beginning to emerge and it is far less likely that fruitful results will be achieved in any field of social behavior inquiry except through taking into account detailed data from the other fields.

6. Sociology and Economics: Intersection of Social Structures and Markets

The second important intersection of sociology and economics is in the area of social structures and markets. In addressing the problems of economic development, for example, the classical economic view that there is a direct relation between the amassing of tangible capital and the achievement of economic growth is at variance with the sociological emphasis upon the preconditions of modernization being the increasing equality of educational and employment opportunities and the increasing achievement of participation by a broader mass of the population in the decisions that shape the development process. The sociologist's interest in the social structures of market systems, which have particular abstract and specific characteristics, reveals the economies of status in which 'ladders' have value for their symbolism, regardless of what would appear from the viewpoint of purely economic value. Status markets can indeed be profitable, and, as the sociological dimension of economic behavior becomes more widely appreciated, so the widespread evasions of the profit motive will be more widely recognized. It is probable that issues of corporate power and responsibility had better also be considered from the broader, pluralistic, and indeed multicultural context, which is a basic element of sociological study and national self-examination.

7. Sociology and Political Science: Understanding Power and Governance

The scientific study of human society arises from the human motive to understand, explain, and act in relation to the social environment. The activities of large numbers of people, the influence of group life on each member, the complex ways in which individuals work together, and the interrelation of changes in societies have presented problems to be solved and opportunities for the enrichment of human life through organized investigation and a special body of knowledge that is an essential part of any college curriculum. Sociology is a unified and independent field of study. Its major questions are asked and answered differently from such other related disciplines as psychology, anthropology, history, political science, and economics. The present status of sociology as a separate discipline arises from differences that have developed both in the major theories put forth by each field and in the major concepts employed, and indeed the major questions posed by each field.

What then is the relationship of sociology to these and other neighboring fields? A few of them are obvious and somewhat simple. For example, sociology is dependent in a more formal and technical way on the logical and empirical methods of psychology and on the findings of psychological research. Anthropology provides a special subset of relationships with respect to sociology in the form of the areas of social organization, cultural change, and in general "the study of culture as the full range of human traits." Many normative theories of sociology are indistinct from ethical theory. Sociologists have much to learn from the experiences of political leaders, from the pronouncements of publicists, from the discussions of committeemen, for politics is experience incarnate. There is a strong belief in the uniqueness of sociology as compared with the so-called sister disciplines. The idea that most of the disciplines in the field have branched off from mother sociology and ought to be returned to the original organism is very frequent.

8. Sociology and History: Exploring Social Change Over Time

Sociology studies the changing aspects of life in society. In the preceding sections, we focused on social change as reflected through the study of social institutions. The concern was with exploring the dynamics of social organization within different areas of our culture: social structure, groups, and institutions. History also deals

with change, but its learning is divided into periods of the unchangeable past, which provides the foundations for those areas of social life studied by other behavioral sciences. Anthropology studies social change over very long time periods, including both extinct and contemporary societies. The changing aspects of these societies are viewed over relatively brief time periods; as a result, their past aspects are unrecognized or ignored by sociologists. Thus, because social change is too often ignored by sociologists, it is necessary to compare sociology with history in order to emphasize more clearly social life over time.

The time-continuum difference between the sociologist and the historian limits the study of change in two different ways. One difference is philosophical: sociologists have a "present-oriented" orientation, while historians have a "past-oriented" approach. Because a sociologist is interested basically in how a society is currently structured, how it functions, and therefore how it relates to his own or a contrasting society, time forms only a data "point." Sociologists concern themselves with a "sinking" present, seemingly solid and without focus because it is "ever-beginning;" thus, a historian might say that because the present is an ever-beginning stage, its limits appear indivisible. This is a major difficulty in studying social behavior within a given society. For example, it is difficult to explain why certain specific events occur, promising to bring fulfillment, which then are actually accompanied by disappointment. Such problems were relatively less difficult to explain in societies that no longer exist. Both the potential for fulfillment and disappointment have already been given a place in history.

9. Sociology and Geography: Spatial Analysis of Social Patterns

Sociology and geography together form a visual and analytic tool to understand the spatial connections across and between social groups, organizations, and institutions. Sociology brings to the study of social geography 200 years' worth of social change; physical geography offers a thorough and durably based understanding of the planet's physical structure. The similarity and co-variation of social and environmental conditions create a number of methodological and logical problems that require dedicated activist scholarship. We share many analytical and interpretive issues with the other social sciences, which incorporate the same hampering problem-solving strategies. This paper particularly focuses on the current state of geographical theory and method in the field of sociology.

The unique contribution of space and place to the social sciences' conversation about the distribution of social phenomena and the relationships between social processes must now be expanded by utilizing contemporary geographic technology to understand the most important social patterns and issues of the 21st century. Similarly, sociology must provide a social history and a context so that land use models, judicial precedents, regional plans, or any other development-flavored policy making can be produced. Mastery of interdisciplinary intellectual tools is essential. The transmission of an understanding of urban spatial relations is important because these contribute significantly to the quality of life in the urban environment.

Undergraduate social geography students, therefore, would value a course specifically geared towards such a function; and secondly, as a means of utilizing contemporary geographic technology to understand a geographically circumscribed national social and economic policy problem. An appreciation of the immediate learning perspective provides motivation for students who might, in other circumstances, be reticent to engage with sociological content from the start and enhances their understanding of the immediate relevance of the sociology major. Finally, social geography can provide students of sociology an enlarged purpose for studying the discipline.

10. Sociology and Biology: The Intersection of Society and Evolution

In the myriad ways that biology and society intersect, we see persuasive evidence of what many of us believe: that in humans, biology and society are not autonomous and mutually exclusive, but are intimately interwoven. The relations of prototype to variant, of average pattern to exceptional deviations, are more complex than the habitual dichotomy allows for. They are relations of continuous substantial variation. Within a social matrix of settlement, the morphological stature of particular human individuals may be predominantly conditioned by their endocrine situation at the time of puberty; in turn, the social matrix of settlement may condition the sexual maturation of individuals by the experience of dietary modification resulting from subsistence stress. The social matrix of settlement not only conditions individuals into characteristic structural expressions but breeds variation and polymorphism through genetic predisposition realized within social

interaction. In short, the relationship between biological evolution and social development is a reciprocal one.

Anthropologists—those of humans as well as other mammals—have increasingly attempted to resolve the artificial barrier between the activity of the scientists within. This barrier is gradually being replaced by one allowing a holographic vision of the phenomenon and the processes revealed by the combined genius of living nature and the intellectual faculties of the observing participant. The resulting complementarity is far more satisfying and enriching than the pursuit of separate or dichotomous modes would have been.

11. Sociology and Environmental Science: Social Impact on Ecological Systems

The last increase in public interest in ecological problems and the growth of environmental and worldwide movements exerted their effect on strengthening and changing scientific disciplines studying social processes, such as transformations of nature, development of territorial communities, and the use of natural resources by society. This process of strengthening and change was reflected within the already existing social sciences. The mentioned disciplines began to pay more attention to social phenomena concerning society and nature, human collectivity, and habitat. The link between society and nature was designated by different names. Interactions of the biosphere and society, unity of the natural and social systems, and the social and natural contexts are concepts and key categories, basic laws, etc.

The increasing attention to eco-sociology is connected with the general rise in interest in ecological problems. It is possible to correlate this, first of all, with the growing scientific attention in economic and sociological sciences to events and processes such as global industrial crises, population dynamics, development of territorial communities, and state policy concerning the population. All these events concern the organization and functioning of territories, groups of people living in these territories, and subjects of social organization represented by forms such as family and social groups. The categories of people, territory, and state are part of any substantial sociological theory, as well as the subject and object of its study. In this case, ecology, territorial aspects, and the territorial organization of society are very important for the functioning of social organization.

12. Sociology and Computer Science: Big Data and Social Network Analysis

While many of the early sociologists would not recognize the modern discipline of sociology as legitimate if it does not use the scientific method, and while they would also likely recognize that computers are very powerful and potentially versatile tools for conducting research, sociology is not the logical science for big data research. For big data, three principal computational algorithms are used; each of these is suitable for limited analyses on its own, but they were developed to address key limitations for the much more diverse field of computer science. The primary areas of sociological research in computer science developed out of discoveries made for utilizing computer algorithms. Network analysis is an area of research that looks at how connected the members of a population are. Are the people connected on the basis of something inherent in each of us, or in other words, are they directly connected as sources or persons who need and give support to others? For example, the people who turn to social media to reach out into the world do so at the expense of more intimate and traditional connection channels. Talking about dangerous content can prevent the escalation of antisocial behavior.

13. Sociology and Communication Studies: Media and Cultural Influence

The contributions of sociologists in the fields of communication and media studies can be found throughout the discipline's history. One of the greatest sociologists of all time contributed to the study of media communications because the early print media popularized his ideas. Contemporary sociology regards the media as an important influence in many areas of life and takes the issue very seriously. Sociologists study how cultural meaning is generated, mediated by the media and interpreted by the audience, as well as the effect that the media has on individuals and culture.

Other key areas of study are the effect of media on individuals and the social construction of reality, which focuses on the question of how media messages, statements, and images transform the world and the future, including our immediate social environment and perception. The media create perceptions and interactions through expression and affect. They are means of information, expression, and persuasion, and as such, the masses are directly or indirectly

affected by the media. Control of the media is frequently exercised by institutions representing the established political system and extending to communication research. Obviously, to criticize the media is to question society itself.

14. Sociology and Education: Socialization and Educational Systems

Establishing relationships with other social phenomena, the sociology of education has the task of revealing and analyzing the regular patterns characteristic of such relationships. Socialization begins at a very early age indeed as the young individual grows up in his family. Here the processes of socialization have two central aspects. First, the child receives the primary social learning that must occur if he is to acquire the basic culture of his society. The family, in fact, is usually referred to as the "first agent of socialization." More important than the actual learning of specifics in the family are the skills of the social role, patterns of conduct, rules of social living, and social orientations that the child receives. These are often referred to as the social elements of personality. As the child matures, he increasingly becomes aware of and responsive to these social elements. In addition to his regular contacts with parents, other members of the family, relatives, and family friends, the child soon begins to associate with age-mates. According to some authorities, these play groups provide the child with his first experiences in "significant human associations" outside the family, and thence his first experiences in the catch-as-catch-can competition for place and status in the group.

The numerous socializing influences operating on the individual culminate at the stage where he passes from childhood to adolescence. No longer a child but not yet an adult, the adolescent receives a considerable portion of his socialization from his regular experiences in school—with its subject matter, formal discipline, and informal social life. The implications of the American type of system for personality and social character are readily apparent from the typical reactions of the student. One of the more critical social problems facing most adult Americans in grouped societies is the status of the young people in the process of transition from childhood to maturity. Although these conditions make necessary a qualitative as well as a quantitative investigation of the educational process, relatively little research has been accomplished along these lines. Furthermore, the recent tendencies toward increased education and complexity are leading to what may be profound changes in the purposes and functions of the educational institution.

15. Sociology and Health Sciences: Social Determinants of Health

Population health has an endless list of determinants. For health promotion in former times, fighting epidemics or accidents were key issues during the centuries of medical and health care advances. The Alma Ata Declaration from 1978, as a global challenge, recalled the socio-ecological model and argued that health could not exclusively be explained in terms of health and medical services, but was also embedded in political, economic, social, and environmental factors. Health trends in the developed Euro-Atlantic world during the second half of the last century were accompanied by an increasing proportion of morbidity trends accounted for by adverse lifestyle choices. In the following decades, the ideology of permissiveness in health promotion, health education, or preventive and curative health care characterized individual and collective behavior aimed at recognizing health promotion as a new gold standard achieved by individual motivation and capacity to adopt what turned out to be fashionable health-promoting services or products. Biological factors and the provision of medical, diagnostic, and technical services are certainly still crucial to understanding and producing valuable and comprehensive interventions in population health.

Lifestyle expresses choices, and there are always reasons behind every individual or group choice. Although it is obvious how economic, political, and cultural differences explain disparities in the adoption of unhealthful as well as healthful lifestyles, it is attractive to compare differences in life expectancy across regions measured in terms of circumstances of life, economic regimes, ownership of health services in relation to the use of health, and finally the costs of delivering health care. The real issue is which share of population health is liable to individual health behavior, and which are instead the consequences of social processes at large. In other terms, one has to distinguish between liability on the part of individuals, groups, and different social classes according to the medical models aimed at preventing or curing diseases. If differences in population health primarily depend on different social and structural conditions altered by opportunities, rights, and relations, it is worth paying attention to health policies addressed at individual lifestyles. According to this socio-ecological model, studies on health determinants suggest that health and disease are products of a system generated by general social structures affecting all individuals, groups, and institutions within a social organization. The entire system was therefore conducive to the construction, moral

action, and formation of habits, attitudes, and adequate social networks. It provides, with respect to lifestyle, preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic resources that are easily, conveniently, and economically used and accessible to everyone.

16. Sociology and Criminology: Understanding Deviance and Crime

Deviance and criminality are common in all societies and have many causes. Any graffiti, drinking, swearing, or smoking can be seen as an apparent problem in societies. When deviance gets to the point of doing overt harm to individuals and members of society, they turn to the criminal justice system as a possible source of remedies. It is not clear the extent of the harm caused by the behavior. Crime against property is less likely to involve personal contact than is crime against the person, such as theft and robbery.

Criminology, the study of crime and crime causation, has a rich history of development, but no single, universally accepted current perspective has emerged. Core concepts are examined theoretically regarding social relationships, reinforcement of normative values, and ethical principles as they affect personal decisions and the understanding of deviance and criminality. Sociology is crucial in this. Note that it also underlines core principles of the discipline of sociology, such as the appreciation of relative values, respect for others and their cultural identities, hope and faith in the potential opportunities for social change, and interest in the powerful, influential forces that structure social life, particularly the social nature of authority, social organizations, and how these forces can be brought to bear by acts of men and women in numerous and diverse positions within the social structure.

17. Sociology and Gender Studies: Intersectionality and Social Constructs

Modern sociology has benefited immensely from the work of early women sociologists, and science has achieved success in contributing to women's rights movements and changing social beliefs and attitudes, especially in Western societies. However, the relationship between sociology and women's or gender studies is not inherently on hiatus today. Many sociologists also perform work within gender studies that is found in the interdisciplinary field. This relationship may differ between various fields and work on gender domination, often

highlighting gender segregation, feminist and realist perspectives, and similar social constructs, specifically situated as a pathway for social formation. In conclusion, these considerations have shown us that sociology and gender studies overlap, as we might consider such institutional structures. A relationship between abstract sociological and gender research is, by far, dependent on cooperation.

The new belief suggests that gender-related behavior, beliefs, and attitudes, including the relationship between feminine and masculine patterns, and feminine machinations, are transformed and socially constructed personalities in women and men, transmitted through literature, language, sexuality, fairy tales, and portrayals in the literature of the country. Despite the fact that the category of another industry is both conscious and non-atomic, its effect depends on the structure of society and the constitution of social groups. Built-in strategies related to actions concerning menstrual life and feeding determine the different situations and benefits of both symbolic and anthropological reactions to any particular matter.

18. Sociology and Race/Ethnicity Studies: Social Inequality and Identity

Race and ethnicity research is an established and distinctive field of sociological study. Of course, sociology as a discipline has always recognized race and ethnicity as an integral part of social life in the world. One of the earliest figures of sociological theory wrote extensively about race. The work of the Chicago School also highlighted race and ethnicity as a vital part of the study of society. However, those efforts are largely isolated examples rather than a wholesale specialized race research. The rise of race and ethnicity studies as an organized field of sociological study came with the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s. Since that time, race and ethnicity have been considered a major area of sociological study.

Race and ethnicity research is largely interdisciplinary. It has developed largely in interaction with other subjects, and the observation is that most researchers are associated with sociology departments. This research investigates race and ethnic groups as sociological phenomena, that is, their characteristics and distinctions, groups' interactions, social relationships, stratification, and social dynamics, the forms of racial and ethnic consciousness and mobilization for social objectives, and society's reaction to racial and ethnic characteristics through laws, organization, and

behaviors, both violent and silent. It uses the theory and methodology of sociology, but the focus allows drawing on varied literatures. Studies of race and ethnicity contribute to the central focus of sociological research, our understanding of social inequality, and to the study of identity, both social and individual. The focus on individuals, however, often interplays with the psychological literature. Researchers in race and ethnicity enrich their teaching and learning of basic concepts, theories, and methodologies of sociology through their work on topics related to race and ethnicity.

19. Sociology and Disability Studies: Social Barriers and Inclusion

Disability studies and sociology address similar concerns, extending the challenge to social barriers that are potential sources of oppression and exclusion. From the sociological standpoint, the central purpose of the paper is to consider what sociology brings to the disability-inclusive educational endeavor in higher education by drawing on undergraduate teaching in race, ethnicity, and gender, and other minority issues such as social class, religion, sexuality, and mixed ability. This paper examines revisions to include disability within undergraduate teaching.

Sociological analysis helps students grapple with complex understandings of social identity and how social relations are critical despite and because of shared socio-economic circumstances. Through connections with sociological theory—race, ethnicity, and gender, for example—students begin to build more complex understandings of social living, prompting curiosity about life. Since students in race, ethnicity, disability, and minority issues are enabling beneficiaries from altered teaching, the purpose of introducing disability into our undergraduate teaching and learning is to foster dialogue and facilitate understanding of social experience. After all, our current students are potential shapers of the inclusive societies of the future, providing students with a platform to imagine a world of alternative possibilities. Successful standardized curricula are often characterized by teaching to the test; but in 20 years, no one will remember the in-depth research they will have conducted. Yet their memories will be marked by the humanity and vibrant color that university life brings if the Learning Education Offer is transformed. We can sow the seeds for a new fertile learning opportunity, or we can maintain questionable structures.

20. Sociology and Religious Studies: Social Institutions and Belief Systems

One major contribution of sociology to the interdisciplinary study of religion is to use religious data to examine other social issues, in just the same way that religions have used the society around them to theologize. A second contribution is to draw upon particular strengths of sociology in developing comprehensive interpretations of the place of religious data in a complex world of diverse and changing culture. This chapter deals with both topics. It presents analyses illustrating how a sociological view of religion demonstrates ambiguities rather than perfection in resolving major social issues but nonetheless shows persistence in what are meaningful belief systems. Such systems are elements of well-functioning societies or are sometimes signs of malfunctions. The chapter also examines the nature of the totalitarian state, the local community, and social interaction. Finally, it analyzes specific research projects that seem to have special value for an interdisciplinary study of religion.

A source of embarrassment is that the conclusions a sociological approach to religion may derive may in fact lack excitement. The evidence may lead to relatively simple observations such as the fact that religious belief does not really help much in resolving major social issues. This is not a new observation. Yet instead of this leading to the statement that being religious is, at best, not significantly worse than being non-religious, the same data demonstrated the persistence in our society of an important belief system. It was called "civil religion." An important religious belief system was surmised as the lack of disclosure of the religious preference of recent American presidents by the mass media.

21. Sociology and Philosophy: Ethical and Moral Foundations of Society

Though when sociology first began, it was thought to be the yellow flashing light indicating a breakdown in social order. A large part of this has been due to the misuse of this science. It is true that a study of the predictive findings of sociology may warn us of strains in society that require attention and action. However, the hypothesis that the study of society leads to a breakdown of social integration is hard to prove, for so much of what sociology has to say about the relationship between individuals is only a reflection of plain and everyday common sense. True,

the conclusions derived from the use of the scientific method are more precise and allow for prediction. These results do make policy; but whether the science is used for better or for worse, a society must be grounded in beliefs strong enough to give people the courage of their convictions. Sociology, the science of social studies, deals with the origin, destruction, preservation, organization, laws, and the trends of development of society. The philosopher, on the other hand, also studies a variety of social phenomena but deals with ethical and moral questions in particular. Sociology must, therefore, obey principles of the philosophical worldview without seeking to dissimulate itself. Society is both a community of human beings and an organic whole. The human person can never subordinate himself to the State, for, by reason of his own nature, a man existed before the State, and he possesses rights prior to the State's recognition. Indeed, he retains prior rights even after being admitted into the political community.

22. Sociology and Literature: Social Themes and Cultural Narratives

Societal integration, social roles, social norms, and many other sociological concepts have been extensively studied in literature. Drama, novels, short stories, chronicles, and plays are filled with a variety of social phenomena, such as social conflict, social juxtaposition, human suffering, human spiritual integrity, and romantic relations. They help understand social problems, social apocalypse, and social solutions. Literature mirrors the indisputable fact that man brings forth his social being and reveals his personal essence only when he lives with his fellows. This book of life, like all these, throws light on the infinite disguises of our common humanity lying under all external aspects and helps understand it. Scientific literature theory became a field of research in the humanities and sociology, in particular, in this case.

Many important social phenomena have been examined in literature and described certain laws of society and human collectivity. They have tried to create theories of literature and particular literary theories that focus on the specifics at a deeper level. Literature began to take notice of societies around the world, discuss the social partnership of society and its particular elements, make social relations into social negatives, consider countryside and urban topics, see the societal life of man, and appreciate the spiritual level of man via economically and politically analytical criteria. Many authors and their novels openly commented on and interpreted society, and gave evaluations and conclusions from these topics regarding the

applicability of modern law and governmental norms and the truth behind changes whose essence lies in the regional morals of men.

23. Sociology and Fine Arts: Expression of Social Issues Through Art

The sociologist of fine or "high culture" says that it is the trilogy of principles, norms, and values inherent in it that invest the state of society in a certain state of development. These three characteristics are most frequently represented by manners and traditions rooted in culture for centuries. Even though the economic development of society is dynamic and fast-changing, it is the masterpieces of fine art, architecture, and music that represent each of the stages of development through periods of time. In the past and present ages of Western Europe, culture and the arts, it was found to be a clear link between the state of the economy and the construction of the manors into a great art. An example is the artistic style rococo from the end of the 18th century, based on the palace interior in which the leading classic motif was replaced by decorative ornaments of love. It is for love that the kings promoted the theme of verse in this area to the royal palace. The same type occurred during the rapid growth of the public sector in the 1950s and 60s in the United States when murals were created not only for galleries but also to decorate new public buildings. These murals were made to possess an educational role in the future.

Although art has a high degree of universality of the human condition and the manner of representation, artistic styles have a tendency to create a state of society that enhances their dominance. Medium and long-term financial strength and political power of the social elite have a robust economy that supports the formal development and execution of new art that will resonate in a generation. For such reasons, strong and diverse modernist art appeared next to domestic objects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when the country was in its early peak production development and the children concluded a successful war.

24. Sociology and Business Studies: Organizational Behavior and Structures

The teaching of courses concerning society and its large social institutions has been integrated increasingly into those institutions, including businesses and

governmental units. The result is that now sociologists instruct a substantial number of individuals working in the businesses and governmental units that provide socialization, maintenance, and criticism of increasingly consciousness-heightened organizations. Contemporary sociologists conduct research and achieve instructional objectives on a large scale in and about business and government. Social research seems to be influenced increasingly by the characteristics of the institutional settings in which individuals work in one of the specialized professional areas, having become infused with psychological, sociological, anthropological, and mathematical skills and bodies of knowledge.

A similar infusion process is occurring in sociology. As a case in point, the relationship between sociology and business studies, concerning business and large social organizations, is characterized repeatedly by a two-fold eclipse. First, business studies disciplines have come to have, and to make, much more substantial offerings concerning social behavior than sociology does. Roughly speaking, business studies are generally considered to deal with practical problems. Thus, business studies logically have made many contributions to our understanding of social behavior. Second, both university students of business and, to a lesser degree, business labor force members, most of the time have approached sociology as a body of knowledge useful for finding solutions to business problems.

25. Sociology and Engineering: Technology and Social Impact

To provide the technological base that underwrites engineering practice, engineering education needs a foundation in the natural sciences. The engineer must, of course, also have a corresponding awareness of the social context of the technical problem at hand and an appreciation of the political, economic, and social systems within which technical decisions find their setting. Prudence in the exploitation of technological capabilities calls for considerable insight into the behavioral and social sciences and a receptivity to advice on sociological systems. It has been suggested that humans are more dependent upon tools than are lower animals. Certainly, humans are the tool-making animals par excellence. Indeed, some have held that even socially organized cooperation is itself the product of technology; it has even been said that social relations may be truly sociological only when a technique has been developed to the point where the mode of production ceases to be an independent variable. An adequate technology releases cultural

enterprises that do work, achieve complexly patterned results, free energy, and give people fledged power.

Lest the unbounded promise of technology, unrestricted by any social criterion, beget an "electronics revolution" that only deepens the dilemma of the Third World, social science must be concerned with the development of sociodemocratic force and its use. It might even be argued that it should not only aim to change norms of performance and conceptualize an incremental relationship between technology and underdevelopment but also seek to institutionalize certain values, like diversity of culture, or "constructive non-use" of discoveries as a principle of environmental safety.

26. Sociology and Law: Legal Systems and Social Order

To whatever stage a society may have advanced, the safety and security of the individual, his property, and his loved ones must be its first duty, and the administration of justice must be its primary function. Sociologically, the simplest requirement for the growth of social solidarity is that in disputes over claims, the parties involved should settle their quarrels instead of using force against each other. The administration of justice is, in fact, nothing but organized force: force not to be used by private citizens but by the state, in the interest of social order, against individuals acting contrary to accepted mores or, at least, against decisions to be pronounced in the name of such mores. This social order can neither remain in being, nor indeed be created, without penalties for misconduct, be they the criminal type or the damages of private law, which operate as a deterrent upon individuals' behavior, by rendering it dangerous for them to act in conflict with social norms.

The listed means of coercion available to the community are called 'legal sanction,' and it is in the existence and maintenance of such sanctions that the value of the law and the existence of legal norms are exclusively put. This is true, again, whether one looks at the problem from the point of view of the sociology of the administration of justice or from that of the sociology of norms, and it is not contradicted by numerous observations pointing to the mountains of difficulties experienced by national and international courts and tribunals in obtaining, in fact, the enforcement of their decisions. Legal decisions need to be enforced. The state's monopoly of the means of violence is particularly visible in the field of criminal law. If, instead of delinquents in the dock, one could get the judges and the prosecutors sentenced for illegal action, we would no longer hear of limitations on the exercise of criminal law,

as we do not hear of limitations on the exercise of the administrative, fiscal, and any other kind of noncriminal law.

27. Sociology and Architecture: Urban Planning and Social Spaces

Despite the close relationship of architecture to sociology, the evolution of modern architecture is moving it increasingly away from any direct connection with sociology. Sociology reveals specific social demands to architects and builders only indirectly, by helping to explain the change or stagnation on a particular path in a particular design. It does not establish direct dependence of architectural forms on social phenomena, as it has done in the past with so many other social affairs. However, this is not to say that trends in social thought with respect to the aspirations of the masses, the quality of life, the problems of "creative leisure," and the like are indifferent to architects and city planners. Whatever the agenda of the new sociological movement, the practice of erecting homes and the use of physical structures by the people determine the nature of the social habits, values, and ideas of a particular period, and they, in turn, underlie the choice of architectural project subject.

Any social attitude to questions of the household and city planning tends to make architects take into account the biological capacity for work and leisure, thereby abandoning the principle of maldistribution of housing and labor; it tends to demand buildings united into single ensembles which include integrated prospects of free space and art into these urban and rural housing projects; it does not consider it possible to erect houses according to prescriptions which destroy individual, family, and ethnic traditions within urban construction; and, finally, it gives priority to new shopping and cultural complexes over grandiose governmental and administrative buildings. In summary, the sociological movement in little things and great acts as a restraining influence on architectural endeavors and figures in as the cardinal consideration in celebrating architectural and cultural development. Consultations between municipal architects, engineers, and economists are becoming more frequent in large construction undertakings today, and this is no accident. In the Western countries, it has been a fairly common practice for government and large industrial concerns to consult with engineers, psychologists, sociologists, and artists prior to erecting any building, hoping thereby to avoid many consequences of urban anarchy.

28. Sociology and Linguistics: Language and Social Identity

Sociology and Linguistics

Language is closely related to sociology. The social content of language is significant—vanishing and new words are like fossils from the strata of social life. Speech itself serves as a means for establishing links among people for their cultural development. All forms of communication among people, from animal sounds to the most delicate nuances of radio and television, and all forms of oral and written language are directly connected to their everyday existence and their relationships with their environment and with human society.

Approaches highlighting the social character of language go back to antiquity and include medieval philosophy and then early modern philosophy. However, the development of the sociology of language is a recent phenomenon. The famous Swiss linguist created a new trend in linguistics which provided an opportunity to study the sociolinguistics of present day. Marvelous as it may seem, the attitude toward the problem of linguistic phenomena's social nature has hardly been historically faceted with respect to actual sociolinguistics. The latter still long remained part of sociolinguistics' future awaiting realization.

The perspectives of different versions of language have been reflected in the approach to the problem of considering linguistic phenomena from the social point of view. Despite the fact that linguistic sociologists broadly understood the importance of these phenomena, the first attempts to analyze them remained sporadic. Nor did the issue of language transform along with the shift towards the investigation of social problems in the field of sociolinguistics. The notions underlying the way of thinking in any field of science are a part of that particular area. However, it has far-reaching applications beyond it too. The theory of language and the image of the world represent two facets of the same human universals since they are ontologically incorporated in any form of human science. It may be safely said that no single research issue can be fruitfully studied in isolation. That is why the meaning and truth of a certain text can be elucidated only by any given science, starting from the specific approach of textual structure interpretation, and by understanding universal, humanistic components.

29. Sociology and Mathematics: Quantitative Analysis in Social Sciences

No one can really understand the work of Karl Marx who is totally ignorant of mathematics. If you apply some slightly altered maxims to the study of the social sciences, you do not have to be a Marxist to believe that it is largely through capitalism that the social structure of countries will change. If you accept the teachings of the historians of civilizations, you know that next to the technical side of production, the structure of the family will play the leading role and that its modifications cannot be studied profitably unless we know with precision the proportions of the families of elderly couples and orphan children. The same thing should be evident for the study of migration movements and social structures. All these studies call for important knowledge of mathematics and statistics. They also demonstrate to intelligent people looking for graduate courses that good trainers are extremely rare in these fields. As a result, Mr. and Miss Intelligent Student prefer other studies. It is for this reason I beg all young people who are good in mathematics to multiply; and be assured that they will never be able to refuse help to their companions who, in the course of their social training, may meet problems that will require a certain mathematical knowledge.

Even in political economy, nearly all our understandings with the best of the nationalities have confessed to us that none have refused the services that we thought it well to render them in their research by the indispensable mathematical techniques, which form the basis today of all sciences. They know that under the names of mathematical analysis and calculus, far from mystifying the search for truth, far from numbing the scientific spirit, they obtain results that are extremely penetrating and of high interest. According to the point of view of what they are especially employed in, they allow for the study of laws, which is especially interesting and inspiring. But for the social sciences, students (including already trained social leaders), the plea is nearly the same and the examples that we can take in support of these pleas are numerous and convincing. It is, however, extremely rare that there is any response, that some of the most educated social leaders devote themselves to this study which, in return, necessarily precedes all the others. It is also necessary to bear in mind that for the leader, no matter what might be the nature of his talents, the fact that he bases all his decisions on a small number of figures necessarily produces in the people he governs the concern that they are dealt with as being simple numbers or cogs of the machine, beings about

whom one forgets that it is through them that the entire social system has been, is, and will be, no doubt modified. More especially for us in France, there are probably few countries in the world where absolute equality is as fully granted as in our own country.

30. Sociology and Statistics: Data Interpretation and Analysis

First and foremost, you must realize, if you have not already realized, that over and above the purely statistical value of results, you must have a clear idea of the trend they reflect. For instance, the increased number of workmen's accidents and, in general, the constant growth of indicators reflecting unfavorable working conditions are negative symptoms. The increase in the budget of social services in relation to social expenditures is already a positive symptom, particularly if we see in our country a virtually constant relative economic improvement. In the latter case, the worsening of statistics only means one thing: symptomatic of the growth of social needs, social expenditure has become insufficient to satisfy them, allegedly due to the considerable slowing in economic growth. On the other hand, if in a period of sharp economic expansion social expenditure grows slower than income, then we have both a relative and absolute deterioration in the welfare level. If at the same time one or more indicators of unequal income distribution also show worsening, then it would take an austere, genuine economic and social policy to eliminate the poverty that is beginning to show up.

Not only statistics methods of interpretation. As we have seen, they only elicit information. Whether the increase in the unemployment coefficient worries me, or instead makes me glad, also depends on the image I have of the entire production system. Whether the increase in the isolation of old people makes me sad or not depends not so much on the objective life expectancy of an older person as on my impression, and hopefully on the old person's realization of the quality of their life in society—whether it is useful, satisfying from the human point of view, etc.—on the conviction or basic thought that developed, dynamic, and modern society is. We often feel profoundly sorry for the always-preoccupied, often forgotten children of modern welfare, as we often feel profoundly sorry for the mother who, chased by the demon of commodities, has no time to spend with her children. The phenomena they analyze show that the problem persists even if more visible aspects of it are alleviated. What is really happening? Social life, affected and created in its form and

aspects by the human activity of all those who partake in it, is characterized by a dialectic over the years. In this dialectic, one party is formed by changes, by those who induce change or those who foresee and prepare change. The other party is made up of those who resist change, the so-called victims of change (and, by now, they are almost always the protagonists in the growing armies of demonstrators of social protest). What is the dialectic of change?

31. Sociology and Philosophy of Science: Epistemological Foundations

What distinguishes sociology from other social sciences is not the subject matter itself, but the unique set of principles and procedures employed in its analysis. As originally conceived, it was designed as a master social science rather than a mere collection of theories and methods. Sociology was to serve as the logical and methodological guide to social action. This chapter reviews the epistemological links uniting sociology with other scientific disciplines. Sociology is perceptibly more than a collection of techniques designed to process data about social phenomena. It is also a collection of general principles, notions, concepts, methods, and theories joining all knowledge devoted to man and society in a single coherent framework.

The original conceptions of early sociologists are particularly explicit about the scope and reach of sociology, simultaneously invalidating a number of preconceptions that have been widely accepted. The institutional and geographic dimensions lead more than a few sociologists to entertain an impressionistic, truncated vision of sociology as a science of limited scope.

32. Sociology and Critical Theory: Deconstructing Power and Ideology

Today, we know we are far from the hoped-for emancipation from human fears and misery. How to describe this world powerfully is no easy matter, and how to interpret and criticize it effectively is even more of a challenge. A favorite term for interpretive and critical sociology is "critical theory." This approach serves not only as an epitome of sociology's possibilities but also as a vanguard of social criticism. Critical theory has a long history in sociology. One thinks of various thinkers who have made it their business to unmask the shallowness, falseness, and exploitation

of modernism. They wanted human society to realize, as well as possible, its ideal potential.

Social analyses do not claim to be particularly scientific. They are neither built on explicit methodologies nor do they culminate in quantifiable findings. Critical sociologists invoke political values—liberty, equality, rational autonomy, and self-realization—as the most truthful norms for the society in which we live. Social situations must support active human beings. The social world, they argue, can continually be reconstructed in the light of accumulated experience conveyed by social scientific insights. The task of critical theory is to facilitate human emancipation. It has a dual aim. Firstly, this approach intends to provide a subtle account of the existing social world, a complex structure of forces that often appear to express human creativity. Since all erstwhile or current social structures embody contingency, some sort of relative autonomy from the human mind, they must be "de-naturalized" and "re-impregnated" with reason and morality.

33. Sociology and Postcolonial Studies: Decolonizing Knowledge and Perspectives

From the depictions of the "noble savage" to the construction of colonized people as inferior beings and problems for the colonizers to solutions in need of resolution via the civilizing mission, post-Enlightenment Europe defined itself (and modernization) through the narrative of progression, the primitive versus the modern, the incomplete versus the complete, and group uniqueness through cultural accomplishments. By defining for themselves what the characteristics of a civilized society were, European cosmologies defined themselves against static, primitive, incomplete societies—characteristics that allowed them to easily create and enforce the praxis of colonial hierarchies. Due to this construction, the methods for knowing which these people utilized were not recognized as legitimate inquiry or knowledge capable of global interpretation, application, and significance.

The violent colonial encounters and relations produced knowledge that continued to maintain the legibility of the colonial Other. A particular—and specific—knowledge was generated; a knowledge not based on logical reasoning processes that involved commensurate understanding but one rooted firmly in the colonialist structures of what counted as valid questions, how a response should be generated, and most importantly what the outcome of that response should look like. Colonial

knowledge production was not geared towards creating nuanced and deeper understandings of the native people but rather it wanted to create knowledge that was limited in scope even as it retained the capacity to aid the colonial project. What endured could either help maintain colonial structures, create an obedient labor force, or create demands for goods and services from the metropole, thereby maintaining the economic interest of the colonizing nation.

It is through these colonial ontologies (re)presented through the colonial gaze that the West viewed the colonized and then knew them through performance. Throughout the colonial period, people from the metropolis told stories, wrote accounts, painted pictures, and took photographs of the "less civilized," which then allowed others from the metropolis to make judgments, decisions, legislations, and policies, and then conducted research based upon the effects colonial activity had upon national and among colonial subjects—always guided by the center. Postcolonial scholars infer that colonial ontologies and performed subjectivities still maintain a significant presence in the present form despite population transformation in the postcolonial era, from colonizers to one of the most criticized ethnocentric and logocentric works, sociology. For postcolonial scholars, sociology is guilty of reproducing imperial practices through the spreading of concepts and methods grounded in metropolitan conditions which are then derived standards of universal applicability.

34. Sociology and Global Studies: Transnational Social Issues

Sociology and Global Studies provide the view that many sociologists are developing, and that sociology should associate more with other sciences, and that it should have special philosophical characteristics. Theory and methodology are presented in an associated way in spite of attempts to respect the distinction between them. In spite of efforts for its renewal, sociology remains weak. In the times of globalization, for the specific perspective and tools of sociology, in the social sciences it is excessive because current sociology is out of date and undifferentiated on many occasions. In the lessons, training in social sciences at a general level reveals to be sterile for students and also for teachers.

Great importance is given to fundamental and historical social issues, to the scientific analysis of national social reality and at the world level. We intend to show

that sociology gives a specific scientific contribution, as do all the other specialized sciences, that its dialogue with the other sciences also allows an approach in a more general form, and that as a result, it consorts with global studies that are coming back. Thus, matters of sociology and global studies are able to develop careful attention to the global aspects of contemporary social activities and processes. By formulating appropriate objectives and methods, dealing with criteria and results, and trying also to elaborate specific techniques for the study of phenomena, it can make a contribution of great scientific interest. Sociology can sample and represent the main topics, specifically, today, their global aspects: socioeconomic; political institutions and processes; cultural modifications and developments; relations between endogenous processes and global waves; public opinion.

35. Sociology and Urban Studies: Cities as Social Laboratories

The rise of sociology as a distinct discipline in the middle of the 19th century led to concerns about the relationships of sociology as a science to the other sciences studying other kinds of phenomena. This quarrel over the position of sociology in the scheme of sciences still continues. In particular, from the very emergence of sociology as a special discipline, the question of the character and bonds of inherent connectedness of sociology and geography received increasing attention. However, it should be admitted that these questions gained precision and clarity in the 20th century, especially in its second half.

Sociology consumes data from other sciences, enriching them through sociological reconstructions. There are main and diverse forms of interactions between sociology and geosciences connected with the analysis of land and urban space in particular. Along with supra-disciplinary cognitive and methodological problems, the growing connections of sociology with certain individual geosciences should be discussed. Geographical sociology combines the achievements from the theoretical legacy and broad possibilities of efficiently cognizing and explaining social phenomena. Sociological space appears as more than an environment of society. Rather, it is a clearly structured social network and a condition of social reproduction, the macro-social synthesis created by the interaction of subjective and objective human functions.

36. Sociology and Rural Studies: Social Dynamics in Non-Urban Areas

A great number of societies in the world today still have rural characteristics as part of their structure or organization despite the current rapid urban growth rate of the world population. In sub-Saharan Africa, 65–70% of the population still dwells in rural areas. Rural people are a strong majority of the global population, despite most being under the poverty line. The reality is that rural society is not all bad; it possesses many dynamic attributes worthy of attention. In this chapter, accounts of social phenomena that occur in rural society are reported. Urban sociology might not define rural society as its domain, foregrounding other issues that are perceived to have more glaring or immediate impacts on society and on the state of well-being of the millions that dwell in urban areas. Even so, every facet of urban life has an agrarian aspect. Urban food production, new village mega projects, and urban citizens who take farming as a hobby—some of the new associations between the city and the countryside today—were previously alien associations.

The growth of rural sociology in the USA and the participation of rural sociology associations from other countries testify to a growing body of research underway. The growth of global networks of rural communities and the simultaneous growth of the rural research area should stimulate further growth. Regional historians have collected and published a wealth of information that has changed the way rural social phenomena are viewed. Through historical processes, the analyses have achieved insights to understand the phenomenon today regarding the relationships of collective group interests with the dominance of capital accumulation in large economic units. Users of scientific rural research can now access studies of livestock with lifespan modeling as in farm studies. The sociology of rural righteousness with reference to land use has been studied and clearly accounts for why social rights and not market interactions explain human behavior. Each of the specialist disciplinary academies within the broad subject makes important contributions. Such approaches would not be efficient, and it defeats the purpose of interdisciplinary analysis to pit one scientific academy against another. Making scientific connections to relate research described to other central agrarian phenomena and agricultural science research, the chapter merges empirical information from rural sociology with pertinent theoretical constructs from other social science disciplines.

37. Sociology and Public Policy: Evidence-Based Decision Making

Today, there is an emphasis on evidence-based decision-making and the use of research to make important choices that affect people's lives. This topic looks at how sociology can help meet this challenge, providing several examples where sociological research has had a profound impact on economic, social, and political policies. Social Policy and Society holds a special place in sociology. Social policies and programs were created as an outgrowth of sociological research, helping translate sociological insights into real-world interventions that serve larger public goods. The ability to solve common problems, like social inequality or social disorder, leads some to classify sociology—along with medicine and engineering—among the problem-solving professions. But as we all know, not everyone interprets or uses sociological findings in the same way. There also exists the issue of applying special knowledge to a general problem without thereby becoming a specialized subject and losing the general perspectives that alone are capable of accessing social phenomena as a whole. Any time sociology is hijacked or forgotten in this process, it has profound negative implications for society. Failing to consider sociological knowledge not only slows positive social change but can also result in making societal issues worse over time.

38. Sociology and International Relations: Social Factors in Global Diplomacy

The place of sociology is not confined to a specific scientific framework or to any type of institutional approach. The idea of sociology is determined by the state of international relations. As long as these relations are different from those that people know only within the existing national states, sociology cannot be limited in its application. The forms and methods used by its principles justify the scope of their applications. The institutions created by international relations are today far beyond national institutions. The individual today is no longer physically and morally integrated into the national state and its manifestations. From all these points of view, it can be said that sociology has applications other than those that are still assigned. The proof is that, from the first functions of social life, there is no one who does not contribute to the state of international relations. In any form of social life, there is a creation of a law to govern individual behavior. Each form of

social life is a point of conflict and arbitration of interest. The state itself has its roots and uses everywhere in the existing forms of social life. Only a state that is the most harmoniously universal, spreading these forms throughout the territory of the country, is one of those which directly or indirectly influences other states. The phenomenon of foreign policy toward other nations, in the end, is the generalization and rationalization of all the vital social processes that we see multiplied today around us. There is no social order that the same principles do not inform and - even better - that does not pacify some kinds of relationships between groups, classes, or categories. Thus, international relations are not a result of the state, but actually only one effect of social life. Social phenomena are the first elements of the analysis of international relations.

39. Sociology and Conflict Studies: Understanding Social Conflicts

We are using "conflict" in the wide connotation which includes all kinds of struggles. Following, therefore, is a brief consideration of some elementary components of sociology as these are pertinent to social conflict either directly or at least in an indirect way. It should be made clear that sociology is concerned essentially with social phenomena insofar as these are always the result of human correlation. If we were to define sociology in a very broad sense as a study of the factors conditioning human correlation, conditions, processes, and results would readily fall into five fields: (i) socio-psychology -- factors conditioning individual human actions which become significant for social phenomena; (ii) micro-sociology -- actual forms of human correlation; (iii) macro-sociology -- aggregate social structures; (iv) static sociology relating to conditions of the social state at any moment; (v) dynamic sociology -- laws governing change in the social state.

On the physical field, the field itself does not possess purposefulness and reflection; in democracy, as we have seen, the social resultants of conflicting drives appear in the field itself under the sign of purposefulness; in market economy, the conflictual interpretative framework consists of money exchange. There are three main classes of results of social conflict: the direct and immediate ones of any social group; the direct and mediate ones of each and every member of a conflicting society; it is a matter of degree and fact which of the two groups of results are considered of greater importance from the point of view of the conflict appraiser; if the action is evaluated from the point of view of the conflicting society, the individual may be

looked upon as a hero or a criminal. The sociological theory of knowledge would very surely shed some not-too-faint and not-too-strange light on the general strategies of thought, the changing modes of understanding, and semantic results of social conflicts.

40. Sociology and Development Studies: Social Progress and Inequality

Development studies has been from the start an interdisciplinary field, and an understanding of development challenges, policies, and practices can benefit from a wide range of disciplines. Especially in the last decade, the sociology of development has been very active and has produced significant empirical and conceptual works. The likely close associations between these disciplines are, however, not sufficiently understood. Most scholars are able to establish what kind of supplemental perspective development studies can get from sociology, or which enhancing opportunities are in it for sociologists when development becomes their focus. This mutual interaction is largely unproblematic because the meanings of development change with levels of psychological, economic, scientific, and political means used in order to reach this goal; it invites an interdisciplinary approach. A single discipline cannot find a solution for the wealth of development issues and problems.

Both as an academic discipline and a school of government, the focus of development studies seems especially near to sociology due to the following reasons. First, development studies refer to both advanced societies and societies in the process of change. Accordingly, they investigate a variety of questions related to processes of change, stability, regional integration, and political identities and national development. All these fields studied involve a particular interest in observing problems of growth and development at various aggregation levels – they can be worldwide, regional, or concerning the world as a whole – and for distinct kinds of elements, such as cultures, value systems, political institutions, educational, economic, or religious factors. Other social phenomena, such as participatory democracy, poverty, cross-border financial transactions, organized crime, violence, sexual behavior, diseases, environmental destruction, urbanization, and terror threats are also analyzed intensively with a pronounced orientation towards the concept of development. Second, though most social sciences do not deal much with advanced societies as a main focus of their work, their origins are mostly in older disciplines that concentrate on studying modern, complex societies, characterized

by high levels of economic interdependence and integration and high dependence of people on resources. These older disciplines exist in opposition to the newer ones that were formed as a result of a more recent independent existence in other kinds of societies.

Identified main disciplines engaged in studying modern societies and prospected anticipations from newer sciences. They predicted that mathematics, physics, and biology, as well as a specialized sociology constrained by the frame of understanding behavior of individuals, would have practical purposes in engineering, economics, and medicine. Anthropology, ethnology, geography, history, jurisprudence, linguistics, psychology, and ideology would also provide disciplines of professional activity related to these new social problems. These fields of knowledge, both as disciplines and as supporting sciences, offer procedures and research methods suited for developing population policy, policies for health and productivity, protection law, and language education. However, these exhaust all the knowledge required for fully understanding social phenomena and social change.

41. Sociology and Peace Studies: Social Justice and Conflict Resolution

Of primary concern to those involved in studying or attempting to secure world peace is the concept of social justice. It becomes necessary at this juncture to investigate our legitimating assumptions about man, his behavior, and the appropriateness of our social arrangements. We claim that sociology is a science with an abiding interest in the solution of these problems of applied ethics. In the area of peace studies and in the promotion of social justice, sociology can make an especially significant contribution. The arresting integration of world capabilities for destruction presents unprecedented challenges. If man fails to meet these challenges, he may well be the first of God's creatures intelligent enough to see that he was going to die but unable to become transformed enough to prevent his own death.

Moralists have not failed to assert that peace and social justice are currently fragile. Such thinkers have sought to develop plans for a world order that will be able to prevent the outbreak of war by abolishing the very instabilities in the structure of the social world that could impart a war-promoting quality to the interrelationship of states. In this connection arises the putative contribution that sociologists can and

certainly ought to make, namely, that of identifying the social sources of international conflict. Only when we understand these forces can we forge an appropriate plan. The detailed study of these forces comes within the scope of social science, and what will emerge will be the construction of a dialectical theory of sociology with reference to processes of international relations.

42. Sociology and Media Studies: Social Media and Information Sharing

A growing body of research is concerned with the effects that media consumption, now mostly dominated by digital and especially mobile sources, has on our lives. Here, we explore some ways that practices associated with social media use intersect with, and shed light on, core sociological issues related to the process of individual meaning-making and the interpersonal sharing of information. Attention emanating from sociological study allows us to identify the ways this line of research is potentially situated in the space between sociology and media studies.

Social media use has generated considerable interest in communication studies, so it is not surprising that sociologists have used it to explore what is called the sociology of information, a concern that resonates with much of the roots and original concepts central to the discipline of sociology. Indeed, while interpretive and cultural sociologies share plenty of sensibilities with, for example, circulation studies, focus moves in a different direction. Sociological concern is with not only individual sorts of information sought by an individual, but also with the interpersonal sharing of information or interaction. For example, social learning is an area that focuses on interactions and how they affect the beliefs and objectives in a social setting. This means that rather than situating knowledge within an individual, we are more interested in how individuals transfer knowledge to others and share it, and what such manifestations of this phenomenon might say about broader cultural issues at hand.

43. Sociology and Technology Studies: Digital Transformations and Society

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Introduction The complexities in digital social life are always possible to examine and decipher from a micro-level perspective. Yet, probably the most important frame is at the meso- and macro-level. When it comes to interview studies and focus groups, as well as to direct observation, there are methodological problems that have been thought out to a lesser extent in the past. An individual speaking enthusiastically to a friend at the café corner about an intelligent word processor at the next table is not the trivial phenomenon researchers thought it was a quarter of a century ago. Neither is an office clerk's case in the supermarket, seen by a casual expert. To be sure, PC—the 'invisible culture', 'code dream', 'icon', 'slashdot society', 'software', 'AJAX', 'IT'—is converging everywhere. Or, 'into GUI, out of GUI, star of computer happiness, step over the Grand Gateway'. Culture has been as invisible as a curvature.

Conceptual Framework Social phenomena on the web are mediated by various technologies that are planned and designed by people and organizations. Their characteristics and meanings are constantly being constructed and reconstructed in a dialectical interaction process. However, the rapid growth in digital media technologies leads to challenges that have been researched and debated across many disciplines including technology studies, Internet studies, social psychology, and sociology. Configuration perspectives seek to comprehend digital media by using sociotechnological approaches to dissect the intersection of technology and social structure. These scholars provide rich accounts of the social construction of technology by unpacking the mutual shaping and co-constitution of technological artifacts and human behavior. While delivering us a social exercise of the digital, political, technological, scientific, and institutional sorts of infrastructure, they treat technology as a form of agency, and its development, design, and use as enhanced human practices.

44. Conclusion and Future Directions in Sociology and Interdisciplinary Research

Social phenomena exist only in and through social activities, and they are just as much as these activities and the orientations towards them. The reasons for holding this viewpoint systematically in the construction of social reality, as in the case of the most general problems of causality, can only be represented and studied through a partial apprehension of the real, no more and no less, in the interdependent relationships between the operations through which the levels of a

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system are reflected and through the terms of such operations. In conclusion, is the social a cause, a function, an object, or an order? These four questions do not pose problems in line with the conveniences of the classical mechanisms; they ask to be completely reassessed through the epistemological matrix based on the following principle: the collective, like the individual, is what it does. And this doing will determine a process of spatial interpretation and temporal arrangement. These are the fruits of the skepticism of a single criterion considering the difficulty and the invigorating power of this amalgam in society. On the one hand, things are going poorly enough for sociology; on the other hand, the social generally constitutes an explanatory crime that, by embracing it, infects and ruins other disciplinary chances. The institutional flair of that old, never totally moribund sociologism has not had the brilliance to make a binding, and sometimes liberating, proposition; it was more of a bewildering experience. (Cotgrove, 2020)(Smelser, 2023)(Aarons & Willis, 2022)(Stark, 2020)(Collins, 2020)(Newman, 2020)(Spillman, 2020)

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