

What is “Youth”, Anyway?

Definitions, emergence, and theories

US23 SOC 316 Week 1 Lecture
By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

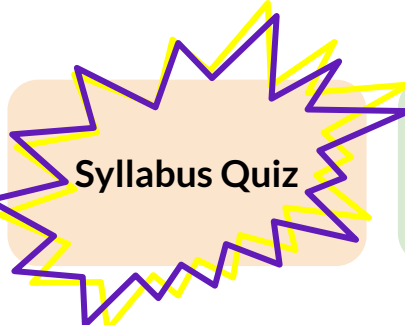


Broad overview of course

All details about assessment, class policies, grading, etc on the syllabus

Weekly: Lecture>Content>Quiz>Reading journal

- Lectures orient you to weekly topic area
- Videos/films/podcasts apply or expand on sociological concepts and theories
- Content quizzes check your understanding
- Reading journals review the reading from this week and draw connections



Syllabus Quiz

Childhood
Autoethnography

Reading
Review

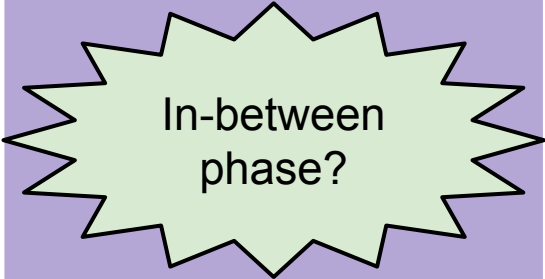
Extra Credit
Social Research
Review #1

Extra Credit
Social Research
Review #2

Defining youth

Andy Furlong:

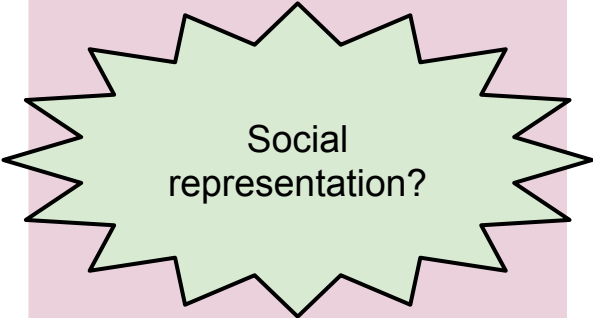
socially constructed broad phase between the full dependency of childhood and full independence of adulthood



In-between phase?

Steven Threadgold:

Simultaneously figures of moral panic, capitalist consumers, attractiveness, “the future”, romanticised nostalgia, and “risk”



Social representation?

United Nations (UN):

Anyone between ages 15 and 24

1979 Convention on the Rights of the Child:
Children under the age of 18

Teenagers: 13 and 19

Young adults: 20 and 29



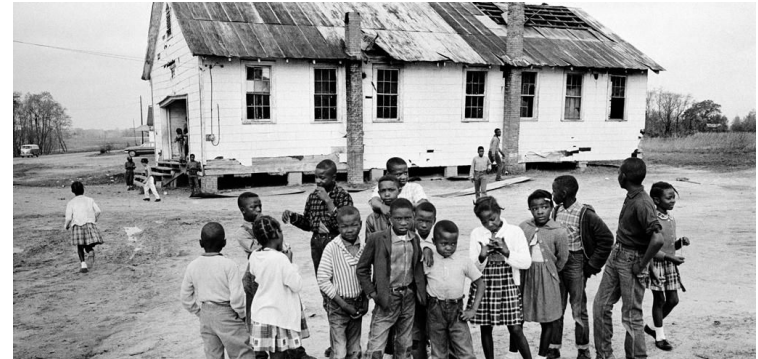
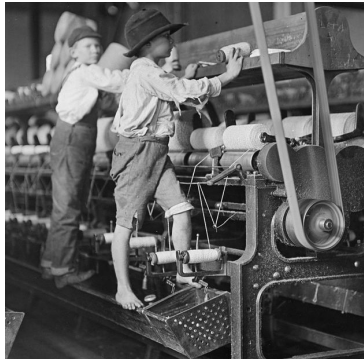
age?

Youth as a social category

New as a result of large social forces

- Industrial Revolution & child labor laws
- Schooling & Common School Movement
- WW1 & WW2

Northeastern U.S. & industrialized West -centric





Youth as a social category: culture





Youth as a social category: culture



 **yam haus** @yamhaus · Jun 21
10 am-12 pm bottomless mimosas
12:30pm **Oppenheimer**
4-6pm ungodly amount of Olive Garden unlimited breadsticks, 4 bottles of red wine, and shrimp alfredo
7pm Barbie
10 pm- 2 am existential reflection and discussion with the boys over beers

 **DiscussingFilm** @DiscussingFilm · Jun 20
1 month until 'BARBIE' and 'OPPENHEIMER' release in theaters. Which will you watch first?

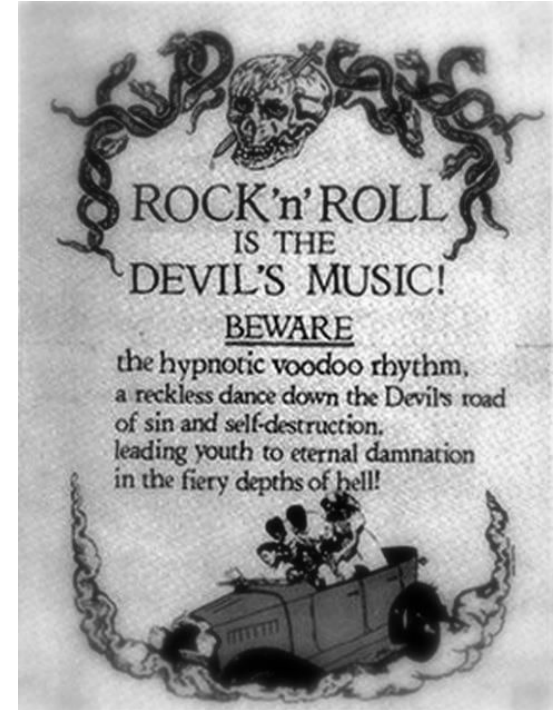
See what other movies are coming soon: bit.ly/Dates2023



Youth as a social category: moral panics

Moral panics: condition, episode, person, or group of persons emerges to become defined as a threat to social values, interests

New and old, damaging, warning signs, transparent and opaque



Major theories

Conflict: youth as source of social change, rebellion against status quo

Example: most social movements



Functionalism: youth as group to make into functioning (working) adults

Example: schools



Major theories

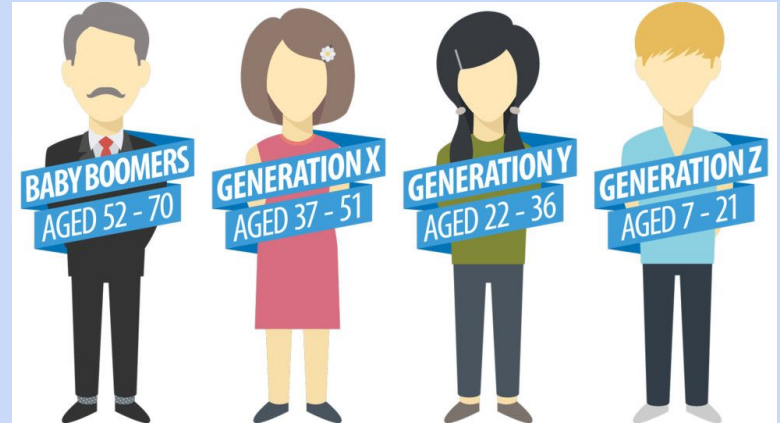
Life course: transitions between life stages, with each having long lasting implications and contextualized by social events and networks

Example: higher education



Generational: youth are socialized by parents, values are challenged, then creation of “generational consciousness”

Example: careers



Housekeeping, reminders

Due by this Saturday, July 8th at 9:00 PM ET:

- Syllabus Quiz (**must pass with 100% for access to rest of the course!**)

Don't forget:

- Reading: Threadgold (2020)
- Film: Teenage

Other info:

- Readings for extra credit assignments in Optional folders each week
- Office hours begin on Wednesday, 12-2pm ET, signup link on syllabus

Youth and Identity

Sociological perspectives and historical context to the present day

US23 SOC 316 Week 2 Lecture
By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

Housekeeping, reminders

Content:

- Lecture: Youth and Identity: Sociological perspectives and historical context to the present day
- Film: *Growing up Poor in America*
- Reading: Fernández (2021) chapter 1

Due Saturday July 15th, 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #1
- Reading Journal #1

Office hours info & extra credit optional readings in D2L module

Youth identity construction

‘Storm and stress’

Two main perspectives:

- ‘project’ captured in the concept of identity work
 - Mead’s I & Me
 - Cooley’s looking-glass self
- Shaped by circumstances in distinct historical periods
 - 16 isn’t the same across years, spaces



Social location, intersectionality

Social location

where we land on the social hierarchy, a combination of all of our identities

Certain social characteristics are privileged, given more access to resources

Foundation of

In action

Intersectionality

the ways that individuals with multiple marginalized identities experience and navigate systems of privilege and oppression in unique ways based on the culminating effect of their identities

While identities can be thought of as separate, they cannot be lived separately

Historical context of social identities

Race, gender, class, sexuality, immigration, nationality as some of the few social identities that youth hold

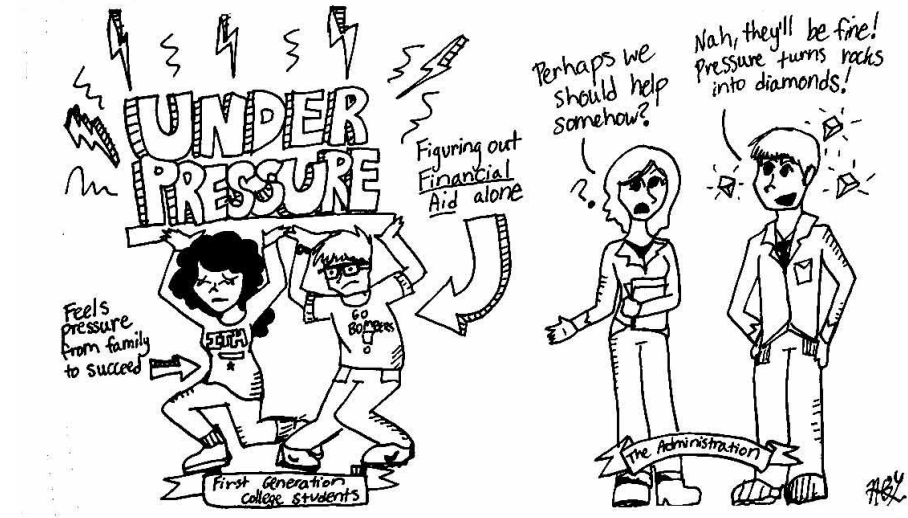
- Slavery in the South kept youth illiterate
- Factory & farm labor for urban/rural youth
- Indigenous youth forcefully kept away from tribes
- Upper class youth in Northeast went to school



Present-day context of social identities

Further understanding of how the social identities youth hold influence how they navigate growing up and large social institutions

- Families, education, the carceral system, etc
- Impacts of COVID-19
- The internet & social media



Socialization and Subcultures

Becoming part of society

US23 SOC 316 Week 3 Lecture
By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

Housekeeping, reminders

— — —

Content:

- Lecture: Socialization and Subcultures: Becoming part of society
- Video: Dungeons & Dragons: Satanic Panic
- Podcast: “Intro to Popular Culture: “It’s all about popular”” by The Social Breakdown
- Fine 2001 chapter 6

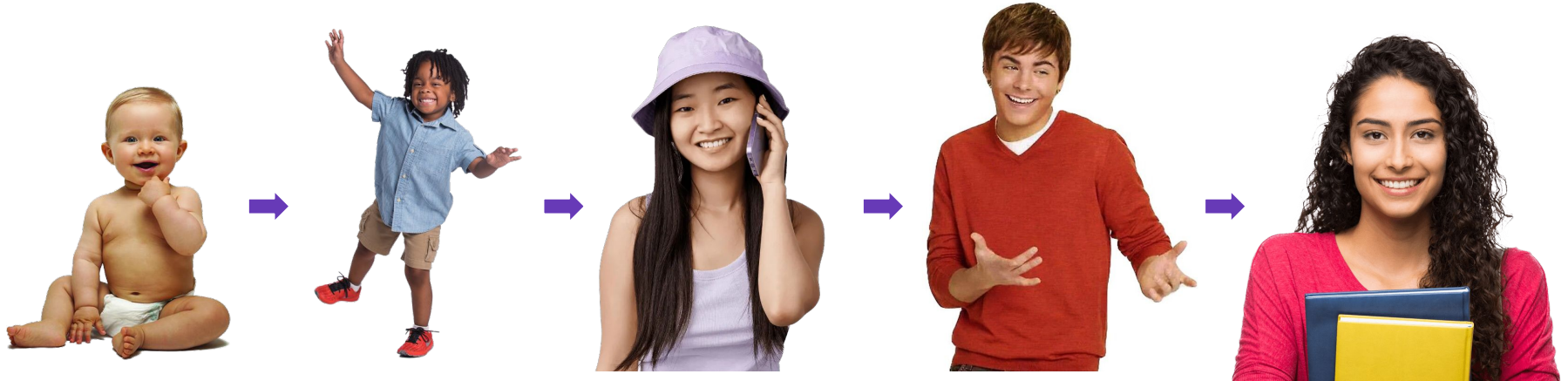
Due Saturday, July 22nd, 9:00 PM ET

- Content Quiz #2
- Reading Journal #2

Heads up: Childhood Autoethnography assignment and Extra Credit Social Research Review #1 due on Saturday, July 29th at 9:00 PM ET

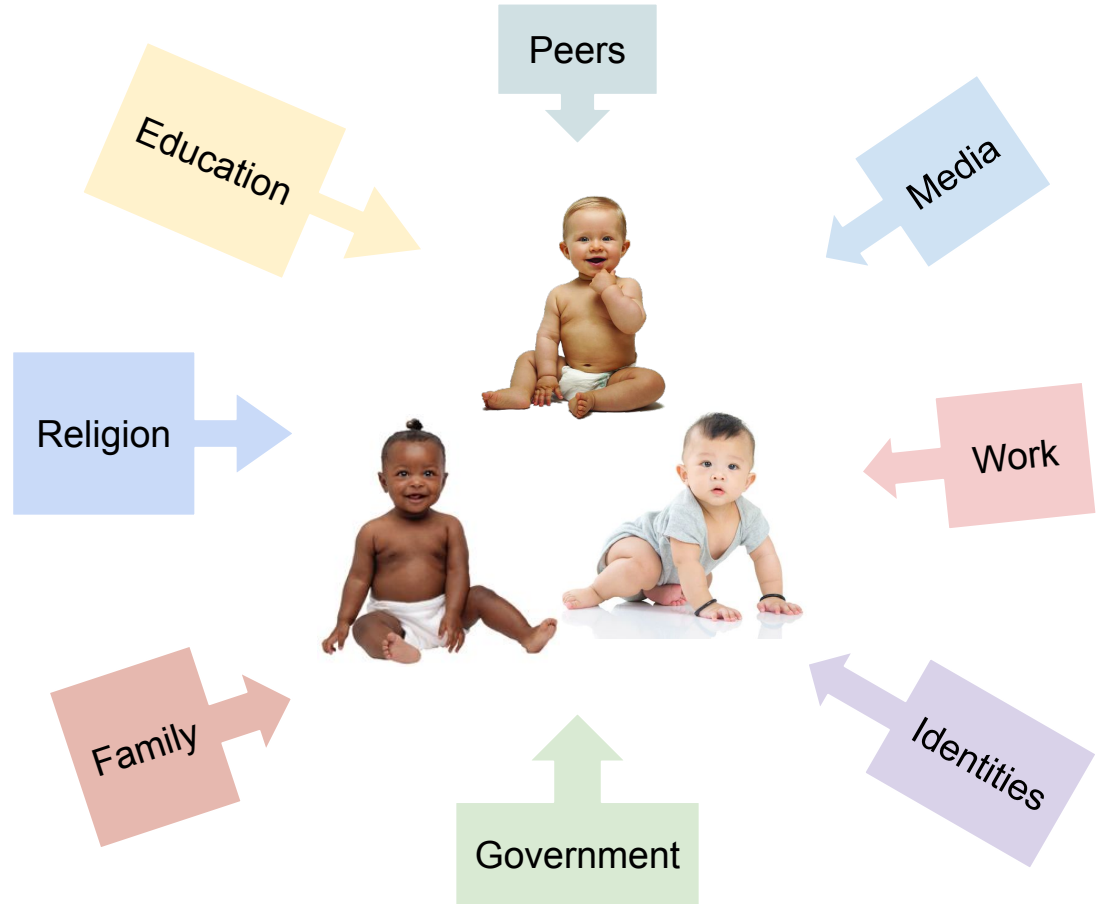
Process of socialization

Socialization: The lifelong interactive process by which individuals come to understand the expectations and norms of groups, roles they transition into over the life course, and how to behave in society or particular social settings

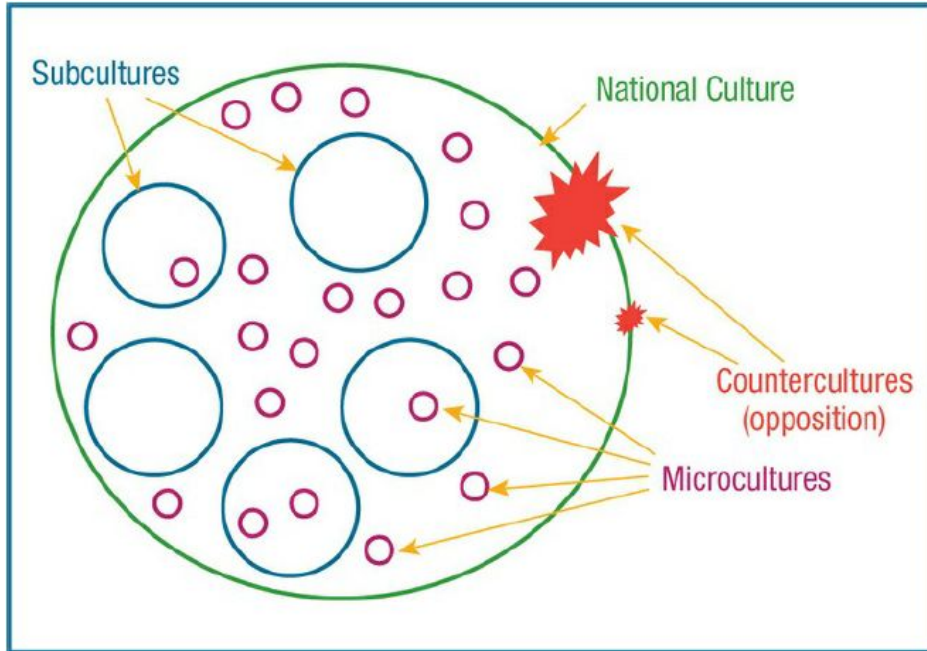


Agents of socialization

Agents of socialization: the transmitters of group rules and culture—the people, organizations, and institutions that help us define our identity and teach us how to navigate the social world.



Cultures, subcultures, and microcultures, oh my!



Culture is our social software

- visible and invisible
- shared
- evolves over time
- ongoing and cumulative
- is transmitted

Youth and microcultures

Microcultures create unified sets of experiences and are usually time-bound

Mall culture, cottagecore, even “#booktok”

Occur at the micro level



Youth and countercultures

Countercultures are defined by their values that contrast sharply from the dominant culture - can be lifelong or short-lived

The Amish, punk rockers, and even social movements



Youth and subculture

— — —
Subcultures are large enough to support people throughout their life

Meso-level

Identity or hobby associated



Youth and pop, national, and global cultures

— — —

Pop culture is well-known media, fashion, lingo, forms of entertainment, etc

National culture ties citizens of nations together

Global culture is heavily influenced by globalization, common beliefs, values, norms

Youth today are more connected than ever!



Childhood and Schooling

Early institutional interaction

US23 SOC 316 Week 4 Lecture
By: Katrina "Kitty" Groeller



Housekeeping, reminders

Content:

- Lecture: Childhood and Schooling: Early institutional interaction
- Reading: Lareau (2011) Chapter 1, 6, 10, and Afterword

Due Saturday, July 29th at 9:00 PM ET

- Content Quiz #3
- Reading Journal #3
- Childhood Autoethnography assignment
- Extra Credit Social Research Review #1

Strongly encourage you to view Lareau's lecture before submitting Childhood Autoethnography assignment

Understanding childhood, sociologically

Traditional

Associated with socialization, children gain the knowledge to become competent members of society

- Passive, incomplete, lumps of clay to be molded

Functionalist

Contemporary

Competent social actors who construct social reality

Stresses “plurality of childhoods”

Takes into account adults and peers with whom childhood is experienced

- Power differentials

United Nations: Anyone under age of 18

Why talk about childhood? Schooling?

1. Reveals the complex interplay between young people, their families, and social institutions
2. Socialization into youth
3. Reproduction of social class through transmission of differential advantages by parents
 - “What are the individually insignificant but cumulatively important ways in which parents facilitate [or don't facilitate] their children's process through key social settings?”

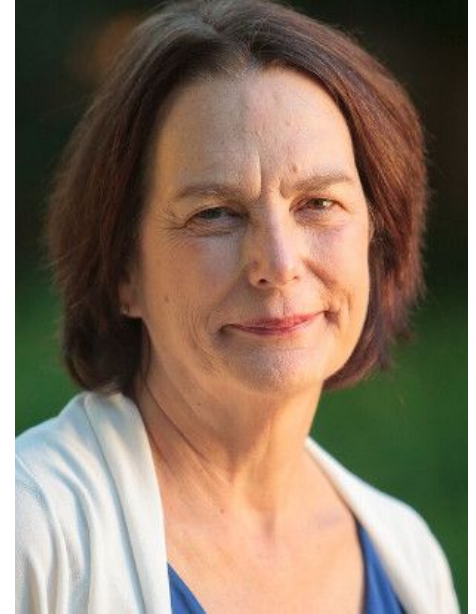


Annette Lareau's work in *Unequal Childhoods*

Interested in family labor, relationship between parents, kin, and children

- “Naturalistic” observation of twelve children & families in 1994, 1995
- 3rd to 5th graders, family important but some autonomy in free time and little peer group influence
- If interested in methods, email me!

If this study was done today, how would the results be different?



[University of Pennsylvania website](#)



Adolescence & Deviance

Why are “deviance” and “adolescence” associated?

US23 SOC 316 Week 5 Lecture

By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

Housekeeping, reminders



Content:

- Lecture: Adolescence and Deviance: Why are “deviance” and “adolescence” associated?
- Rios (2011) Chapter 3: The Labeling Hype
- Film: *15 to Life: Kenneth's Story*

Due Saturday, August 5th at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #4
- Monograph Journal #4

Coming up:

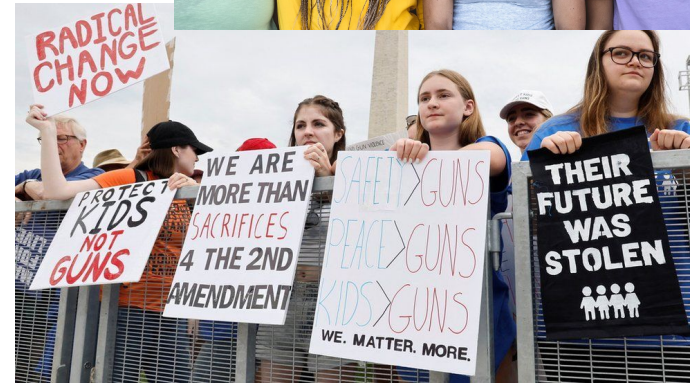
- Opening up last module a few days early
- Last extra credit opportunity and Reading Review

A reminder of adolescence vs. youth

Adolescence is a period of 'storm and stress' characterised by a psycho-biological understanding of maturity

- Beginning with puberty and ending with the complete development of the brain's prefrontal cortex
- Somewhat tied to an age range

Youth \neq adolescence, but most imagery does align



Understanding deviance

Deviance is socially constructed, behavior that goes outside of common norms

- Who decides what is normal and what is deviant? THE GROUP!
- Socialized into norms of everyday life



Functionalist

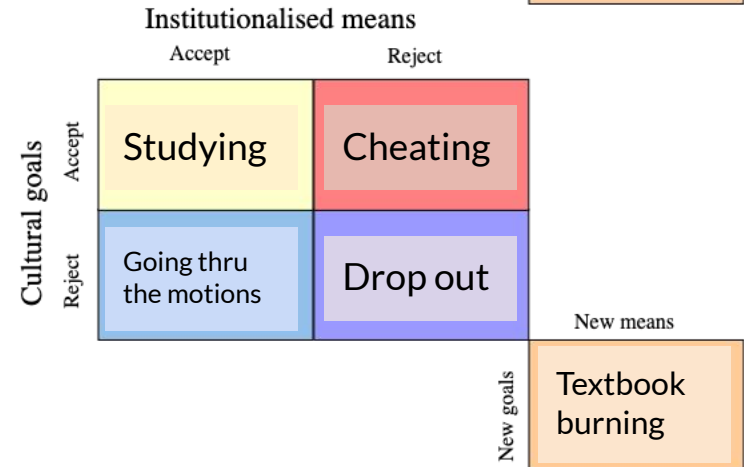
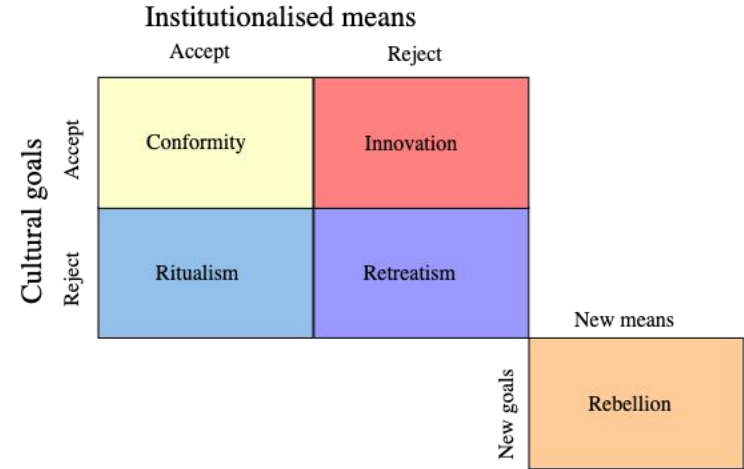
Deviance helps create and justify social harmony by explaining non-normative behaviors

- Connection between society and the individual is weak

Strain theory contends that deviance occurs when society's ideas of success and the opportunity to achieve them are unavailable

Ex: math test

Robert K. Merton's Deviance Typology



Conflict

Deviance is not objective: powerful groups decide what is deviant and what is not

Labelling theory argues that once individuals are labelled deviant, society holds prejudicial attitudes against them, then those individuals engage in deviant behaviors as they are isolated

Ex: job applications



Deviance and adolescence

Adolescent behavior (influenced by psycho-biological development) exists within social structures, contexts influenced by intersecting forms of power (race, gender, class, etc) which limits the agency of youth

Family
stability



Neighborhoods

Affluence



Socialization

Young Adulthood, Higher Education, and Careers

A time of transition

US23 SOC 316 Week 6 Lecture

By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

Housekeeping, reminders

Content:

- Lecture: Young Adulthood, Higher Education, and Careers: A time of transition
- Reading: Settersten & Ray chapter 3
- Podcast: “The Campus Tour Has Been Cancelled” by This American Life

Due Saturday, August 12th at 9:00 PM ET:

- Content Quiz #5
- Reading journal #5

Grading scale and calculation info on syllabus

Heads up: Reading Review assignment and Extra Credit Social Research Review #2 due on Wednesday, August 16th at 12:00 PM

Defining young/emerging adulthood

Like youth, **young adulthood** is both a socially constructed category and a developmental period between ~18-25

individualistic

experimentation

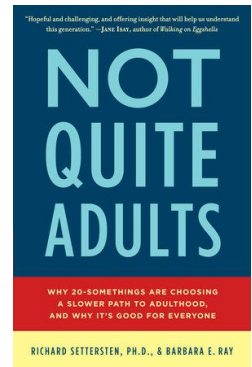
lack of role
specificity

intimate
non-marital
relationships

risky behaviors

Emerging adulthood - longer span of time between youth and traditional markers of adulthood, like “settling down” for marriage/family and “stable careers”

- How did this come to be?

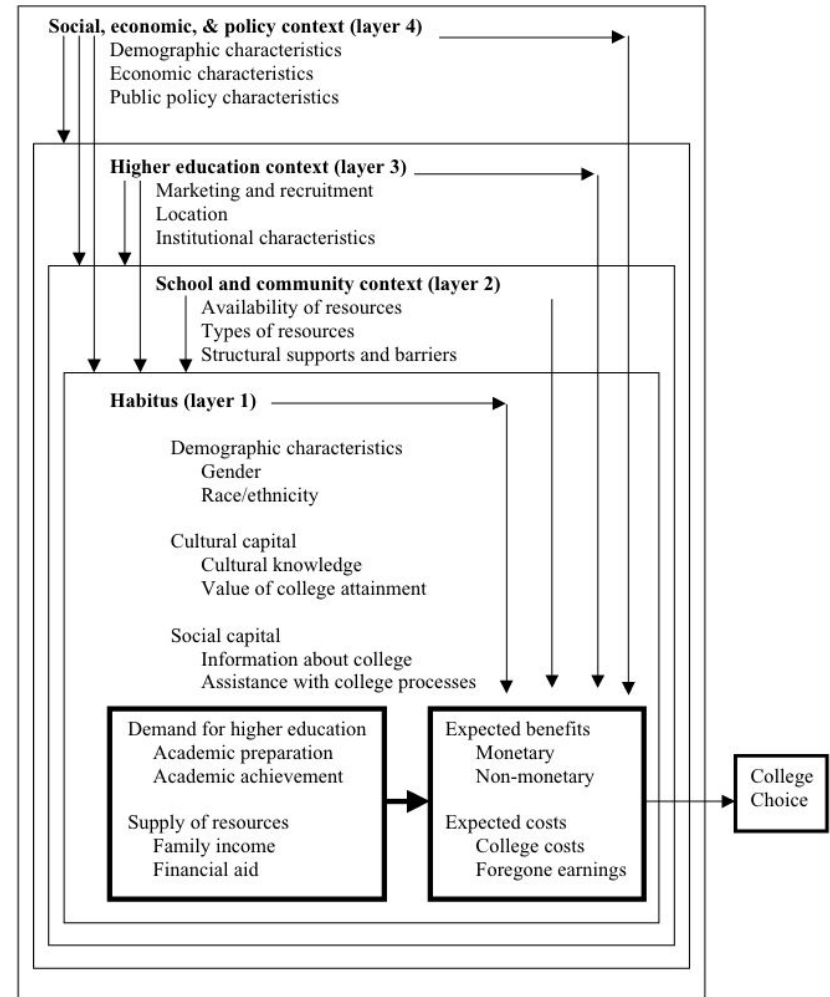


College-going: access, contexts and choice

College access - macro-level orientation that views the problem of educational opportunity as primarily structural

College contexts - meso-level frames of policies, higher education, schools, and communities

College search and choice - micro-level processes of individual decisionmaking



Higher education

Reminder: Labaree's three goals of education

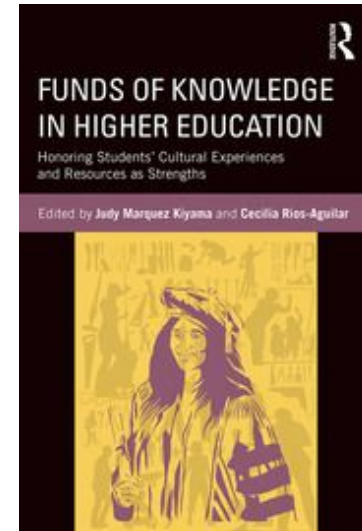
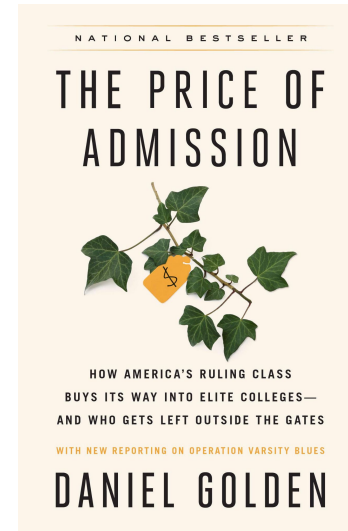
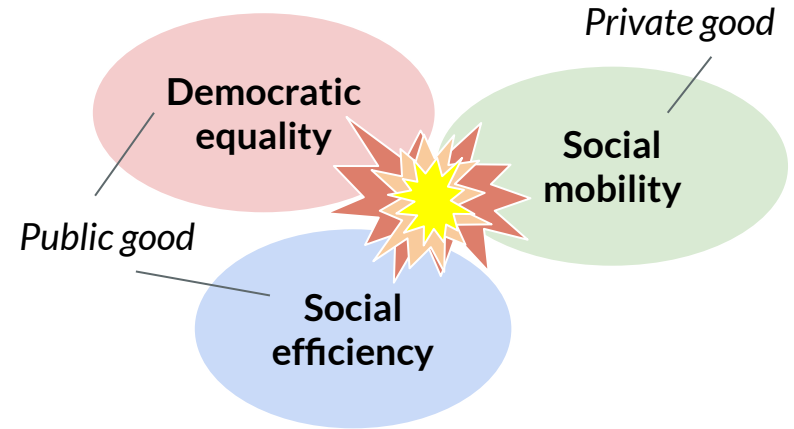
- Is college a public good or private good?
- For knowledge or a credential?

Higher education as further reinforcement of class hierarchy

- Rewards skills from *concerted cultivation*

Space that is predominately Western, individualistic, meritocratic

- Challenged by funds of knowledge and community cultural wealth approaches



Present day: Careers & the job market

Entering the job market is a critical marker of transition to adulthood

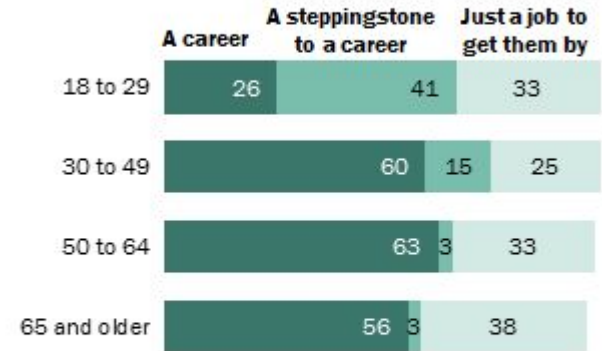
After graduation, youth encounter:

- precarious, competitive job market
- student debt repayment
- affordable housing crisis
- shifting personal relationships

A note on marginalized identities

Youngest adults most likely to see their jobs as steppingstones to a career

% of employed adults saying they think of their job as ...



Note: Based on employed adults who have one job or those who have more than one job but consider one to be their primary job. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 25-June 29, 2016. "The State of American Jobs"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Youth and Social Change

Toward a bright future!

— US23 SOC 316 Week 7 Lecture —
By: Katrina “Kitty” Groeller

Housekeeping, reminders

Content:

- Lecture: Youth and Social Change: Toward a bright future!
- Reading: Taft 2011 chapter 5
- Video: Inside the Sunrise Movement

Due Wednesday, August 16th at 12:00 PM ET: (can only be turned in 2 days late!)

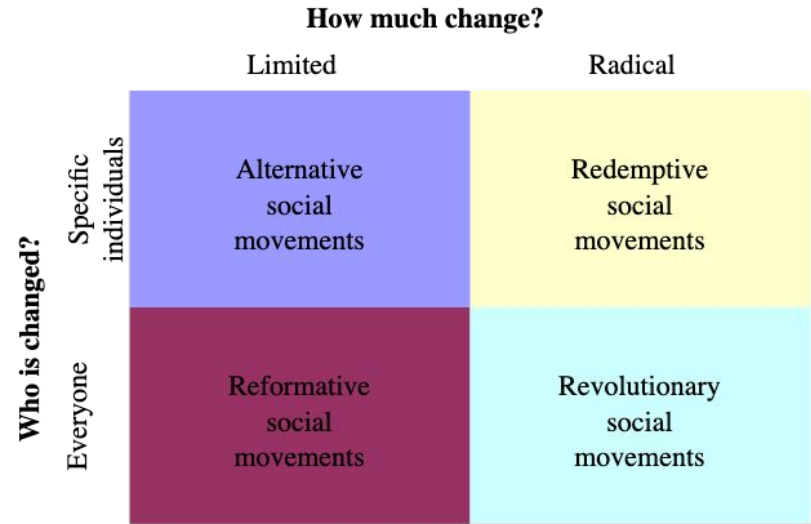
- Reading Review
- Extra Credit Social Research Review #2

That's all folks!

Defining social movements

Social movements are conscious, concerted, and sustained efforts by ordinary people to change (or preserve) some aspect of their society through extrainstitutional means

- variety of root factors
- 4 types of movements
- Aberle's resource mobilization
- McAdam's political process



Based on Aberle (1966)



Sociological understandings of social movements

Classical model

structural weakness (strain)



psychological disturbance



collective social movement

Elite models

closed, coercive political system



tactical response by powerless



collective social movement

Youth and social change

Young people have been, and will continue to be, critical to the rise of many social movements and social movement organizations (SMOs)

- Deficit model: perceived to be less politically engaged than adults

Families, social networks, school influence youth socialization through exposure to political process

- Only the raw materials!



Youth and social change

Campus activism has a long history due to its setting as a place of recruitment, mobilization, and coalition building

- Subcultures & intersectionality of activism

Youth are more prone to develop or adopt new tactics

- Is digital activism “real” activism?



CONGRATULATIONS!

Great work this summer!

