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A social scientist in a laboratory

Social science that studies human society and its development.For the journal, see *Sociology (journal)*.Part of a series onSociologyHistoryOutlineIndexKey themesSocietyGlobalizationHuman behaviorHuman environmental impactIndustryIndustrial revolutions 3 / 4 / 5PopularitySocial complexitySocial environmentSocial equalitySocial justiceSocial powerSocial stratificationSocial structuresSocial cycleGender theoryPerspectivesConflict theoryCritical theoryStructural functionalismPositivismSocial constructionismSocial darwinismSymbolic interactionismBranchesAgingArchitectureArtsAnthropologyBodyCriminologyConsciousnessCultureDeathDemographyDevianceDisasterEconomicEducationEmotion[Jealousy]EnvironmentalFamilyFeministFiscalFood CenterGenerationsHealthHistoricalImmigrationIndustrialInterneJuryKnowledgeLanguageLawLeisureLiteratureMarxistMathematicalMilitaryMusicPeace, war, and social conflictPhilosophyPoliticalPublicPunishmentRace and ethnicityReligionRuralScience (History of science)Social movementsSocial psychologySociocyberneticsSociologySpaceSportTechnologyTerrorismUrbanUrbanVictimologyVisualMethodsQuantitativeQualitativeComparativeComputationalEthnographicConversation analysisHistoricalInterviewMathematicalNetwork analysisSocial experimentsSurveyMajor theories1700s: ComteSieys1800s: MartineauTocquevilleMarx SpencerLe Bon Ward Pareto Tnnies VeblenSimmel Durkheim Adlams Mead Weber Du Bois Mannheim Elias1900s: FrommAdorno Gehlen Aron Merton Nisbet Mills Bell Schoeck Goffman Bauman FoucaultLuhmann Habermas Baudrillard Bourdieu GiddensLestSociobiologyTheory/ journalsOrganizationsPeopleTimelineBy country Society portaltweeSociology is the scientific study of human society that focuses on society, human social behavior, patterns of social relationships, social interaction, and aspects of culture associated with everyday life.[1][2][3]The term sociology was coined in the late 18th century to describe the scientific study of society.[4] Regarded as a part of both the social sciences and humanities, sociology uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis[5]:35 to develop a body of knowledge about social order and social change.[5]:3240 Sociological subject matter ranges from micro-level analyses of individual interaction and agency to macro-level analyses of social systems and social structure. Applied sociology may be applied to social policy and welfare, whereas theoretical approaches may focus on the understanding of social processes and phenomenological method.[6]Traditional focuses of sociology include social stratification, social class, social mobility, religion, secularization, law, sexuality, gender, and deviance. Recent studies have added socio-technical aspects of the digital divide as a new focus.[7]Digital sociology examines the impact of digital technologies on social behavior and institutions, encompassing professional, analytical, critical, and public dimensions.[8]The internet has reshaped social networks and power relations, illustrating the growing importance of digital sociology.[9]As all spheres of human activity are affected by the interplay between social structure and individual agency, sociology has gradually expanded its focus to other subjects and institutions, such as health and the institution of medicine; economy; military; punishment and systems of control; the Internet; sociology of education; social capital; and the role of social activity in the development of scientific knowledge.The range of social scientific methods has also expanded, as social researchers draw upon a variety of qualitative and quantitative techniques. The linguistic and cultural turns of the mid-20th century, especially, have led to increasingly interpretative, hermeneutic, and philosophical approaches towards the analysis of society. Conversely, the turn of the 21st century has seen the rise of new analytically, mathematically, and computationally rigorous techniques, such as agent-based modelling and social network analysis.[10][11]Social research has influence throughout various industries and sectors of life, such as among politicians, policy makers, and legislators; educators; planners; administrators; developers; business magnates and managers; social workers; non-governmental organizations; and non-profit organizations, as well as individuals interested in resolving social issues in general.Main article: History of sociologyFurther information: List of sociologists and Timeline of sociologyIbn Khaldun statue in Tunis, Tunisia (13321406)Sociological reasoning predates the foundation of the discipline itself. Social analysis has origins in the common stock of universal, global knowledge and philosophy, having been carried out as far back as the time of old comic poetry which features social and political criticism.[12] In ancient Greek philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. For instance, the origin of the survey can be traced back to at least the Domesday Book in 1086.[13][14] While ancient philosophers such as Confucius wrote about the importance of social roles,[15][16]Medieval Arabic writings encompass a rich tradition that unveils early insights into the field of sociology. Some sources consider Ibn Khaldun, a 14th-century Muslim scholar from Tunisia,[note 1] to have been the father of sociology, although there is no reference to his work in the writings of European contributors to modern sociology.[17][18][19][20] Khaldun's Muqaddimah was considered to be amongst the first works to advance social-scientific reasoning on social cohesion and social conflict.[21][22][23][24][25][26]The word sociology derives part of its name from the Latin word socius ('companion' or 'fellowship'[27]). The suffix -logy ('the study of') comes from that of the Greek - , derived from (gloss, 'word' or 'knowledge').[citation needed]The term sociology was first coined in 1780 by the French essayist Emmanuel-Joseph Sieys in an unpublished manuscript.[28][note 2] Sociology was later defined independently by French philosopher of science Auguste Comte (17981857) in 1838[29] as a new way of looking at society.[30]:10 Comte had earlier used the term social physics, but it had been subsequently appropriated by others, most notably the Belgian statistician Adolphe Quetelet.[31] Comte endeavored to unify history, psychology, and economics through the scientific understanding of social life. Writing shortly after the malaise of the French Revolution, he proposed that social ills could be remedied through sociological positivism, an epistemological approach outlined in the Course in Positive Philosophy (18301842), later included in a General View of Positivism (1848). Comte believed a positivist stage would mark the final era in the progression of human understanding, after conjectural theological and metaphysical phases.[32] In observing the circular dependence of theory and observation in science, and having classified the sciences, Comte may be regarded as the first philosopher of science in the modern sense of the term.[33][34]Auguste Comte (17981857)Comte gave a powerful impetus to the development of sociology, an impetus that has far outlasted his life in the late nineteenth century. To say this is certainly not to say that French social theorists were devoted exclusively to the study of positivism, but in insisting on the "fundamental unity of each of the physical sciences to the particular science of sociology, he presaged the scientific study of social phenomena Comte put sociology on the map. To be sure, [its] beginnings can be traced back well beyond Montesquieu, for example, and to Condorcet, not to speak of Saint-Simon. Comte's immediate predecessor. But Comte's clear recognition of sociology as a particular science, with a character of its own, justified Durkheim in regarding him as the father or founder of this science, even though Durkheim did not accept the idea of the three states and criticized Comte's approach to sociology.Frederick Coppleston, A History of Philosophy: IX Modern Philosophy (1974), p. 118 Karl Marx (18181883)Both Comte and Karl Marx set out to develop scientifically justified systems in the wake of European industrialization and secularization, informed by various key movements in the philosophies of history and science. Marx rejected Comtean positivism[35] but in attempting to develop a "science of society" nevertheless came to be recognized as a founder of sociology as the word gained wider meaning. For Isaiah Berlin, even though Marx did not consider himself to be a sociologist, he may be regarded as the "true father" of modern sociology, "in so far as anyone can claim the title."[36]:13070 He has given clear and unified answers in familiar empirical terms to those theoretical questions which most occupied men's minds at the time, and to have deduced from them clear practical directives without creating obviously artificial links between the two, was the principal achievement of Marx's theory. The sociological treatment of historical and moral problems, which Comte and after him, Spencer and Taine, had discussed and mapped, became a precise and concrete study only when the attack of militant Marxism made his theories and ideas, in spite of the enormous influence of his thought, untenable and untenable.[36]:13070

Marx's strong influence has influenced that many other 19th-century thinkers, including mile Durkheim, refined their ideas in relation to his. Durkheim's *Division of Labour in Society* is to some extent extended debate with Spencer, who Marx extended and debated with sociologists. Durkheim became extensively[38] Als notable biologist, he coined the term survival of the fittest.[39] While Marxian ideas defined one strand of sociology, Spencer was a critic of socialism, as well as a strong advocate for a laissez-faire style of government. His ideas were closely observed by conservative political circles, especially in the United States and England.[40]Main articles: mile Durkheim and Social factsmile DurkheimThe first formal Department of Sociology in the world was established in 1892 by Albion Smallfrom the invitation of William Rainey Harperat the University of Chicago. The American Journal of Sociology was founded shortly thereafter in 1895 by Small as well.[41]The institutionalization of sociology as an academic discipline, however, was chiefly led by mile Durkheim, who developed positivism as a foundation for practical social research. While Durkheim rejected much of the detail of Comte's philosophy, he retained and refined its method, maintaining that the social sciences are a logical continuation of the natural ones into the realm of human activity, and insisting that they may retain the same objectivity, rationalism, and approach to causality.[42] Durkheim set up the first European department of sociology at the University of Bordeaux in 1895, publishing his *Rules of the Sociological Method* (1895).[43] For Durkheim, sociology could be described as the "science of institutions, their genesis and their functioning." [44]Durkheim's monograph *Suicide* (1897) is considered a seminal work in statistical analysis by contemporary sociologists. Suicide is a case study of variations in suicide rates among Catholic and Protestant populations, and served to distinguish sociological analysis from psychology or sociology. It also marked a major contribution to the development of sociology in Germany. However, Durkheim's political and institutional work remains dominant in contemporary sociology, especially in the United States and the United Kingdom. Durkheim's theory of the division of labour, which he described as "organic solidarity" or "collective conscience" and "surveillance" (meaning "control of information and social supervision") and "military power" (control of the means of violence in the context of the industrialisation of war).[47][John Harris, The Second Great Transformation? Capitalism at the End of the Twentieth Century (1992)Bust of Ferdinand Tnnies in Husum, GermanyThe first college course entitled "Sociology" was taught in the United States at Yale in 1875 by William Graham Sumner.[48] In 1883, Lester F. 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reaching the goals agreed upon. A certain amount of knowledge about society or society as well as other people's opinions on it are necessary before any social policies can be carried out. Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems. The present world is suffering from many problems that can be solved through scientific study of the society. It is the task of sociology to study the social problems through the methods of scientific research and to find out solution to them. The scientific study of human affairs will ultimately provide the body of knowledge and principles that will enable us to control the conditions of social life and improve them. Sociology has drawn our attention to the intrinsic worth and dignity of man. Sociology has been instrumental in changing our attitude towards human beings. In a specialized society we are all limited as to the amount of the whole organization and culture that we can experience directly. We can hardly know the people of other areas intimately. In order to have insight into and appreciation of the motives by which others live and the conditions under which they exist, knowledge of sociology is essential. Sociology has changed our outlook with regard to the problems of crime. It is through the study of sociology that our whole outlook on various aspects of crime has changed. The criminals are now treated as human beings suffering from mental deficiencies and efforts are accordingly made to rehabilitate them as useful members of the society. Sociology has made great contribution to enrich human culture. Human culture has been made richer by the contribution of sociology. The social phenomenon is now understood in the light of scientific knowledge and enquiry. According to Lowie, most of us harbor the comfortable delusion that our way of doing things is the only sensible if not only possible one. Sociology has given us training to have rational approach to questions concerning oneself, one's religion, customs, morals and institutions. It has further taught us to be objective, critical and dispassionate. It enables man to have better understanding both of himself and of others. By comparative study of societies and groups other than his existence, his life becomes richer and fuller than it would otherwise be. Sociology also impresses upon us the necessity of overcoming narrow personal prejudices, ambitions and class hatred. Sociology is of great importance in the solution of international problems. The progress made by physical sciences has brought the nations of the world nearer to each other. But in the social field the world has been left behind by the revolutionary progress of the science. The world is divided politically giving rise to stress and conflict. Men have failed to bring in peace. Sociology can help us in understanding the underlying causes and tensions. The value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us updated on modern situations. It contributes to making good citizens and finding solutions to the community problems. It adds to the knowledge of the society. It helps the individual find his relation to society. The study of social phenomena and of the ways and means of promoting what Giddens calls social adequacy is one of the most urgent needs of the modern society. Sociology has a strong appeal to all types of mind through its direct bearing upon many of the initial problems of the present world. Study of society has helped governments to promote the welfare of the tribal and marginalized communities. The tribal and marginalized communities face many socio-economic and cultural problems. Studies conducted by sociologists and anthropologists regarding tribal societies and problems have helped governments in undertaking social welfare measures and programmes for the welfare purposes. Sociology is useful as a teaching subject. Sociology is a profession in which technical competence brings its own rewards. Sociologists those trained in research procedures are contributing in business, government, industry, social sector, communications and many other areas of community life. Sociology has now become practical enough to be practiced in the other fields prominently in local, state, national and international levels. Our O Level Sociology 2251 course / IGCSE Sociology 0495 course offers complete preparation, revision and strategic material for both O Level Sociology 2251 and IGCSE Sociology 0495 completely for free. The material on this course is both for free preparation and demo purposes. Students who find the material of this course useful can always gain access to our paid full-scale and crash courses, offering exceptional content, coverage, preparation and guidance for examination. 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The coursebook has a visually attractive and engaging layout, and is accessible to students with a wide range of abilities including those who do not have English as their first language. Published: April 24, 2014 Title: Cambridge IGCSE Sociology Author: Jonathan Blundell ISBN: 9781316605578 Publisher: Cambridge University Press Language: English Formats: PDF ISBNs: 9781107645134 9781316092835 9781316605578 Read eBook [preview] Get PDF/ePub eBook [instantly] Get hard copy of this eBook [new/used] Monthly Special! *Click here to get coupon codes and how to use it (up to 50% discount). Why Is Sociology a Science? 7 Reasons: Sociology is the study of the society, human interaction and the rules and processes that bind and separate people not only as individuals, but as members of associations, groups and institutions. Sociology is a branch of social science which studies society and changes within society over periods of time, as well as human interaction with and in the society. Human behaviour is of complicated nature, especially when it comes to how humans interact with each other and the world around them. Sociology as a field of study employs sociological theories which are organized set of ideas that helps in making sense out of human behaviour, understand social order and that which creates social change. Sociology has produced a great deal of valuable information about social institutions such as family, property, church and state; about social traditions, social processes, social classes, changes in social control and crimes. Sociology is a science with its own subject matter. It deals with more general principles underlying all social phenomena. The unit for sociological analysis is commonly identified as interaction between two or more human beings. Where there is interaction, the participants are said to be in a social relationship. Human interaction and interrelation become the subject matter of sociology. Sociology as a scientific discipline PDF Sociologists are categorized into two which are positivists and interpretivists. For positivists, they believe that sociology is better categorized as a science, since they make use of qualitative methods to study the world around them for the purpose of establishing laws of cause and effect. Interpretivists are of the opposing view. Sociologists use tools and methods of science to understand why and how humans behave the way they do when they interact together in groups, which make them social scientists. Though social groups or societies are made up of individuals, sociology is the study of the group rather than the individual. When it comes to understanding how human mind works, sociologists leave that up to psychologists. Sociology has been correctly described as a science for having notable elements of science which are quite close enough for the field to be categorized under social science. Science is a systematic study of nature. Sociology as a field also deals with one part of nature which is the society, and also employs systematic methods which are exactly the same methods as natural science, although the techniques which they employ differ. Recommended: Is law an art or science? Answered Seven Reasons Why Sociology is a Science 1. Sociology employs Empirical Method: Just like science, sociology employs observations to attain its result. Observations so employed by the sociology are also testable. The findings of sociologists are based on experience and observation. Because sociology tries to explain social facts, its theories can be empirically tested. To be considered science, a field must have empirically testable theories; an element which is not absent in the field of sociology. Sociology as a science of society Sociology theories can be tested through statistics, gathering and collating of data and putting them into appropriate use, though now not as in a pure science procedure. This empirical method being employed by sociology qualifies it as a science, since it uses objective evidence as an arbiter to accept or reject hypotheses. 2. Sociology employs Measurement: Another reason which makes sociology a science is that it involves the same data collection methodology just like the natural sciences. By testing hypothesis which establishes theories and validity, sociology can produce measurable results based on those things that can help the society understand itself better and aid in its progress. Sociology makes use of numbers just like hard sciences, which is seen in its quantitative method, use of statistics and data collection. Also see: Best Science Courses To Study in the University 3. Research: Sociology is a coherent, unified and comprehensive science with a well defined subject matter and clear set of methods. Sociology employs research methods to seek innovative approaches and innovative explanations of the social phenomena which they have observed. They enforce paradigm of research and theories into verifiable results and solutions. Sociology applies specific research methods such as quantitative and qualitative methods which are peculiar to sciences. Is sociology a science or art? They ask questions, set up an experiment or a study that can provide an answer to the questions, analyze their observations and interpret results. These are research methods known to sciences. In its research process, sociology employs definition, measurement, analysis, interpretation, comparison and conclusion, just as science generally. 4. Sociology has an Established Methodology: Sociology field just like natural sciences, does not base its findings on a guess work. Sociology just like every other social science, has laid down processes for attaining its result. These procedures are systematic in nature in the sense that they can be employed over and over again and still arrive at the truth. The systematic methodology employed by sociology includes: observation, hypotheses, experiments and conclusion. Is sociology a science or art? This same methodology is employable by hard sciences. Sociology makes use of these scientific methods to predict how groups will tend to behave or respond to certain inputs. The research methods such as qualitative and quantitative methods, measurements, data collection and statistics, etc, are also the method used by hard sciences to arrive at its result, although the techniques employed by sociologists may differ in its pattern. Also see: Best commercial courses to study in the university 5. Sociology is Problem-Minded: Sociology just like sciences is driven by the purpose of identifying problems and proffering testable solutions to them. Just like hard sciences, sociology can as well make predictions into the future. It can foresee problems, solve problems and suggest testable preventive measures. 6. Sociology deals with Facts and is interested in the Truth: Sociology deals with facts. By such, the field is interested in the truth. It does not base its answers on mere assumptions, just like hard sciences. Sociology gathers data, analyses and experiments it in order to arrive at a testable conclusion. Just like the findings of sciences are universal, the principles established by sociology are also universal. This means that as a science, sociology is universally accepted together with most of its findings. Recommended: Most difficult courses in the world 2022 7. Sociological Findings are Verifiable: Just like natural sciences, sociological findings are verifiable. Since sociology field is interested in the truth and facts, it establishes its findings upon premises which are practically verifiable for the meantime, until otherwise disproved by societal adjustments which rarely happens. Just like the result arrived at by natural sciences remains conclusive until otherwise disproved, the results arrived at by sociological findings remains so conclusive until it is disproved by subsequent discoveries and experiments. For instance, it is very conclusive to posit that unemployment increases the rate of criminality in the society. This is a finding of sociology, and it remains so until it is proved that unemployment no longer contributes to the rate of criminality. Also see: Top 10 Countries Where Abortion is Legal 2022 Conclusion If sociology had been a hard science, there would not have been need for the question as to why sociology is a science. The question was necessitated by several initially existing arguments as to the position of the now social sciences in the field of study; whether science or art. Now that it has been clearly established that sociology is a social science, there became need for identifying that which specifically qualifies the field as science. Having discussed why sociology is a science in this article, one would observe that the sociology field has in itself certain elements which qualify it as science, although the pattern by which they achieve their results may differ materially, but certainly not methodologically. Edesh Samuel Chukwumeka, ACCMC, is a lawyer and a certified mediator/conciliator in Nigeria. He is also a developer with knowledge in various programming languages. Samuel is determined to leverage his skills in technology, SEO, and legal practice to revolutionize the legal profession worldwide by creating web and mobile applications that simplify legal research. Sam is also passionate about educating and providing valuable information to people.

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