Introduction to Sociology

Lecture 8 - Socialization and Human Development

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Learning Objectives

- Socialization
- Nature versus Nurture
- Human development - the life cycle (life course)
- Resocialization

Socialization

- Learning to become an autonomous, fully-functioning member of a particular society (economically self-supporting, socially integrated, follow mainstream norms and values)

- Feral children show the importance of being socialized to become a member of a particular society

- Isolated and abused children

Nature versus Nurture

- Nature -- genes and their influence

- Nurture -- how people are brought up and socialized

Human Development

- The Life Cycle (Life Course)
- From birth to death: Birth, Infancy, Childhood, Teenage, Young adult, Middle age, Late middle age, old age, death
- Sigmund Freud
- Jean Piaget
- Lawrence Kohlberg
- Erik Erikson
- George Herbert Mead
- Carol Gilligan

Sigmund Freud

- Founder of psychoanalysis - free association
- Unconscious - ideas and feelings that are unacceptable to individual (Oedipal stage of development) or society, and repressed.
- Id (drives that demand immediate satisfaction), Ego (reality principle), Superego (conscience - internalized)
- Repression and sublimation of instincts (sexual, aggression). Can lead to neurosis.
- Stages in child development.
- Defense mechanisms

Jean Piaget

- Sensori-motor stage (birth to 18 months) - rely on senses and physical contact, no real sense of "self"
- Pre-operational stage (2-7) - improve in language, can think concretely about absent objects, egocentric
- Concrete operations stage (7-12) - classify objects, role-taking, understand cause and effect (causality, quantity, weight)
- Formal operation stage (12 onwards) - abstract thought

Erik Erikson

- Erikson's theory of psychosocial development has eight distinct stages, taking in five stages up to the age of 18 years and three further stages beyond, well into adulthood. Erikson suggests that there is still plenty of room for continued growth and development throughout one's life. Erikson puts a great deal of emphasis on the adolescent period, feeling it was a crucial stage for developing a person's identity.
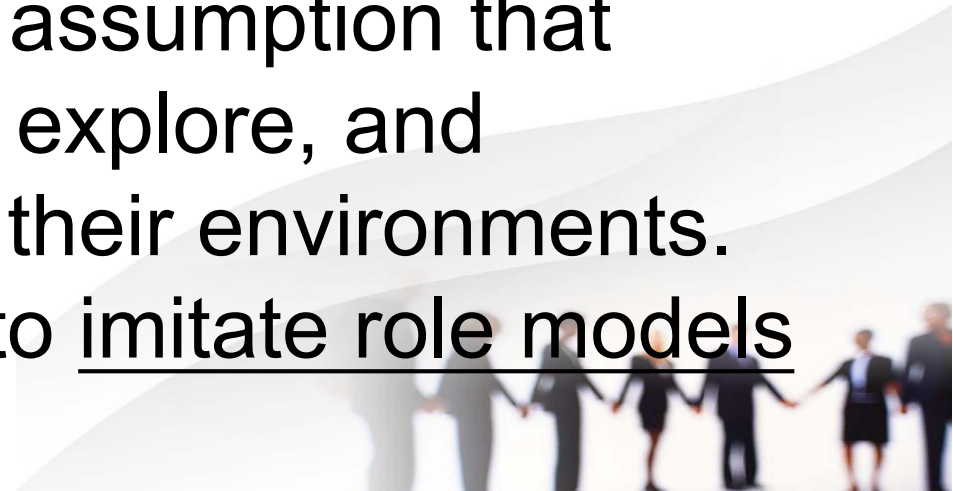
Lawrence Kohlberg

Theory of <u>development of moral reasoning</u> (inspired by Jean Piaget and a fascination with children's reactions to moral dilemmas).

He also outlined how educators can influence moral development without indoctrination in schools.

- Kohlberg's approach begins with the assumption that humans are intrinsically motivated to explore, and become competent at functioning in, their environments. In social development, this leads us to <u>imitate role models</u>

Lawrence Kohlberg

- The sequence of stages of moral development thus corresponds to a sequence of progressively more inclusive social circles (family, peers, community, etc.), within which humans seek to operate competently.

- Kohlberg suggested that the higher stages of moral development provide the person with greater capacities/abilities in terms of decision making and so these stages allow people to handle more complex dilemmas.

George Herbert Mead

- The Mind and Self <u>emerges (is created) from social interaction</u> of the individual with others.
- "Me" - self-concept (ability to see oneself as how others see you)

- "Taking on the role of the other" - children develop this ability
- Charles Cooley: Looking glass self - how we see overselves depends on how others see you.

Carol Gilligan

- Gender differences in moral reasoning are due to differences in socialization between boys and girls.

- Gilligan's stage theory of moral development in females. Like Kohlberg's, it has three major divisions: preconventional, conventional, and post conventional. But for Gilligan, the transitions between the <u>stages are fueled by changes in the sense of self</u> rather than in changes in cognitive capability.

Carol Gilligan

Moral voices: masculine and feminine. The masculine voice is "logical and individualistic", i.e. emphasis in moral decisions is protecting the rights of people and ensuring justice. The feminine voice places more emphasis on protecting interpersonal relationships and taking care of other people. This voice focuses on the "care perspective", which means focusing on the needs of the individual in ethical decisions.

Gilligan argues that androgyny, or integrating the masculine and the feminine, is the best way to realize human potential

Computer game based on Erik Erikson's model

- The game is called Alter Ego

- Available on-line for free

Resocialization

- Total institutions --- the military, religious convents an monasteries, prison

- Resocialization -- take away old identity (sometimes through a degradation ritual) and give a new one (with new norms, values, beliefs)

Thank you