



Family Theories   
Different Families . Different Views . Different Lenses

??? Theories ???

* Theories are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Researchers and academics have different ways of explaining something that others are also studying – these explanations are theories
* Different theories attempt to explain the same set of observations but from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Different theory = different explanation = different solutions or ways to create change

??? Micro or Macro ???

* Macro theories study the big picture
  + Look at the way \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
    as a whole
* **Micro** theories study families or groups more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Emphasize the relationships   
      
    within \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Structural Functionalism

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for any society to work
   * procreation, production of goods, social order, socialization, physical care   
     and nurturing

2. This is true for families too

structures

3. Also, society is structured in ways that work

* rank, power, rules, beliefs, norms & values

4. This is true for families too

Families fulfill important functions in society by providing all of the needed roles

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approach

Talcott Parsons - separate spheres

* Families that fulfill all the needed functions are helping to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* So, if families have a role in keeping society going, individuals in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to keep families stable



Dad – \_\_\_\_\_\_ leader Mom – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ leader

Families fulfill important functions in society by providing all of the needed roles

Pros and Cons

* Helps explain how families meet required needs in the family and in society
* Provides \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expectations
* Criticizes deviant or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ families
* Change is slow and happens at a pace that will not upset the balance
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at what structures are being maintained and whether or not the roles being performed to meet the needs are equitable

Symbolic Interactionism

**Micro** approach

* Psychological theory that attempts to explain how individuals choose how they   
  will act based on their perceptions of themselves and of others.
* Individuals interpret or give meaning to everything based on their experiences, feedback from others and family history
* Attempts to see things from the point of view of a person within a family

Mead & Cooley

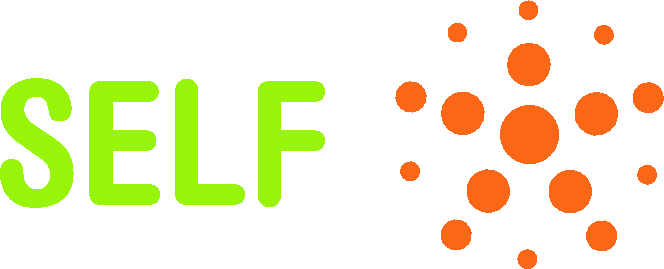
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Taking - George H. Mead
* allows us to understand the point of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the “actor”
* Which can help us to understand others ex. Men are from Mars Women are from Venus
* Charles Cooley - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“I’m not who I think I am, I am not who you think I am, but I am   
 who I think you think I am”

We see how people see us and the expectations help shape us

We interpret the family roles we think we are expected to play

We see how people see us and the expectations help shape us



Pros and Cons

* Helps explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in families
* Provides insight to marital success if you can come to understand others
* Helps us understand the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* It is so micro that it doesn’t look at the family in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – dysfunction is internal
* Person or researcher can misinterpret, have personal bias and so on

Systems Theory

there are 8 key tenets to   
this theory

The family is a system

1. Wholeness: the family needs to be assessed together as a **whole group**
2. Changes: in one area of the family effects change in other areas
3. Hierarchy: families have **subsystems** – some of the sub systems have higher status [example parents over children]
4. Boundaries: rigid, flexible or diffuse (boundary is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to a greater or lesser degree depending on the family)

DeDe Pritchett ≠ Jay Pritchett= Gloria Pritchett ≠ Javier Delgado

Fulgencio Pritchett Manny Delgado Grace = Frank  
Dunphy Dunphy

Phil = Claire Mitchell = Cameron   
 Dunphy Dunphy Pritchett Tucker

Hayley Luke Lily Tucker Pritchett  
 Alex

1. Rules: overt [ spoken] or covert (unspoken but understood)  
   ex. [No drinking & driving] (If it is okay to have sex in the house)
2. Balance: you need to maintain stability in the family which happens through feedback or communications back and forth between members - this can cause negative cycles
3. Causality: linear causality occurs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_>>>>\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ >>>>\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

things don’t happen in a vacuum when something happens to one there is an   
 impact on the others

1. Size Matters: the size of the system affects the rate at which changes can occur for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but it is easier for smaller ones

Pros and Cons

* Helps explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and change
* Micro approach – sort of a bridge between structural   
  functionalism and symbolic interactionism
* Biological approach makes sense to some
* Explains the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from each other
* Assumes all members play a role in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system ex. abuse or addiction

Social Exchange Theory

* Psychological, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approach that looks at how individuals make decisions   
  to maximize benefits
* These theorists look at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of family life to its members
* They feel that family decisions and decisions made while choosing a partner are based on assessing the costs versus the benefits

Relationships are the most stable when the benefits that each person   
receives balance the costs of the relationship

Example…

* George Clooney has remained single for most of his adult life to date, he recently married –   
  he had several beautiful girlfriends prior to this engagement, what benefit did this woman bring to the relationship that the others may not have?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* What benefits does he bring to her?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pros and Cons

* Helps explain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regarding relationships  
  to stay, or go, to make it work
* Parties in the relationships can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_needs so a balance is met
* Some feel it is not very romantic, too pragmatic and business like for love
* It is difficult to weight intangibles – we might think the costs are too great for us, but we can’t assess what the benefits are if we aren’t in the relationship

Developmental or Life Stages Theory

* This theory looks at families from their formation to their end through a series of

sequential \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Development happens in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Social, political and economic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a family as well
* At each stage there is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or change to sort out, and 2nd order tasks that need to be accomplished by the family

All families go through stages of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

You are Here

Pros and Cons

* Provides a tool for looking at changes in the family and in patterns   
  of family interaction over time
* Acknowledges that cultural and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can influence   
  family development
* Provides a guide for family therapists regarding key challenges typical for each stage
* Does it fit all families? What if they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and divert?
* Are the similarities actually a cohort effect and not a stage of development effect?

Conflict Theory

* These theories look at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Basically the view is that conflict exists between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

power (wealth, authority and so on) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* In a family situation, power is examined to see if there are imbalances
* Often the relationship between the man and woman is evaluated and in some cases it is deemed that the woman or children are being exploited by the one “in charge”

If society is unequal, it is not surprising that families will be unequal

Pros and Cons

* Can be used to understand why society or a family is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all members
* Addresses realities of power structures in traditional families that   
  are inequitable
* Negative overtones
* Does not apply to all families as there is a range of power distribution
* Very hard to implement any sort of real shift in power structures

Feminism

* Connected to Conflict theory as it also criticizes the way society works or does  
  not work
* Actually occurred in 3 waves, but the most recent was from the 1960s on
* Partially developed out of a desire to consider issues from the view point of women as well as men

Sees society as having been sexist against women and still inequitable socially, politically and economically.

* Are primarily interested in equality for all genders
  + - ex. paternity leave for dads
    - equal pay for women with same education
* There are many subgroups including
  + Liberal feminists – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Socialist feminists –women in families that do hours \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, could/should be compensated
  + Anti Oppression / women of colour feminists - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they work together and therefore all need to be addressed
  + Radical feminists – difficult to accomplish equity without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, patriarchy is entrenched in our society

Pros and Cons

* Recognizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and that change is desirable
* Wants equality \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Inclusive of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Generally anti oppression oriented
* Can sour a person if they are concerned about being exploited or discriminated against in a relationship or family
* Predominantly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Negative reputation and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Backlash of those who disagree can be negative & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Post Modernism

* is the concept of rejecting the idea of any one person being the holder of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, more accepting of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of voices
* It is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and theories to make way for multiple realities, ex. the diversity of the post modern family
* Charges researchers and therapists with working with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and cautioning against misinterpretation and bias at each step – encourages the researcher to listen to all the voices of those being studied / assisted

Pros and Cons

* Recognizes past flaws and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of   
  all of today’s families
* Taken into consideration, it cautions researchers to question   
  their practice and their interpretations
* What we say, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and our biases are important to acknowledge
* Some feel that these theorists throw out the baby with the bath water, being possibly too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of past thinking (academic anarchy)
* Judgmental of past achievements, but yet accepting of new thinking – to the lay person this may seem a little hypocritical
* If we include all thinking as worth considering, this could include immoral or deviant thinking that could be harmful to families or society

Queer Theory

* Challenges the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that thinks sexual orientation and gender are both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + - Ex. black and white; boy and girl; in and out
* Interested in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Against \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which are the expectations, demands, and constraints produced when heterosexuality is taken as normative within a society
* Against a hierarchy that place \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as normal and all others below

Pros and Cons

* Recognizes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- and that change is desirable
* Wants equality for all genders and orientations
* Inclusive of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Queer theory's commitment to deconstruction makes it nearly impossible to speak of a "lesbian" or "gay" subject, since all social categories are not supposed to be differentiated groups – all made normative – get rid of labels
* The methodological problem that scholars of sexuality end up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and consolidating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_