**Terms - Minds On**cross cultural… Comparing or dealing with two or more different cultures

moralistic… having or showing strong opinions about what is right behaviour and what is wrong behaviour (narrow attitude)

gendered… reflecting the experience, prejudices, or orientations of one sex more than the other ; reflecting or involving [gender](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gender) differences or stereotypical gender roles

socialization… a continuing process whereby an individual acquires a personal identity and learns the norms, values, behaviour, and [social](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/social) skills appropriate to his or her [social](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/social) position

monogamy… marriage with only one person at a time.

objective… not influenced by personal feelings, interpretations, or prejudice; based on facts; unbiased

subjective\*… pertaining to or characteristic of an individual; personal; individual placing excessive emphasis on one's own moods, attitudes, opinions, etc.

nuclear family… husband, wife and their children

extended family…involves several generations, or siblings and their spouses who share a household

census family… a term used by Statistics Canada, refers to a married couple with or without children living with them, or a single parent or grandparent sharing a dwelling with only their children or grandchildren (can be opposite or same sex)

economic family… persons related by blood ties, marriage or legal adoption who share a dwelling

household… related or unrelated people sharing a dwelling (Friends)

‘families of choice’… might include both immediate and extended biological relatives and social and friendship networks

socio-economic… relating to, or involving a combination of social and economic factors

modified extended… relatives who maintain frequent and close contact with one another but live in separate households

serial monogamy… marriage to one partner at a time

‘Western’ industrialized…of or relating to the countries of North America and Western Europe (noncommunist)polygyny…having more than one wife at a time

polygamy… having more than one spouse

polyandry… having more than one husband at a time

marriage markets… those seeking a marital partner

dowries… package deal (money, gifts, property) used to attract male suitors for a daughter; the bigger the dowry potentially the better the husband you could land (educated, wealthy, healthy)

bride price… when the grooms’ family is expected to pay the brides’ family for permission to marry her

patriarchy... social system where the males have more power than the females

matriarchy… social system where the females have more power than the males

matrifocal… a family focused around the mother

bilateral descent… lineage is traced through the families of both the bride and groom

patrilineal descent…lineage is traced through the male side of the family

matrilineal descent… lineage is traced through the female side of the family

matrilocal… bride and groom live with or near or in the community of the bride’s family

patrilocal… bride and groom live with or near or in the community of the groom’s family

neolocal… bride and groom live in a separate location from their families of origin

demographics… the statistical data of a population, especially those showing average age, income, education, etc.

conjugal… pertaining to the relation between marriage partners.

cohabitation… an intimate union between a couple of opposite or same sex who share a household and live together in marriage like circumstances

‘living apart together’… as the name implies, a couple who consider themselves to be together but living apart, the rates for Canada weren’t available when the chapter was written, but we now know that as of 2011 we know that 1.9 million people live as this type of couple, 7.4% of Canadians over the age of 20 (this rate is down from 8.4% a decade earlier)

total fertility rate… the average number of children that are produced by women aged 15 to 49 years

crude birth rates… when you see the term rate, we aren’t looking at percentages, we are looking at a number out of 1000 in any given year, so in this case it refers to the number of live births per 1000 population

Quiet Revolution… sweeping cultural changes in the 1960s and 1970s when the Catholic Church lost much of its control over Quebec society, the education system became more secularized, young people stressed careers, women played down traditional roles

Secularized… moving away from religion controlling society

matrimonial fault.. an act considered to violate the marriage contract and be justification for a divorce

lone parent… single parent

homogenous group…same or similar in origin

blended families… a step family formed through post marital cohabitation or remarriage that includes stepsiblings half siblings or both

static…no change, opposite of dynamic which is a state of change

\*this term isn’t in the reading but if we are going to look at “objective” research we might as well talk about “subjective” research as well.

**Summary**

Write a five sentences summary of the chapter “*Introduction to Family Sociology*”. Try to be as comprehensive as you can in these five sentences. Include as much of the key information as possible. There will be a prize for the best one! NOTE: Do this first so you don’t forget, it is worth marks on its own.

**Discussion Questions - Action***Introduction and Defining Families*

1. What is (are) the main point(s) Baker is trying to make with her introduction?
* We tend to know about families subjectively or from our own experience, but family practices vary widely according to identity, culture, economics, gender, stage in the family life cycle and so on. Family sociology helps us to know about families. It has changed over the decades, in the fifties, researchers looked at maternal instincts as genetic, as well as other gender differences whereas today we would consider that a social construct. We need to understand family in the context of the past (history) and through different cultures. We can find trends and patterns connected to economic conditions, social conditions, and so on. If families are not universally defined the same way, ours could be challenged.
* Basically understand that there are lots of ways families are, and we shouldn’t necessarily judge others, but try to understand their perspective and context.
1. Which type of family is the most prevalent in Canada?
* The nuclear family
1. What definition of family does Stats Canada use? Most definitions focus on structure and functions
 when defining family – which do you think is the most relevant?
* The census family, which is a married couple with or without children living with them, or a single parent or grandparent sharing a dwelling with only their children or grandchildren.
* Structure is about how is counted as a member of the family whereas function focuses on what those people do for us.
* When it comes to money, laws and respect who counts is important, but many would argue that in the past when some were left out the functions were the most important because they focused on who is in your life helping you to thrive and survive
1. How has this definition changed recently? Who is still left out? Why? Why the other changes?
* It is more inclusive of diverse forms of families, for example cohabitating couples, cohabitating parents, same sex couples and same sex parents, grandparent grandchild, foster families and step families.
* “Families of choice” (which might include both immediate and extended biological relatives and social and friendship networks) and polygamous families are still left out.
* Too loose for government agencies and institutions, who counts for benefits and so on. Polygamy is against the law, it could be argued to be against the most prevalent form of religion in our culture/country – Christianity.
1. When is a precise definition needed and why?
* When taking a national census, designing a research project, establishing eligibility for government benefits
1. On page 4 Baker (2006) states that different cultural groups tend to organize their living arrangements based on traditions, religious beliefs, socio-economic background, immigrant or indigenous status, and historical experiences. Provide examples of how these factors would or could influence living arrangements.
* Traditions – example nuclear family, possibly extended
* Religious beliefs – man and a woman only and must be married or multiple wives and so on
* Socio-economic background – what this family can afford might dictate how or where they live
* Immigrant status – if you are new to the country might need to live with family in an extended manner
* Indigenous status – if you are a treaty Indian (sorry an actual legal term) you are entitled to live on a reserve, and in the past if you left the reserve you couldn’t come back – broke up some families
* Historical experience - industrial revolution influenced families to be less extended and more nuclear
1. What % of Canadian households include three generations? What percent live with relatives in
 households? If many immigrants come from cultures where extended family households are the
 norm, why aren’t these numbers higher in Canada?
* In 1996 3%; as of 2006 1.3% relatives in households
* living on your own more independently as young adults or grandparents is encouraged in Canada
* many immigrants alter their traditional practices after coming to Canada
1. Why have rates of polygyny decreased over the last six decades around the world? Why is polygyny more prevalent than polyandry around the world? What are the pros and cons of each?
* The impact of Westernization
* Patriarchal practices where men tend to have more power in a society, it could suit them to have more than one wife, but they wouldn’t allow a woman to have more than one husband
* Polygyny – pros lots of babies potentially, company for the woman, lots of people and support, lots of children which could be a source of labour, and in areas where child mortality is a concern it might hedge your bets for having an heir or someone to support you in your old age; cons it is against certain religions, women could fight and get jealous, lots of potential for differences of opinion and lack of consensus; not fair if polyandry is also not practiced
* Polyandry – pros may have more labourers to support the woman and her children, more money, lots of male role models, hedge your bets in case one leaves? ; cons difficult to track paternity, same as polygyny with regards to consensus and religious concerns
1. Why is polygamy illegal in Canada and the US?
* North America post First Nations and Inuit was built by Anglo Europeans, French and Spanish – all connected to either Christianity or Catholicism, both of which frown on polygamy (sexual exclusivity in the confines of holy matrimony
* concerns over a man’s ability to support more than one wife and their children both emotionally and financially
1. In North America who has a high marriage market value? What are the possible implications of
 these?
* Rich men and pretty women
* High divorce rates suggest that we may not be choosing our partners that wisely – emphasizing looks or money over important qualities
1. Why arrange a marriage for your offspring? How has this been modified more recently?
* More qualified to make such an important decision
* Concern over family resources being enhanced, reputation and alliances
* More importance placed on financial security and potential heirs and extending family solidarity
* Less importance on romance and sexual attraction
* Semi arranged marriages are now happening where the relatives identify several potential mates and you pick one
* Increasingly young people retain the right to veto all of them
* They are typically more successful, they are supported by families and communities, it is hoped that love will develop
1. What is a dowry? What purpose do they serve? What impact does the dowry system have on which
 sex children are preferred? What are the more far reaching implications of this preference?
* Package deal (money, gifts, property) used to attract male suitors for a daughter; the bigger the dowry potentially the better the husband you could land (educated, wealthy, healthy)
* Build alliances between families
* Establish new households who may have a hard time getting going at first
* Provide brides with a little financial security in case of abuse, divorce or widowhood
* It encourages families to want sons rather than daughters, with sons you can gain but with daughters (especially more than one) you have to pay
* Also, sons will carry on the family name, find jobs and support themselves
* Killing or mistreating baby girls, sex selected abortions, abandonment
1. How is bride price different? Why do you think it has had less of an impact on gender preference?
* Bride price is when the grooms’ family is expected to pay the brides’ family for permission to marry her
* Also establishes alliances, compensates for the bride’s lost labour and child bearing potential that would have helped her family of origin and or community
1. What are the symbolic remnants of both dowries and bride price that we see commonly in North
 America?
* Dowries – trousseau or clothing and household items collected for the wedding and the bride’s family paying for the wedding, brides’ families throwing showers
* Bride Price – engagement and wedding rings (the more lavish the more reward supposedly for a good bride)
1. What is the difference between patriarchy and matriarchy when it comes to families? Who wears
 the pants in your family? What’s wrong with this expression?
* Patriarchy – oldest male is the head of the family, in extreme cases held all legal and political power over children and wife, including life and death, generally, though more socio economic power, within the confines of Canadian law, the head of the household, makes the major decisions- this is extended to power across the country examples the vote, property rights, rule of thumb and pay inequities, today it is less so, but women are still under represented Canada in positions of power in companies and in politics- consider Obama versus Hilary
* Matriarchy – women are granted more authority than the men, has possibly existed with the Tchambuli, the Iroquois in Canada in the 18th C, and some Black families in the Caribbean and US (could be a legacy from slavery, when the father could be sold off and the woman would raise the children if possible, essentially women were encouraged to be the heads of the households)
* Who wears the pants in your family? Varied student responses expected. The problem with this question or saying is that it implies that the person who is in charge in your family would typically wear pants, which is a throwback to a gendered expression of male dressing.

*Family Trends*

1. What has happened to the marriage rates in Canada? How has the age of first marriage changed as
 well? Are these connected?
* 1/3 of Canadian women start couple living arrangements (conjugal) by living common law
* Over 2/3rds if you look at Quebec
* Cohabitation can be a prelude to marrying for the first time (young) or for the second or third times (older)
* As more people live together common law, the rates of marriage decline
* The rate has declined from 8.9 marriages per 1000 in 1971
* In 2002 the range was 2.3 per 1000 for Nunavut to 6.0 for PEI
* (this term rate is based on 1000 people in a given year and averaged out across the provinces or country) (many more people are married, this is referring to getting married in a given year)
* Age of first marrying is getting older as well, 22 for women in the 1960s and 25 for men, compared to 2003 rates of 28.5 and 30.6 respectively (in the order already mentioned), and from 2011 rates of 29.1 and 31.1
* Yes, they are connected young adults are waiting to marry affecting the number of people getting married, also, there are fewer young adults today than there were 10 and 20 and 30 years ago, because we are past our baby boom from the 1950s and 1960s, today’s young adults are the echo boom though, and gen Y which is a mini boom
1. How do the success rates compare between those who marry and those who cohabitate? What are
 some of the possible reasons for this?
* Those who cohabitate first are less successful, or at least have been up until now,
* Possible reasons include that more young people cohabitate, have lower incomes, and are less likely religious and more likely to divorce if they are in an unhappy marriage
1. How many women between the ages of 35 to 44 live as part of a couple?
* Over 3/4s of Canadian women, the point being that even though rates are declining and ages marrying are rising, the majority of Canadians do live in couple relationships either married or cohabitating
1. Summarize the fertility trends for Canadians. Compare these crude birth rates for Canada: 1851,
 1901, 1931, 1951, 1981, and 2001. Explain the dips in the 30s and 40s and the peaks in the 50s and
 60s. What are the reasons for the recent declines? (see total fertility rates)
* They have been declining since the late 1800s, but more rapidly since the 1960s

Crude birth rates per 1000 in Canada

1851 45

1901 31 fewer women, particularly married women working outside the home, able to be
 home raising children

1931 23.2 depression hits so numbers drop, people are struggling then the war hits and men
 are away

1951 27.2 post WWII boom raises rates for the 50s and 60s

1981 15 boomers had fewer children, children cost a lot, particularly to educate, it is hard
 for dual income families to handle high numbers as well, we have access to better
 birth control post 1970s

2001 10.8 women going to school for longer, marrying later, having children when they are
 older, which is more difficult, infertility issues, dual couples working, harder to
 handle high numbers as well, economy – costs more to raise a family in the urban
 areas than the rural, less religious (devout or orthodox Catholics don’t practice
 birth control)

1. How do immigrant women in Canada differ in terms of fertility rates?
* They have fewer women on average than Canadian born women, contrary to popular belief
* They tend to come to Canada for a better life, live in dual working couples
* Copy trends of Canadians as well
1. In terms of fertility, how do we compare globally?
* We are lower than the US 2.04 per 1000 women, Canadian rate 1.51 in 2003 (as of 2011 1.61) slightly up echo boomers having children might impact these rates slightly, Australia 1.8, similar to some European countries
1. In terms of fertility, how has Quebec specifically shifted over the last 30 to 40 years?
* Declined considerably, post the Quiet Revolution, rates dropped from 4.0 per 1000 to 1.49 in 2003
1. Look over the 8 reasons for more maternal employment. Identify at least one that is a plus, one
 that is a negative and one that is interesting. Has this trend resulted in less gendered practices at
 home?
2. Expansion of service sector
3. Rising cost of living
4. More part time jobs being created by private firms
5. Higher divorce rates in the 1970s and 1980s – women need to be more financially independent
6. Maternity and paternity leaves improved so you can have a baby and still keep your job
7. Better birth control
8. Higher education and higher aspirations
9. Raised desires for better lifestyle (material stuff)
* No not really, men work longer and bring home more money and women tend to carry the bulk of house work and family caring, decision making is more autonomous though
1. What has happened to teen birth rates since the 1950s? Why? Coincidentally, what has happened
 to the adoption rates? How are these connected? Where are our adopted babies coming from?
* Declined considerably since the 1950s
* better contraceptives (birth control), legalized abortion, public health insurance (contraceptive access), social assistance benefits allowing women who are poor to get medical attention and prescriptions (birth control)
* fewer adoptions as less babies are available
* international adoptions are increasing (now about 1/3 of our adoptions)
* in Canada, children are often adopted by family members
* more women are keeping their babies even if they are on their own
1. List the reasons for some couples’ infertility.
* Exposure to STIs, long term use of certain contraceptives, workplace hazards, environmental pollutants, hormonal imbalances, smoking\*, too much exercise (low body fat), too much caffeine, other drugs, prolonged stress, women trying at an older age

\*Chemicals (such as nicotine, cyanide, and carbon monoxide) in cigarette smoke speed up the loss rate of eggs. Unfortunately, once eggs die off, they cannot regenerate or be replaced. This means that menopause occurs 1 to 4 years earlier in women who smoke (compared with non-smokers).

Male smokers can suffer decreased sperm quality with lower counts (numbers of sperm) and motility (sperm’s ability to move) and increased numbers of abnormally-shaped sperm. Smoking might also decrease the sperm’s ability to fertilize eggs.

***How can smoking impact my ability to conceive?***

Women who smoke do not conceive as efficiently as nonsmokers. Infertility rates in both male and female smokers are about twice the rate of infertility found in nonsmokers. The risk for fertility problems increases with the number of cigarettes smoked daily.

Even fertility treatments such as IVF may not be able to fully overcome smoking’s effects on fertility. Female smokers need more ovary-stimulating medications during IVF and still have fewer eggs at retrieval time and have 30% lower pregnancy rates compared with IVF patients who do not smoke.

1. How do our divorce rates compare to the US? Some European countries? Have our rates been
 steadily increasing since the 1920s? Explain the bumps or increases in the late 60s and post 85.
 What are the risk factors for divorce?

1921 0.06 per 1000

1987 3.6 per 1000

2003 2.3 per 1000

* No, there is a bump in the 80s because it became easier to access a divorce, change in laws in 1985
* 1968 – can divorce over marriage breakdown, not just matrimonial fault (one person had to take the blame ex. Cheating)
* 1985 – redefined marriage breakdown as living apart for 1 year
* Overall our rates are considered moderate
* Our rates are lower compared to US 4.3 per 1000 in 2002 to Canada’s 2.3 per 1000 in 2003
* We are higher than Spain and Italy (less secularized)

**Risk factors in General in Canada**

* Our overall population is younger than Europe
* We have high rates of marriage in the first place
* More secularization
* More individual focus
* Less concern over stigma

**More specifically for Individual Canadians**

* Marrying young especially if the bride is pregnant
	+ Less social and emotionally mature
	+ Less likely to have a full education
	+ Can’t support self
	+ Lack of opportunity to adjust to marriage before the stress of being pregnant
* Being divorced already in the past
* Having divorced parents
	+ May see divorce as a solution (modeled)
	+ Are more familiar with the legal process
	+ May have picked up unhealthy or less optimal ways of resolving conflict if parents were not great at it
* Large difference in age
* Difference in cultures
* Different religious or socio-economic background
* Absence of religious connection to a church or institution
* Couples without children
1. What causes lone parenting? Which gender is more likely to be a lone parent? Why? Which are
 more vulnerable to poverty?
* Losing a spouse to death, divorce and being on your own to begin with
* Women
* Women have the babies and can be left with them or could have had them on their own
* There may be a bias in court that some judges feel mothers are more nurturing especially for young children
* Women who have children on their own are the most vulnerable to poverty, especially if they are young and have not finished school (this is starting to shift as women who are financially stable are becoming pregnant on their own intentionally)

**Percentage of Canadian Families Living on a Low Income, by Family Type, 1990–2007**



1. When it comes to divorce and remarriage or re-partnering, what is the impact on children, what are
 the age differences? What is it better than? What is it worse than?
* Younger is better, older children have a harder time adjusting to step families
* Remarriage can provide a stabilizing force, it is better than remaining in a toxic intact family or having one parent who is lonely or poor
* It is worse than an intact healthy family

**Reflection Questions – Consolidation**

All answers should vary according to student

1. What is your definition of family? Is it the same or different as the census? What do you think about broadening it?
2. In your opinion, since Canada has loosened restrictions against same sex marriage, should Canada allow polygamy? Consider a world renowned brain surgeon is recruited to Toronto Sick Kids hospital. He is from a country where polygyny is practiced, and he has two wives and 5 children. What now?
3. What are the most positive trends? What are the least positive trends?
4. What is something that affirmed your understanding? What is something that challenged it? What was surprising?