

Social Psychology In Sociology

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, Sociological Abstracts its companion file Social Services Abstracts; cover the international literature of sociology, social service, and related disciplines within the social and behavioural sciences.

Sociological Abstracts provides access to the world's literature in sociology and related disciplines, both theoretical and applied. The database includes abstracts of journal articles selected from over 1,700 serial publications, abstracts of conference papers presented at various sociological association meetings, relevant dissertation listings from Dissertation, Abstracts International, enhanced bibliographic citations of book reviews, and abstracts of selected sociology books.

The journals scanned for inclusion cover sociological topics in fields like anthropology, economics, education, medicine, community development, philosophy, demography, politics, and psychology. Journals published by sociological associations, groups, faculties, and institutes, and periodicals containing the term "sociology" in their titles, are abstracted fully, no matter language or country of publication. Non-core journals are screened for articles by sociologists and/or articles of immediate interest or relevance to sociologists.

1. Introduction

In sociology, psychology (also referred to as sociological social psychology) is a neighborhood of sociology that focuses on social policy and on the interrelation of personality, values, and mind with social structure and culture. Some of the most topics during this field include social status, structural power, sociocultural change, social inequality and prejudice, leadership and intra-group behavior, social exchange, group conflict, impression formation and management, conversation structures, socialization, social constructionism, social norms and deviance, identity and roles, and emotional labor. The primary methods of knowledge collection are sample surveys, field observations, vignette studies, field experiments, and controlled experiments.

2. History

Sociological psychology is understood to possess emerged in 1902 with a landmark study by sociologist Charles Cooley, entitled attribute and thus the Social Order, during which he introduces the concept of the looking-glass self.

Sociologist Edward Alsworth Ross would subsequently publish the primary sociological textbook in psychology, referred to as psychology, in 1908. Following a few decades later, Jacob L. Moreno would continue to found the field's major academic journal in 1937, entitled Sociometry—though its name would change in 1978 to psychology and to its current title, Social Psychology Quarterly, the year after.

3. Foundational Concepts

Symbolic Interactionism

In the 1920s, William and Dorothy Thomas introduced what would become not only a basic tenet of sociological psychology, but of sociology generally. In 1923, the 2proposed the concept of definition of things, followed in 1928 by the Thomas theorem (or Thomas axiom): If men define situations as real, they're real in their consequences.

—Thomas & Thomas, *The Child in America: Behavior Problems and Programs* (1928), p. 572

This subjective definition of situation by social actors, groups, or subcultures would be interpreted by Robert K. Merton as a 'self-fulfilling prophecy' (re 'mind over matter'), becoming a core concept of what would form the thought of symbolic interactionism, generally credited because the founding father of symbolic interactionism is University of Chicago philosopher and sociologist George Herbert Mead, whose work greatly influences the planet of psychology generally. However, it'd be sociologist Herbert Blumer, Mead's colleague and disciple at Chicago, who coined the name of the framework in 1937.

Action Theory

At Harvard University, sociologist Parsons began developing a cybernetic theory of action in 1927, which might subsequently be adapted to small group research by Parsons' student and colleague, Robert Freed Bales. Using Bales' behavior coding scheme, interaction process analysis, would end during a body of observational studies in social interactions in groups. During his 41-year tenure at Harvard, Bales mentored a distinguished group of sociological social psychologists concerned with group processes and other topics in sociological psychology.

Symbolic Interactionism

The contemporary notion of symbolic interactionism originates from the work of George Herbert Mead and Max Weber. During this circular framework, social interactions

are considered to be the thought from which meanings are constructed; meanings that then influence the tactic of social interaction itself. Many symbolic Interactionists see the self as a core meaning that's both constructed through and influential in social relations.

The structural school of symbolic interactionism uses shared social knowledge from a macro level culture, tongue, social institution, or organization to elucidate relatively enduring patterns of social interaction and psychology at the micro-level, typically investigating these matters with quantitative methods. The Iowa School, along with identity theory and affect control theory, are major programs of research during this tradition. The latter two theories, especially, specialize in the ways during which actions control mental states, which demonstrates the underlying cybernetic nature of the approach that's also evident in Mead's writings: 3-5 Moreover, affect control theory provides a mathematical model of role theory and of labeling theory.

Stemming from the Chicago School, process symbolic interactionism considers the meanings that underlie social interactions to be situated, creative, fluid, and sometimes contested. As such, researchers during this tradition frequently use qualitative and ethnographic methods. Symbolic Interaction, a tutorial journal founded by the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, emerged in 1977 as a central outlet for the inquiry and conceptual studies produced by scholars during this area.

Postmodern symbolic interactionism, which understands the notion of self and identity as increasingly fragmented and illusory, considers attempts at theory to be meta-narrative with no more authority than other conversations. The approach is presented in detail by The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research.

Social Exchange

Social exchange theory emphasizes the notion that social policy is that the results of personal choices that are made so as to maximize benefit while minimizing cost. A key component of this theory is the postulation of the "comparison level of alternatives": an actor's sense of the best possible alternative in a given situation (i.e. the choice with the highest net benefits or lowest net costs; similar to the concept of a "cost-benefit analysis").

Theories of social exchange share many essential features with classical economic theories, like rational choice theory. However, social exchange theories differ from classical economics therein social exchange makes predictions about the relationships between persons, instead of just the evaluation of products. For example, social exchange theories have been used to predict human behaviour in romantic relationships by taking into account each actor's subjective sense of cost (e.g., volatility, financial dependence), benefit (e.g. attraction, chemistry, attachment), and comparison level of alternatives (e.g. whether or not there are any viable alternative mates available).

Expectation States And Status Characteristics

Expectation states theory—as well as its popular sub-theory, status characteristics theory—proposes that

individuals use available social information to make expectations for themselves et al. Group members, for instance, use stereotypes about competence in attempting to determine who will be comparatively more skilled in a given task, which then indicates one's authority and status in the group. In order to determine everyone else's relative ability and assign rank accordingly, such members use one's membership in social categories (e.g. race, gender, age, education, etc.); their known ability on immediate tasks; and their observed dominant behaviors (e.g. glares, rate of speech, interruptions, etc.).

Expectation states theory—as well as its popular sub-Social influence is a factor in every individual's life. Social influence takes place when one's thoughts, actions and feelings are suffering from people. It is how of interaction that affects individual behavior and may occur within groups and between groups. It is a fundamental process that affects ways of socialization, conformity, leadership and social change.

Although exhibiting dominant behaviors and, for instance, belonging to a particular race has no direct connection to actual ability, implicit cultural beliefs about who possesses what proportion social value will drive group members to "act as if" they believe some people have more useful contributions than others. As such, the theory has been used to explain the rise, persistence, and enactment of status hierarchies.

Social Structure And Personality

This research perspective deals with relationships between large-scale social systems and individual behaviors and mental states including feelings, attitudes and values, and mental faculties. Some researchers specialize in problems with health and the way social networks bring useful social support to the ill. Another line of research deals with how education, occupation, and other components of class impact values. Some studies assess emotional variations, especially in happiness versus alienation and anger, among individuals in several structural positions.

Social Influence

Social influence is a factor in every individual's life. Social influence takes place when one's thoughts, actions and feelings are affected by other people. It is a way of interaction that affects individual behavior and can occur within groups and between groups. It is a fundamental process that affects ways of socialization, conformity, leadership and social change.

Dramaturgy

Another aspect of micro-sociology aims to focus on individual behavior in social settings. One specific researcher within the field, Erving Goffman, claims that humans tend to believe that they're actors on a stage, which he explains within the book *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. He argues that as a result, individuals will further proceed with their actions based on the response of that individual's 'audience' or in other words, the people to whom he is speaking. Much like a play, Goffman believes that rules of conversing and communication exist: to display

confidence, display sincerity, and avoid infractions which are otherwise known as embarrassing situations. Breaches of such rules are what make social situations awkward.

Group Dynamics (Group Processes)

From a sociological perspective, social psychology refers to the ways during which power, status, justice, and legitimacy impact the structure and interactions that happen within groups. A particular area of study, during which scholars examine how group size affects the sort and quality of interactions that happen between group members, was introduced by the work of German social theorist, Georg Simmel. Those who study group processes also study interactions between groups, like within the case of Muzzafar Sheriff's Robbers Cave Experiment.

Initially, groups are often characterized as either dyads (two people) or triads (three people), where the essential difference is that, if one person were to go away a dyad,

that group would dissolve completely, while the same is not true of a triad. What this difference indicates is that the fundamental nature of group size: every additional member of a gaggle increases the group's stability while decreasing the possible amount of intimacy or interactions between any two members.

A group can also be distinguished in terms of how and why its members know each other. In this sense, individual group members belong to at least one of the following:

Primary group: Consists of close friends and family who are held together by expressive ties;

Secondary group: Consists of coworkers, colleagues, classmates, and so on, who are held together by instrumental ties; or

Reference group: Consists of individuals who don't necessarily know or interact with one another, but who use one another for standards of comparison for appropriate behaviors.

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