

## 1: Structural Explanations for Poverty | rushdensociology

*CHAPTER 9 Structural Theories as Explanations Like domestic explanations, international-structural explanations could provide a more accurate, and simpler, alternative to the argument for-*

Causes of poverty in the United States[ edit ] Poverty as a personal failing[ edit ] When it comes to poverty in the United States , there are two main lines of thought. The most common line of thought within the U. Supposed traits range from personality characteristics, such as laziness, to educational levels. This thought pattern stems from the idea of meritocracy and its entrenchment within U. Meritocracy, according to Katherine S. Poverty as a structural failing[ edit ] Rank, Yoon, and Hirschl present a contrary argument to the idea that personal failings are the cause of poverty. The first is a failure of the job market to provide a proper amount of jobs which pay enough to keep families out of poverty. Even if unemployment is low, the labor market may be saturated with low-paying, part-time work that lacks benefits thus limiting the amount of full-time, good paying jobs. Other industrialized nations devote more resources to assisting the poor than the U. The table shows that in , the actual rate of poverty what the rate would be without government interventions in the U. Canada and the United Kingdom had the lowest reduction rates outside of the U. Causes of poverty in developing nations[ edit ] Shiva Kumar - The importance of MDGs in redefining what are the poverty drivers Poverty as cultural characteristics[ edit ] Development plays a central role to poverty reduction in third world countries. Some authors feel that the national mindset itself plays a role in the ability for a country to develop and to thus reduce poverty. In turn Lawrence E. Finally, Stace Lindsay claims the differences between development-prone and development-resistant nations is attributed to mental models which, like values, influence the decisions humans make. Mental models are also cultural creations. Grondona, Harrison and Lindsay all feel that without development orientated values and mindsets, nations will find it difficult if not impossible to develop efficiently, and that some sort of cultural change will be needed in these nations in order to reduce poverty. These decisions, whether they are favorable to economic development or not, are made within the context of culture. These systems heavily influence the way decisions are made as well as the reactions and outcomes of said decisions. These mental models influence all aspects of human action. Grondona presents two ideal value systems mental models , one of which has values only favoring development, the other only with value which resist development. Grondona goes on to identify twenty cultural factors on which the two value systems stand in opposition. These factors include such things as the dominant religion; the role of the individual in society; the value placed on work; concepts of wealth, competition, justice and time; and the role of education. Religion, value of work, overall justice and time orientation are included in his list, but Harrison also adds frugality and community as important factors. Lindsay focuses more on economic aspects such as the form of capital focused upon and market characteristics. Key themes which emerge from these lists as characteristic of developmental cultures are: Characteristics of the ideal non-developmental value system are: Grondona, Harrison, and Lindsay all feel that at least some aspects of development-resistant cultures need to change in order to allow under-developed nations and cultural minorities within developed nations to develop effectively. According to their argument, poverty is fueled by cultural characteristics within under-developed nations, and in order for poverty to be brought under control, said nations must move down the development path. Poverty as a label[ edit ] Various theorists believe the way poverty is approached, defined, and thus thought about, plays a role in its perpetuation. Maia Green explains that modern development literature tends to view poverty as agency filled. When poverty is prescribed agency, poverty becomes something that happens to people. Poverty absorbs people into itself and the people, in turn, become a part of poverty, devoid of their human characteristics. In the same way, poverty, according to Green, is viewed as an object in which all social relations and persons involved are obscured. This further removes the poor from defining their situation as the broadness of the term covers differences in histories and causes of local inequalities. The specific ways in which the poor and poverty are recognized frame them in a negative light. In development literature, poverty becomes something to be eradicated, or, attacked. When a negative view of poverty as an animate object is fostered, it can often

lead to an extension of negativity to those who are experiencing it. This in turn can lead to justification of inequalities through the idea of the deserving poor. Even if thought patterns do not go as far as justification, the negative light poverty is viewed in, according to Appadurai, does much to ensure little change in the policies of redistribution. Appadurai specifically deals with the capacity to aspire and its role in the continuation of poverty and its environment. Aspirations are formed through social life and its interactions. Appadurai claims that the better off one is, the more chances one has to not only reach aspirations but to also see the pathways which lead to the fulfillment of aspirations. By actively practicing the use of their capacity of aspiration the elite not only expand their aspiration horizon but also solidify their ability to reach aspirations by learning the easiest and most efficient paths through said practice. Thus, the capacity to aspire requires practice, and, as Chakravarti argues, when a capacity or decision making process is not refined through practice it falters and often fails. An example of one such arena may be a housing development built for the poor, by the poor. Through this, the poor are able to not only show their abilities but to also gain practice dealing with governmental agencies and society at large.

### 2: STRUCTURAL EXPLANATION refers to power differentials.

*How do structural explanations function in the social sciences? and what is a structural explanation? An explanation for crime, such as homicide, that focuses on social structure, referring to inequality of condition, poverty, or power differentials.*

Rochester Institute of Technology This review discusses how two theories--evolutionary psychology and social structural theory--apply to mate preferences, jealousy, and aggression. It compares explanations from both theories for each sex difference. Evolutionary psychology maintains that sex differences develop biologically as people adapt to changes in the environment. The main focus in evolutionary psychology is reproduction of future generations. Social structural theory maintains that sex differences result from changes in society and social roles occupied by men and women. Social structural theory also draws upon cultural explanations. This paper compares the perspectives of evolutionary psychology and social structural theory on sex differences in jealousy, mate preferences, and aggression. These two theories shed somewhat different lights on the origins of sex differences between men and women. Both theories discuss sex differences in mate preferences, jealousy, and aggression. Explanations from the two theories are compared and contrasted.

**Explanations for Sex Differences**

Evolutionary psychologists have developed a theory to explain the origins of differences between men and women. From the evolutionary perspective, human sex differences reflect the pressure of differing physical and social environments between females and males in primeval times. It is believed that each sex faced different pressures and that the differing reproductive status was the key feature in life at that time. This resulted in sex-specific evolved mechanisms that humans carry with them--these are the causes of sex-differentiated behavior. The two sexes developed different strategies to ensure their survival and reproductive success. This explains why men and women differ psychologically: Evolutionary psychologists explain sex differences as based on differing parental investment. Because women invest greatly in reproduction of offspring, they have developed traits that help improve the chances that each offspring will survive. Evolutionary psychologists view sex-evolved dispositions as psychological tendencies that have been built in genetically. The social structural theory states that the critical cause of sex differences is social structure. The differences between genders are not based psychologically but are influenced socially. It is believed that situations faced by each sex are variable in societies and cultures and historical periods and that there are changes in responses to technology, ecology, and social organization. Because men are bigger and stronger, they are given more attention and respect in our society. Physical sex differences influence the roles held by men and women, because one sex will accomplish certain activities better than the other sex. Each performance by one sex determines its placement in the social structure. With physical differences, each sex is believed to develop traits according to placement in the social structure. This theory emphasizes that mate selection by women is not only focused on reproduction of children but also on power and social status. Evolutionary psychology indicates that characteristics that people seek in mates depend on their sex and whether it is a short-term or a long-term mating. Women are limited in the number of children they can have during their lifetime. Men have no restriction when it comes to reproduction. Both men and women compete for their choice of mate. Women will seek a mate who has resources to support their parental efforts, whereas men will seek a mate for reasons different from wanting to be a parent. A man has two possibilities for multiplying copies of his genes: He can either aim for quantity or quality of offsprings. With quantity, a man can impregnate as many women as possible without staying around to help raise any of the children. With quality, a man can stay with one female partner and have fewer children, but he will be present during their upbringing.

VanLeuwen, Women have a limit on how many children they can have and a time limit on when they can bear children. Because of these limits, women are strongly motivated to ensure that the children they have will have the physical and psychological traits necessary to survive and to be able to reproduce successfully.

Looy, Physical appearances play a big part in mate selection. Women prefer men with more symmetrical features; clear, unblemished skin; and white sclera of the eye, because these features indicate good health, which also means "good" genes. Women also prefer that men have masculine features, such as

strong jaw, facial hair, broader shoulders, narrower hips, and a muscular build, because these indicate sufficient testosterone for fertility. When it comes to age, most women prefer older guys who are intelligent, have high social status, and have money, because these indicate that they have enough power to obtain resources that are needed for survival or offspring. All these things come into consideration as a woman proceeds to select a mate, because a long-term commitment is what she has in mind. Men have their own preferences in physical appearance of their mate. Men tend to seek relatively young woman with full lips, breasts, and hips, and a smaller waist, because these indicate sufficient estrogen levels to successfully birth a child. Men also look for facial symmetry, shiny hair, clear skin, and white sclera. Men are less concerned about the social status of their chosen mate. Because women are often limited in social power, they will seek advancement through their mate. Men are judged on being good providers, so when women are in a search for a mate, they tend to look for someone who can provide what they lack. The marital system is based on the man being the breadwinner and the woman being a homemaker. This favors the age gap in marriage. Wives who are younger than their husbands tend to have lesser wages, social status, and education. Men who marry younger women have nothing to gain but a wife who will tend to meet his needs. When a woman marries a man, she will gain social identity, power, economic support, and emotional support. Jealousy is defined as an emotional state that is aroused by a perceived threat to a relationship or position. Jealousy is a reaction related to fear and rage, and it makes one want to protect, maintain, and prolong the association of love. Evolutionary psychologists believe that the cues that trigger sexual jealousy are weighted differently in men and women. Sexual infidelity acts as a cue that triggers sexual jealousy among men. The child remains hers no matter what. If her mate becomes interested in another woman, this will result in a loss of his time, attention, energy, resources, protection, and commitment to her children. Women are more prone to react negatively when they or their children are deprived of emotional support; this will trigger jealousy. Men, on the other hand, will become angry if they suspect their wives of sexual infidelity. In men, jealousy is triggered by cues that may indicate sexual infidelity. This occurs when their mate smiles at another man, especially if he is younger, better looking, and has higher status. As a result of this jealousy, the man will engage in behaviors that ensure that he monopolizes sexual access to his mate. Women, on the other hand, will be more concerned about emotional infidelity, because they depend greatly on the resources their mate makes available to them. Jealousy in women is triggered by cues related to emotional connection or the presence of a younger and more attractive woman. There is also a double-shot hypothesis against the evolutionary perspective. In this hypothesis, it is believed that individuals feel that emotional infidelity implies sexual infidelity. Aggression Male aggression can be viewed as sexual jealousy and possessiveness, which arise from paternal uncertainty. Archer, Male aggression often results into rape and violence. Archer discussed how sexual and physical aggression are more common in men than women. Men tend to be aggressive outside of the relationship, whereas women tend to be aggressive inside the relationship. When it comes to physical aggression, women are more likely to scratch their mate. Some will kick, slap, or shove their mate in anger. Archer, It is usually supposed that the man is the one who will act physically aggressively, but it has been shown that women are not always fearful to show physical aggression toward a man. Conclusion There are indeed sex differences and explanations for the reasons behind them by both evolutionary psychology and social structural theory. With evolutionary psychology, sex differences are viewed as dependent on reproduction and changes that occur are biologically as people adapt to changes in the environment. In social structural theory, sex differences are viewed as influenced socially by roles of men and women. Social structural theory is not mainly focused on biology but on cultural and social practices. The two theories may have different explanations for why there are sex differences and how sex differences influence each sex, but they agree that each difference is impacted by changes in the environment. If there is a change in environment, then evolutionary theory maintains that people will adapt to the change biologically, and social structural theory maintains that people will adapt culturally and socially as their status changes. Both theories provide insight into why there are sex differences, and knowing the explanation will enable people to understand one another better.

### 3: Theories of poverty - Wikipedia

*The structural explanation reveals, however, that there is a deeper problem than the wage inequity. 7 The "invisible foot" explanation shows that women as a group are structurally situated so that it is rational for them to choose options that keep them subordinate.*

Detailed Description[ edit ] The structural-functional approach is a perspective in sociology that sees society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. It asserts that our lives are guided by social structures, which are relatively stable patterns of social behavior. Social structures give shape to our lives - for example, in families, the community, and through religious organizations. And certain rituals, such as a handshake or complex religious ceremonies, give structure to our everyday lives. Each social structure has social functions, or consequences for the operation of society as a whole. Education, for example, has several important functions in a society, such as socialization, learning. Thus, one of the key ideas in Structural Functionalism is that society is made-up of groups or institutions, which are cohesive, share common norms, and have a definitive culture. Merton argued that functionalism is about the more static or concrete aspects of society, [1] institutions like government or religions. However, any group large enough to be a social institution is included in Structural Functionalist thinking, from religious denominations to sports clubs and everything in between. Structural Functionalism asserts that the way society is organized is the most natural and efficient way for it to be organized. Gender inequality offers a good illustration. According to Structural Functionalist thought, women being subordinate to men allows the cogs of society to function smoothly as everyone in the society knows his or her respective position in the hierarchy. The implication, of course, is that, because society is functioning smoothly with gender stratification, such stratification is acceptable and efforts should not be made to change the arrangement. This example illustrates that Structural Functionalism is generally seen as being supportive of the status quo. Another key characteristic of Structural Functionalism is that it views society as constantly striving to be at a state of equilibrium , which suggests there is an inherent drive within human societies to cohere or stick together. This is known as the cohesion issue. For example, Jim Crow laws in the southern United States were a formalized version of informal structural advantages that empowered whites. Because of the history of slavery in the southern United States, whites had amassed more wealth than blacks. During slavery, whites controlled the government and all of the major institutions in the South. After slavery ended, whites continued to control many of these institutions, but because they were outnumbered in some areas by blacks, threatening their dominance, they instituted formal laws, Jim Crow laws, that allowed them to maintain their structural advantages. And whites were able to pass these laws because they already controlled many of the social institutions instrumental in the passage of laws e. Thus, the advantages whites had prior to a change in society allowed them to maintain their advantages after the change through both informal and formal means because of the structure of society. Structural Functionalism does much to explain why certain aspects of society continue as they always have, despite some phenomena being clearly less beneficial for society as a whole e. However, Structural Functionalism falls short in explaining opposition to social institutions and social structure by those being oppressed.

Assumptions[ edit ] There are a number of key assumptions in Structural Functionalist theory. One of these, that societies strives toward equilibrium, was detailed above. Another assumption is that institutions are distinct and should be studied individually. This is a mistake, as institutions are interlinked in society and those employing a structural functionalist approach should be taken into consideration the network of relationships that exist between these institutions. In order for groups to be cohesive in a social context, positive membership attitudes and behaviors have to be produced and maintained. Social cohesion at a group level is directly affected by the individual members. Areas of potential inequality include voting rights, freedom of speech and assembly, the extent of property rights and access to education, health care, quality housing and other social goods. Social inequality is an important characteristic of Structural Functionalism as the theory assumes, since inequality exists, there needs to be a certain level of inequality in order for a society to operate. One possible function of inequality is to motivate people,as people are motivated to carry out work

through a rewards system. Rewards may include income, status, prestige, or power. Equilibrium, in a social context, is the internal and external balance in a society. While temporary disturbances may upset the equilibrium of society, because of social structure, society will eventually return to a balanced, orderly state. That society strives toward equilibrium also means that changes happen slowly. This section explores some of the propositions of structural functionalism. One proposition derived from Structural Functionalist theory is that people have social capital, and that greater amounts of social capital translate into benefits. Well integrated members of an institution those with substantial social capital will remain members of the institution in order to maximize the potential of their social capital. This assumption leads to another proposition: The higher the level of integration between these intermediate groups, the more cohesive society will be as a whole. It shows that all of the different organizations and institutions in society are interdependent. When one institution in society changes, other institutions accommodate that change by changing as well, though the ultimate effect is to slow overall change. Specific Conceptual Diagram[ edit ] Below is a chart depicting how deviance is functional for society and how society responds to deviance. A "deviant" individual commits an act that is deemed by the rest of society as criminal, because it leads to public outrage and punishments. Because a large portion of society respond to the action as though it is deviant, this draws a boundary between what is and is not deviant. Thus, deviance actually helps to indicate what is not deviant, or, the function of labeling behaviors or ideas as deviance is to insure that most people do not engage in those behaviors. History of Structural functionalism[ edit ] Functionalism developed slowly over time with the help of many sociologists in different parts of the world. However, we begin with Herbert Spencer. Herbert Spencer, an English sociologist, was a forerunner of formalized Structural Functionalism. He is best known for coining the phrase "survival of the fittest" in his book Principles of Sociology. Spencer argued that there is a natural tendency in society towards equilibrium. Thus, even when the conditions of the society are altered, the resulting changes to the social structure will balance out, returning the society to equilibrium. He wanted to understand the value of cultural and social traits by explaining them in regards to their contribution to the operation of the overall system of society and life. Later the focus for structural functionalism changed to be more about the ways that social institutions in society meet the social needs of individuals within that society. Durkheim was interested in four main aspects of society: Durkheim addressed his first focus in his book, The Division of Labor in Society. In older, more primitive societies Durkheim argued that "mechanical solidarity kept everyone together. Mechanic Solidarity here refers to everyone doing relatively similar tasks. For instance, in hunting and gathering societies there was not a substantial division of labor; people hunted or gathered. Durkheim theorized that shared values, common symbols, and systems of exchange functioned as the tools of cohesion in these societies. In more modern and complex societies individuals are quite different and they do not perform the same tasks. However, the diversity actually leads to a different form of solidarity - interdependence. Durkheim referred to this as "organic solidarity. Organic solidarity leads to a strong sense of individuals being dependent on one another. For instance, while a construction worker may be able to build homes for people, if he is injured on the job, he will turn to a doctor for treatment and probably a lawyer to sue his employer. The division of labor in society requires specialization, and the result is organic solidarity. In his book, Suicide, Durkheim hypothesized that social relationships reduced the likelihood of suicide. By collecting data across large groups in Europe, Durkheim was able to distinguish patterns in suicide rates and connect those patterns with other variables. Inversely, the greater the cohesive bond between individuals the less likely one was to commit suicide. One concrete example Durkheim explored was the difference in solidarity between Protestants and Catholics. Due to a variety of factors, Durkheim argued that Protestants had lower social solidarity than Catholics, and their weaker bonds resulted in higher rates of suicide. Thus, solidarity helped maintain societal order. Another thread in the development of Structural Functionalism comes from England, where it emerged from the study of anthropology in the early twentieth century in the theorizing of Bronislaw Malinowski and A. Malinowski argued that cultural practices had physiological and psychological functions, such as the satisfaction of desires. He argued that the social world constituted a separate "level" of reality, distinct from those of biological forms people and inorganic forms. Radcliffe-Brown argued that explanations of social phenomena had to be constructed at the social level. To

Radcliffe-Brown, individuals were only significant in relation to their positions in the overall structure of social roles in society. In the United States, functionalism was formalized in sociological thinking by Talcott Parsons, who introduced the idea that there are stable structural categories that make up the interdependent systems of a society and functioned to maintain society. He argued that this homeostasis is the critical characteristic of societies. Parsons supported individual integration into social structures, meaning that individuals should find how they fit into the different aspects of society on their own, rather than being assigned roles. Parsons saw social systems as "a plurality of individual actors interacting with each other in a situation which has at least a physical or environmental aspect, actors who are motivated in terms of a tendency to the "optimization of gratification" and whose relation to their situations, including each other, is defined and mediated in terms of a system of culturally structured and shared symbols. These positions are referred to as statuses and are occupied by individuals who must carry out the roles in order to maintain the order of the system. As society progresses there are new roles and statuses that occur, allowing individuals to express their unique personalities resulting in individualism. Parsons developed the theory of action based on the idea that the decision making of an individual in a social system has motivational significance to himself. The individual is, therefore, motivated to reach personal goals that are defined by their cultural system and simultaneously these goals benefit society as a whole. This event affected both American travel customs, reflecting the Structural Functionalist idea that a change in one element of society results in changes in other aspects of society. Before the attacks, airport security in the U. Scrutiny of travelers was heightened and included new protocols, like the removal of shoes, belts, and eventually liquids, as well as random, more detailed screenings. Thus, a change in the cultural sense of security resulted in a corresponding change in travel protocol. Increase in Technology[ edit ] Modern technology has resulted in substantial changes to the economy and the military. Before the advent of telephones, the internet, and video conferencing , most business meetings occurred face to face. If an individual had a business proposal for a company in San Francisco but lived in New York, she would have to travel to San Francisco. Modern technology has changed this, reducing the necessity of business travel. As a result, the function of face to face meetings in business has changed; they are no longer a necessary part of social interactions and have therefore begun to lose their structural role. Likewise, the traditional approach to war between two nations was an all-out invasion involving hundreds of thousands if not millions of troops. During WWI , America sent over two million men to fight. During the Korean War America sent approximately 1.

### 4: Two Theories of Poverty | Demos

*The structural factors producing a high rate of poverty are the reproduction of the class system, macroeconomic policies, the vicious circle of poverty, the structure of the electoral process, the structure of the economy, institutionalized gender discrimination, and institutionalized ethnic discrimination.*

How can we explain these stark differences? Why does it matter how we explain difference? What is medical anthropology and where can you learn more about it? Two passages from *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. None* of this would be mysterious to a young ethnographer-doctor who, like Farmer, was willing to puzzle out the social meanings of the syndrome. Yet Kidder also recalls an exchange in which Farmer insisted upon a very different perspective: There really is no relation between the massive accumulation of wealth in one part of the world and abject misery in another. From this follow some important and very challenging insights. Second, these structures are neither natural nor neutral, but are instead the outcome of long histories of political, economic, and social struggle. Third, being nothing more and nothing less! Make a mental list for yourself of what you see as the most important or interesting of these differences between rural Haiti as portrayed in *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, and Seattle as you have encountered it. The ideas that people hold shape the actions that they take – and for this reason, they matter a great deal. In his book *Pathologies of Power*, Farmer writes: The abuse of the concept of cultural specificity is particularly insidious in discussions of suffering in general and of human rights abuses specifically: Make a mental list for yourself of things in U. Now, for each item on your list, ask yourself: Imagine that an individual or a small group of people works tirelessly and effectively to demand great changes on your behalf, while also writing articles that explain your problems and what you need. What circumstances or factors might be important in shaping how you regard these efforts and these writings? How, then, shall we understand and explain difference? This is one of those important questions on which thoughtful people may deeply disagree. You can learn more about these debates, and you too can enter them, to offer your own contributions. Not only is Paul Farmer a public health physician and the driving force behind the Partners in Health and its sister organization Zanmi Lasante, he is also a very active and influential participant in the scholarly field of medical anthropology. The official website of the Society for Medical Anthropology <http://www.societyforanthropology.org/>: Medical Anthropology is a subfield of anthropology that draws upon social, cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology to better understand those factors which influence health and well being broadly defined, the experience and distribution of illness, the prevention and treatment of sickness, healing processes, the social relations of therapy management, and the cultural importance and utilization of pluralistic medical systems. The discipline of medical anthropology draws upon many different theoretical approaches. It is as attentive to popular health culture as bioscientific epidemiology, and the social construction of knowledge and politics of science as scientific discovery and hypothesis testing. Medical anthropologists examine how the health of individuals, larger social formations, and the environment are affected by interrelationships between humans and other species; cultural norms and social institutions; micro and macro politics; and forces of globalization as each of these affects local worlds. Medical anthropologists study such issues as: Here are some starting points for exploration: Medical Anthropology page from the Department of Anthropology website:

### 5: Functionalism - Anthropological Theories - Department of Anthropology - The University of Alabama

*Structural explanations II: families. Our second example of structural explanations of criminal behaviour takes a different starting point. It looks at pathological or problem families and the transmission of criminal careers within them.*

This school developed in the 1920s around the work of Emile Durkheim who argued that "social phenomena constitute a domain, or order, of reality that is independent of psychological and biological facts. Social phenomena, therefore, must be explained in terms of other social phenomena, and not by reference to psychobiological needs, drives, impulses, and so forth" Broce Emile Durkheim argued that ethnographers should study the function of social institutions and how they function together to maintain the social whole Broce Radcliffe-Brown shared this emphasis of studying the conditions under which social structures are maintained. He also believed that the functioning of societies, like that of other natural systems, is governed by laws that can be discovered through systematic comparison Broce It is important to note here that Firth postulated the necessity of distinguishing between social structure and social organization. Social structure "is the principle s on which the forms of social relations depend. Social organization refers to the directional activity, to the working out of social relations in everyday life" Watson-Gegeo Radcliffe-Brown established an analogy between social life and organic life to explain the concept of function. He emphasized the contribution of phenomena to maintaining social order. He argued that as long as a biological organism lives, it preserves the continuity of structure, but not preserve the unity of its constituent parts. That is, over a period of time, while the constituent cells do not remain the same, the structural arrangement of the constituent units remains similar. He suggested that human beings, as essential units, are connected by a set of social relations into an integrated whole. Like the biological organism, the continuity of the social structure is not destroyed by changes in the units. Although individuals may leave the society by death or other means, other individuals may enter it. Therefore, the continuity is maintained by the process of social life, which consists of the activities and interactions of individual human beings and of organized groups into which they are united. The social life of a community is the functioning of the social structure. The function of any recurrent activity is the part it plays in the social life as a whole and thereby, the contribution it makes to structural continuity Radcliffe-Brown Radcliffe-Brown and Malinowski formulated distinct versions of functionalism, yet the emphasis on the differences between them obscures their fundamental similarities and complementarily. Both viewed society as structured into a working unity in which the parts accommodate one another in a way that maintains the whole. Thus, the function of a custom or institution is the contribution it makes to the maintenance of the entire system of which it is a part. On the whole, sociocultural systems function to provide their members with adaptations to environmental circumstances and to connect them in a network of stable social relationships. This is not to say that functionalists failed to recognize internal social conflict or other forms of disequilibrium. However, they did believe that societies strongly tend to maintain their stability and internal cohesion as if societies had homeostatic qualities Broce The functionalists also shared an emphasis on intensive fieldwork, involving participant-observation. This methodological emphasis has resulted in a series of excellent monographs on native societies. In large part, the quality of these monographs may be attributed to their theoretical framework, since the investigation of functional interrelationships of customs and institutions provides an especially fruitful perspective for the collection of information. In their analysis, the functionalists attempted to interpret societies as they operated at a single point in time, or as they operate over a relatively short period of time. This was not because the functionalists opposed, in principle, the study of history. Instead, it was a consequence of their belief that very little reliable information could be secured about the long-term histories of primitive peoples. Their rejection of the conjectural reconstructions of the evolutionists and the diffusionists was based largely on this conviction Broce Functional analysis gave value to social institutions by considering them not as mere custom as proposed by American ethnologists , but as active and integrated parts of a social system Langness Though Malinowski and Radcliffe-Brown differed in their approaches to functional interpretation, they both contributed to the push for a "shift in the assumptions of ethnology, from a concern with isolated traits to the interpretation of social life" Winthrop This school of

thought has contributed to the concept of culture that traditional usages, whatever their origin, have been shaped by the requirement that human beings must live together in harmony. Therefore the demands of interpersonal relationships are a causative force in culture Goldschmidt Despite its theoretical limitations, functionalism has made important methodological contributions. With its emphasis on intensive fieldwork, functionalism has provided in-depth studies of societies. Additionally, the investigation of functional interrelationships of customs and institutions provides a ready-made framework for the collection of information. Its theoretical difficulties notwithstanding, functionalism can yet be fruitful. Such statements as, "all societies are functionally cohesive," are too vague to be refuted easily. However, these statements can be refuted if they suggest that societies do not change or disintegrate. Therefore, such theories can be considered uncontroversial tautologies. It could be said that functionalism is the integration of false theory and trivially true tautology into a blueprint for fieldwork. Accordingly, such fieldwork can be thought of as empirical attempts to refute such ideas that savages are simple-minded, that savage customs are superstitious, and that savage societies are chaotic, in essence, that savage societies are "savage. Functionalism became dominant in American theory in the s and s. With time, criticism of this approach has escalated, resulting in its decline in the early s. Interactionist theorists criticized functionalism for failing to conceptualize adequately the complex nature of actors and the process of interaction. Advocates of theory construction questioned the utility of excessively classificatory or typological theories that pigeonholed phenomena in terms of their functions Turner and Maryanski Functional theory also has been criticized for its disregard of the historical process and for its presupposition that societies are in a state of equilibrium Goldschmidt Logical problems of functional explanations also have been pointed out, namely that they are teleological and tautological. This criticism can be countered by recognizing an evolutionary or a historical process at work; however, functionalism specifically rejected such ideas. Functional analysis has also been criticized for being circular: This criticism can be countered by establishing a set of universal requisite needs, or functional prerequisites. It has been argued that to account for phenomena by showing what social needs they satisfy does not explain how it originated or why it is what it is Kucklick In light of such criticisms, some anthropologists attempted functional explanations that were not constrained by such narrow approaches. He demonstrated that more overt means of managing hostility had not been available due to governmental controls, thereby bringing in historical and ecological factors Goldschmidt Following this, a cross-cultural comparison of institutions is a false enterprise in that it would be comparing phenomena that could not be compared. This is problematic since the internal mode of analysis cannot provide either a basis for true generalization or a means of extrapolation beyond the local time and place Goldschmidt Recognizing this "Malinowskian dilemma," Walter Goldschmidt argued for a "comparative functionalism. Goldschmidt suggested that problems are consistent from culture to culture, but institutional solutions vary. He suggested starting with what is problematical in order to discover how institutional devices provide solutions. In this way, he too sought to situate his explanations in a broader theoretical framework Goldschmidt Neofunctionalism is a s revision of British structural-functionalism that experienced renewed activity during the s. Some neo-functionalists, influenced by Parsons, analyze phenomena in terms of specific functional requisites. Others, although they place less emphasis on functional requisites and examine a variety of phenomena, also share similarities with functionalism by focusing on issues of social differentiation, integration, and social evolution. Finally, some neo-functionalists examine how cultural processes including ritual, ideology, and values integrate social structures. Generally, there is little emphasis on how phenomena meet or fail to meet system needs Turner and Maryanski Neofunctionalism differs from structural-functionalism by focusing on the modeling of systems-level interactions, particularly negative feedback. It also emphasizes techno-environmental forces, especially environment, ecology, and population, thereby reducing culture to adaptation Bettinger Both neofunctionalism and structural-functionalism explain phenomena with reference to the needs they fulfill. They consider problematic cultural behaviors to result largely from benefits they generate that are essential to sustaining or improving the well-being of larger systems in which they are embedded, these systems being cultures in the case of structural-functionalism and ecosystems in the case of neo-functionalism Bettinger Structural-functionalists believe these benefits are generated by behaviors that reinforce group cohesion,

particularly ritual, or that provide the individual with effective mechanisms for coping with psychological threatening situations by means such as religion or magic. Neofunctionalists, on the other hand, are concerned with issues that relate directly to fitness similar to that in evolutionary biology Bettinger. These emphases correspond to the kinds of groups that preoccupy structural-functional and neofunctional explanation. Structural-functional groups are culturally constituted, as cultures, by group-reinforcing cultural behaviors. Rather than separating humans from other animals, neofunctionalists focus on groups as biologically constituted populations aggregated in cooperative social alliances, by which self-interested individuals obtain fitness benefits as a consequence of group membership Bettinger. Since obviously rational, beneficial behaviors require no special explanation, structural-functionalism and neofunctionalism focus on finding rationality in seemingly irrational behaviors. Neofunctionalism, with economic rationality as its basic frame of reference, believes that what is irrational for the individual in the short run may be rational for the group in the long run. Therefore, neofunctionalist explanation seemed to provide a bridge between human behavior, which frequently involves cooperation, and natural selection, where individual interaction involves competition more than cooperation. Additionally, this type of argument was traditional in that it emphasized cultural behaviors whose stated purpose manifest function concealed a more important latent function. However, evolutionary theorists suggest that group selection occurs only under rare circumstances, thereby revealing the insufficiency of fitness-related self-interest to sustain among groups of unrelated individuals over any extended period Bettinger. In *International Dictionary of Anthropologists. One Discipline, Four Ways: British, German, French and American Anthropology*. University of Chicago Press. In *Encyclopedia of Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. David Levinson and Melvin Ember, eds. Comaroff, Jean, John L. Comaroff and Isaac Schapera. *On the Founding Fathers, Fieldwork and Functionalism: A Conversation with Isaac Schapera*. *American Ethnologist* 15 3: Malinowski *Between Two Worlds: The Polish Roots of an Anthropological Tradition*. *A Bibliography of the Writings of E. A History of Anthropological Thought*. *An Evaluation of the Work of Bronislaw Malinowski*. Routledge and Kegan Paul. Studies Presented to A.

### 6: Sex Differences in Mate Preferences, Jealousy, and Aggression

*Structural explanations I: biology* There is a long and uneven tradition of claims that the origins of crime and deviance are biological. In the nineteenth century it was claimed, for example, that brain sizes and skull shapes could explain criminal behaviour.

Instapaper Paul Ryan released his anti-poverty plan last week. In it, he proposes that a variety of federal means-tested welfare programs be turned into cash block grants to states, who would then be allowed to dole out the cash in exchange for recipients laying out a life contract for how they will increase their market incomes for a nosy case worker. As I explained on the day it came out, this is a bad idea, unnecessary, and seriously misunderstands the nature of American poverty. In response to Ryan, many commentators pointed out that people do not need life contracts to go on to boost their market incomes because they already do that myself, Weissman, Bouie. These writers point out that people move in and out of poverty a lot. Even though the poverty rate stays pretty steady year to year, "poor people" are not the same people each year. Although these rebuttals have been fairly modest in scope, they actually lay bare a fundamental difference in the way right-wingers and left-wingers understand poverty. On this view, people are in poverty because they are lazy, uneducated, ignorant, or otherwise inferior in some manner. If this theory were true, it would follow that impoverished people are basically the same people every year. Thus, a program of heavy paternalistic life contracts to help this discrete underclass get things together might conceivably end or dramatically reduce poverty. On this view, people are in poverty because they find themselves in holes in the economic system that deliver them inadequate income. Others inevitably find themselves in that hole because it is a persistent defect in the economic structure. It follows from this that impoverished people are not the same people every year. It follows further that the only way to reduce poverty is to alter the economic structure so as to reduce the number of low-income holes in it. Structural Poverty To figure out which theory is true, the easiest thing to do is answer the question: As all of the commentators linked above mentioned, longitudinal surveys show that impoverished people are not the same people every year. The last SIPP three-year longitudinal survey done by the Census had around one-third of Americans finding themselves in episodic poverty at some point in the three years, but just 3. If you count kids, the number of people who experience at least one year of poverty rockets even higher of course. Getting Specific About Structural Holes The revolving door of poverty is a slam dunk indicator that the structural theory of poverty is correct, but we can get even more specific by identifying where the structural holes are. There are many places to focus, but one very easy and indisputable one is age. First, consider child poverty. Children have much higher poverty rates than adults and younger children have higher poverty rates than older children. First, families with children in them have to get more income each year to stay above the poverty line than families without them. But, the market does not distribute families more money just because they have more children. Consequently, the mere act of adding a child to a family makes it more likely that the family will be in poverty. Second, adults have children when they are young workers, but young workers also make the least income. This too makes it more likely a child will be in poverty than an adult purely because of the way the economy is structured. Why do young children have higher poverty rates than older children? Because young children have young parents and old children have old parents. Old parents make more money than young parents because they are deeper into their income life cycle. That is why the graph above looks the way it does. Second, consider adult poverty by age: But look at how much poverty falls over those working years. Young workers make less money than old workers. This is one of the very blatant structural reasons why you are going to see people swapping in and out poverty over their life course just like the longitudinal data show. I could go on, but the point is clear. Poverty replicates itself in very predictable structural ways. Since the problem is structural, the solution must be structural as well. This is not nearly as difficult a task as it may seem.

## 7: Structural | Definition of Structural by Merriam-Webster

*This chapter examines structural theory as an alternative explanation. Structural theory contends that macro-level labor market and demographic conditions put people at risk of poverty, and cross-sectional and temporal differences in these structural factors account for variation in poverty.*

A study commissioned by the United Nations University WIDER project has shown that for the twenty-six countries included in the study, spatial inequalities have been high and on the increase, especially for developing nations. The discrepancies between the growth of communities close to these bodies of water and those further away have been noted in cases between and within countries. This has especially come into focus as education and employment are often tied into where a household is located relative to urban centers, and a variety of metrics, from education levels to welfare benefits have been correlated to spatial data. Perhaps the most obvious is the isolation of minorities, which creates a deficit in the potential for developing human capital. Second, many of the public schools that areas of low socioeconomic status have access to are underperforming, in part due to the limited budgeting the district receives from the limited tax base in the same area. Finally, another large factor is simply the wealth and security homeownership represents. Property values rarely increase in areas where poverty is high in the first place. The mid-century phenomenon of the large-scale migration of white middle-class families from urban centers has coined the term white flight. While the current state of housing discrimination can be partly attributed to this phenomenon, a larger set of institutionalized discrimination, like bias in loan and real estate industries and government policies, have helped to perpetuate the division created since then. These include bias found in the banking and real estate industries as well as discriminatory public policies that promote racial segregation. Transportation [ edit ] Government policies that have tended to promote spatial inequalities include actions by the Federal Housing Administration FHA in promoting redlining, a practice where mortgages could be selectively administered while excluding certain urban neighborhoods deemed risky, oftentimes because of race. Practices like this continued to prevent home buyers from getting mortgages in redlined areas until the 1960s, when the FHA discontinued the determination of restrictions based on racial composition. First, these new networks allowed for middle-class families to move out to the suburbs while retaining connections like employment to the urban center. Second, and perhaps more importantly, freeways were routed through minority neighborhoods, oftentimes creating barriers between these neighborhoods and central business districts and middle class areas. Highway plans often avoided a more direct route through upper or middle class neighbors because minorities did not have sufficient power to prevent such actions from happening. Education is the key to closing employment inequalities in a post-manufacturing era. And finally, the federal government must take large strides towards enforcing the anti-segregation measures related to housing it has already put into place, like the Fair Housing Act, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, and the Community Reinvestment Act. Another set of divisions that may be useful in framing policy solutions include three categories: Place-based policies include improving community facilities and services like schools and public safety in inner-city areas in an effort to appeal to middle-class families. These programs must be balanced with concerns of gentrification. People-based policies help increase access to credit for low-income families looking to move, and this sort of policy has been typified by the Community Reinvestment Act and its many revisions throughout its legislative history. Finally, indirect approaches often involve providing better transportation options to low-income areas, like public transit routes or subsidized car ownership. These approaches target the consequences rather than the causes of segregation, and rely on the assumption that one of the most harmful effects of spatial inequality is the lack of access to employment opportunities. In conclusion, a common feature in all of these is the investment in the capital and infrastructure of inner-city or neighborhood. In fact, studies have shown that income-related inequality in healthcare expenditures favors the wealthy to a greater degree in the United States than most other Western nations. These reports developed about measures of quality of care and about measures of access to care, which were used to measure the healthcare disparities. The first reports, released in December, found that blacks and Hispanics experienced poorer healthcare quality for about half of the quality

measures reported in the NHQR and NDHR. Also, Hispanics and Asians experienced poorer access to care for about two thirds of the healthcare access measures. Compared with white patients, blacks receive far fewer operations, tests, medications and other treatments, suffering greater illnesses and more deaths as a result. Both African Americans and Latinos also receive less pain medication than whites for long bone fractures and cancer. Other studies showed that African Americans are reported to receive fewer pediatric prescriptions, poorer quality of hospital care, fewer hospital admissions for chest pain, lower quality of prenatal care, and less appropriate management of congestive heart failure and pneumonia. In , an estimate done by the Census Bureau stated that Having a language-barrier can cause many hurdles when pertaining to healthcare: Thus, demonstrating the rapid increase of minorities over time within the United States and the importance of it. Gender[ edit ] In addition to race, healthcare inequality also manifests across gender lines. Though women tend to live longer than men, they tend to report poorer health status, more disabilities as they age, and tend to be higher utilizers of the healthcare system. Such time must be scheduled around work whether formal or informal , child care needs, and the geographyâ€”which increases the travel time necessary for those who do not live near healthcare facilities. A study done by Rowland, Lyons, and Edwards found that rural patients were more likely to be poor and uninsured. This travel time often poses an obstacle to receiving medical care and often leads patients to delay care until later. For example, three of the five largest landfills in the United States are situated in communities which are predominantly African American and Latino, contributing to some of the highest pediatric asthma rates in those groups. Economic[ edit ] Socioeconomic background is another source of inequality in healthcare. Poverty significantly influences the production of disease since poverty increases the likelihood of having poor health in addition to decreasing the ability to afford preventative and routine healthcare. The same trend for uninsured versus insured patients holds true for children as well. Census data show that However, this inequality differs across age groups. Inequality was shown to be greatest for senior citizens, then adults, and least for children. This pattern showed that financial resources and other associated attributes, such as educational attainment, were very influential in access and utilization of medical care. Medicare is a federally funded program that provides health insurance for people aged 65 or older, people younger than 65 with certain disabilities, and people of any age who have End-Stage Renal Disease ERSD. Medicaid, on the other hand, provides health coverage to certain low income people and families and is largely state-governed. According to Fein , this goal could include equal health outcomes for all by income group, equal expenditures per capita across income groups, or eliminating income as a healthcare rationing device. Some have proposed that a national health insurance plan with comprehensive benefits and no deductibles or other costs from the patients would provide the most equity. He proposed instead paying physicians on a salaried basis. The study indicated that community health centers provided more preventive care and greater continuity of care, though there were problems in obtaining adequate funding as well as adequate staffing. Racial and ethnic minority healthcare providers are much more likely than their white counterparts to serve minority communities, which can have many positive effects. Advocating for an increase in minority healthcare providers can help improve the quality of patient-physician communication as well as reduce the crowding in understaffed facilities in areas in which minorities reside. This can help decrease wait times as well as increase the likelihood that such patients will seek out nearby healthcare facilities rather than traveling farther distances as a last resort. Studies show that non-English speaking patients self-reported better physical functioning, psychological well-being, health perceptions, and lower pain when receiving treatment from a physician who spoke their language. Hispanic patients specifically reported increased compliance to treatment plans when their physician spoke Spanish and also shared a similar background. However, unequal access to decent work and persistent labor market inequalities frustrate efforts to reduce poverty. First generation discrimination occurs as an overt bias displayed by employers, and since the end of the civil rights era has been on the decline. Second generation discrimination; on the other hand, is less direct and therefore much harder to legislate against. For instance, gender discrimination often takes the form of working hours and childcare-related benefits. Education level[ edit ] Employment discrimination is also closely linked to education and skills. One of the most important factors that can help describe employment disparities was that for much of the post-WWII-era, many Western countries began shedding the

manufacturing jobs that provided relatively high-wage jobs to people with moderate to low job skills. Namely, the union movement began to shrink, decreasing the power for employees to negotiate employment terms, and the minimum wage was prevented from increasing alongside inflation. Studies have shown that for blacks and whites in the same occupation, whites can often benefit for a wealthier pool of clients and connections. Almost all studies show that the percentage of women is correlated with lower earnings for both males and females even in fields that required significant job skills, which suggests a strong effect of gender composition on earnings. In general, women tend to hold fewer positions of power when compared to men. A study done by Reskin and Ross showed that when tenure and productivity-related measurements were controlled, women had less authority and earned less than men of equal standing in their occupation. Therefore, males are afforded more advantages than females and perpetuate this cycle while they still hold more social power, allocating lower-skilled and lower-paying jobs to females and minorities. Studies suggest that women invest less in their own occupational training because they stay in the workforce for a shorter period of time than men because of marriage or rearing children and therefore have a shorter time span to benefit from their extra efforts. Studies have shown that the earnings gap is also due to employers investing less money in training female employees, which leads to a gender disparity in accessing career development opportunities. A study done by Heidi M. Berggren, assessing the employee benefits provided to nurses a traditional female career and automobile mechanics and repairmen a traditional male career , found that the latter provided more significant benefits such as health insurance and other medical emergency benefits whereas the former provided more access to sick leave with full pay. Many parental leave policies in the US are poorly developed and reinforce the roles of men as the breadwinner and women as the caregiver. This refers to the limited mobility of women in the workforce due to social restrictions that limit their opportunities and affect their career decisions. Such measure include mandating employers to provide paid parental leave for employees so that both parents can care for children without risk to their careers. Another suggested measure is government-provided day care for children aged 0â€”6 or financial support for employees to pay for their own child-care. This act designated discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or associated medical issues as illegal gender discrimination. The Family and Medical Leave Act, passed in , required employers to give up to twelve weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child and providing care for immediate family members who are ill. These two acts helped publicize the important role women play in caring for family members and gave women more opportunities to retain jobs that they would have previously lost. Some possible developments to improve parental leave include: Social Policy and Structural Inequalities. Structural Change, Social Policy. Oxford and New York: Race, Poverty, and Domestic Policy. More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City. Race, Ethnicity and Other Social Factors. Emerald Group Limited, Structured Inequality in the United States: Upper Saddle River, NJ:

### 8: Sociological Theory/Structural Functionalism - Wikibooks, open books for an open world

*Structural explanations consider the phenomenon to be explained as part of a larger phenomenon that sets constraints on the behavior of the interdependent parts. Reference to the structured whole highlights those local.*

An explanation for crime, such as homicide, that focuses on social structure, referring to inequality of condition, poverty, or power differentials. The patriarchy structure of the family might help explain the abuse of women and children within the family. Sociologists like Rhonda Lenton argue that the racial structure of the USA and the depth of its poverty and the weakness of its welfare state compared to Canada, might help explain the difference in homicide rates. Racial Differences on Organizational Attachment? This study, following the structural theory of the labor market, suggests that any racial difference in organizational attachment is explained by the structural features of jobs held by racial groups rather than by race or other variables identified in the culture of poverty thesis or human capital theories. This study examines and explains differences between White and Black employees in organizational attachment. Using General Social Survey data, the findings are strongly consistent with the structural explanation of organizational attachment; the difference of average organizational attachment between Black and White employees is minor but significant. However, race displays a nonsignificant coefficient with organizational attachment when the structural features of jobs were kept constant. Behavioural and structural explanation of socio-economic inequalities in health: Looman and Johan P. We used data from a survey among a sample of the population in the southeastern part of the Netherlands. When analysed separately, both behavioral and structural factors contributed substantially to observed inequalities in health. In a simultaneous analysis, both groups of factors had a substantial part of their contribution in common. We defined the overlap as an indirect contribution of structural conditions, through behavior. If that overlap is ignored, this could lead to an overestimation of the behavioral explanation. In our analysis, the total contribution of structural factors is larger than that of behavioral factors. Structural explanation in sociology: Abstract The concept of opportunity is widely used in sociology to explain unequal attainments. In this approach the actor is seen as controlled by structures of inequality of opportunity, rather than by culture or personality. This model is nearly identical with homo economicus. However, social order is conceived more sociologically. Opportunity is portrayed as controlled by competing groups. But the problem of collective action makes these concepts incompatible because rational maximizers are not ordinarily able to achieve cooperation. This contradiction is resolved by modeling the dominated as economically rational while the dominant are seen as driven by extra-economic motives. The main motive for adopting these contradictory models is a program of egalitarian social engineering. A Theory of the Preferred Worker: Brooks - Michael A. Power needs to be considered for a fuller understanding. An occupational niche is two-way; a group finds and occupies a niche that they have been given access to by a hiring group. Black males do not dominate the collegiate and professional ranks of basketball simply because of ability. They were given access to the opportunity because it benefited capitalist interests and because of their marginalized position in society.

### 9: Structural inequality - Wikipedia

*The Causes of Poverty - Cultural vs. Structural There are many competing theories about the causes of poverty in the United States with mountains of empirical evidence to justify support for each.*

*Infrared vibration-rotation spectroscopy Skills for life mike jarvis dowloand Sociology, 67, 566-576. Biomedical thermology Siegfried Sassoon: poets pilgrimage. Reappraising the Dominican experience Techniques for the retrieval of chemical information Necklace of Warm Snow The viability of co-opting anew the vocabulary of Midrash A light in the field Marguerite Maurys Guide to aromatherapy Resource management techniques ebook Germans in Wisconsin Gibbs energy questions and answers CHARTING YOUR WAY THROUGH WORLD HISTORY Case management in human service practice V. Sackville-West Beneath this mask meghan march Financial management new age international Atheist Heroes and Heroines (American Atheist Radio Series) Linux source code What is all this talk about tithing? Teens Parenting-Your Pregnancy and Newborn Journey The facing bench. More than just farms The epistle from our Yearly-Meeting held in London Hotel novel by arthur hailey Microsoft project training manual Eso Extended Sexual Orgasm Writing your first draft Essentials of mechanical ventilation third edition Lecture on the backward march of American society Title XVI : supplemental security income for the aged, blind, or disabled Vertical jump bible 2.0 Mahalaxmi calendar 2018 103 30-cwt general-service lorry (Bedford OX 185 Managing to be different The Old World And Its Ways Food Service Sanitation Handbook Handbook of Fermented Functional Foods (Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals)*