

SECOND EDITION

Sociology In Praxis

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Chapter 1

The Sociological Imagination



Section 1

What is Sociology?

What discipline examines the affects of racism and sexism in our society? What discipline analyzes how the wealthiest 0.1% of our nation influences the media and government along with the economy? What discipline observes how the toys that girls and boys play with prepare them for the social roles they are conditioned to fulfill later in life? What discipline scrutinizes why police brutality is more like to occur in certain cities over others? What discipline questions how religion and government usually support each other? What discipline questions why marriages have only recently allowed homosexuals to marry?

Sociology is the scientific study of human social behavior and people from this discipline could cover any of the topics that were just mentioned. Unfortunately, a lot of subjects that could be covered in sociology causes many people to not know about it. People often know about the more specific disciplines such as anthropology, economics, history, political science and psychology to name a few. However, many current subjects such as gender studies, ethnic studies and cultural studies are branches of sociology that use many of the same theorists and ideas. (Watch Movie 1.1)

Movie 1.1 Differences Between Sociology and Psychology



- 1) <https://youtu.be/JmNsCuy2kK0?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) What is the main point of this video?
- 3) What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- 4) Can you think of any other situations where sociology and psychology may differ? Explain.

Macro **versus** **Micro-Sociology**
Sociology can be studied at two broad levels. **Macrosociology**

concentrates on large-scale phenomena or entire civilizations. Examples of this would be how the education systems of the US and Japan differ in principles and practice or how pop culture affects teenagers in the US. These are large-scale questions frequently require a lot of money and resources to accomplish. However, many sociologists do not do research on such a grand scale. **Microsociology** stresses the study of relatively small groups of people and our everyday interactions to determine social meaning. Staying within the previously mentioned topics, these researchers could study the different teaching strategies at a Montessori school (US) and a Kumon Learning Center (Japan) or examine the effects of Miley Cyrus' twerking video on students at a local middle school. Therefore, it must be understood that the main difference between macro and micro-sociology is in the size of the population you are studying and not necessarily the topic.

What Makes Sociology Different?

The beauty and the curse of sociology is that we demand broader thinking on topics that many people usually explain on an individual case-by-case basis. We call this thinking the **sociological imagination**, which is an understanding of the relationship between an individual and the larger social factors that affect their lives and the lives of others. C. Wright Mills coined this phrase when discussing the difference between private troubles and public issues. **Private troubles** are social

situations and occurrences that can be explained by the attitudes, aptitudes and abilities of a person. However, **public issues** are broader social dilemmas that affect multiple people at the same time and the people concerned may have very little control over of their situation. (Watch Movie 1.2)

Movie 1.2 Dating and the Sociological Imagination



- 1) <https://youtu.be/YA6-B5uKqyl?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of any other examples that would make dating more difficult that are socially constructed? Explain.*

Another example of the difference between private troubles and public issues would be to look at why someone does not have a

job. Not having a job could be the result of laziness, lack of transportation, low education levels, etc. Each of these challenges could be understood within the context of personal troubles. However, at the end of the Clinton administration in 2000 unemployment levels were below 5%; while during the Obama administration's first term unemployment levels rose to about 10%. A sociologist would be quick to point out that 5% of the workforce did not all of a sudden become lazy, and that the social factor that significantly affected joblessness was the massive economic recession caused primarily by the mortgage crisis. Lack of transportation could definitely be considered a social issue in southern California where public transportation is inefficient, undependable and inconvenient; which practically forces people to buy cars. However, in places like New York City and San Francisco you could go your whole life and not need a driver's license because their public transportation systems are so practical. Lastly, lacking education could be the result of personal choice, however, what if the school in your district is underfunded and lacks experienced teachers? Underfunded schools are not the fault of the students but of larger social factors that influence school funding, i.e. property taxes, that cause schools in poor areas not to be able to offer competitive wages and ideal working conditions to attract the most qualified teachers. (*Watch Movie 1.3*)

Movie 1.3 Poetry in Praxis

Daddy Loves You by the Professor



1) <https://youtu.be/4ISJ5Kj-Ne4?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Section 2

A Functionalist Perspective

As a practice, sociology uses different lenses to analyze social phenomena. Each of these perspectives is valuable in their own right, but there is always a tendency to favor one viewpoint over another.

The first perspective that will be covered is the **functionalist perspective** which views society as a system of interrelated parts where any element that endures over time is interpreted as fundamental and necessary for society to operate. The primary tenant of functionalism is that society is always trying to maintain **equilibrium**, which is the tendency of a social system to resist change. To achieve this goal, society creates institutions with particular **manifest functions**, which are the obvious and intended functions of some social phenomenon. An example of this would be how the education system is directly responsible for teaching our children how to read, write and do math. The same institutions also have **latent functions**, which are the unintended and often non-obvious functions of some social phenomenon. One such latent function of the education system is how it facilitates the mate selection process. In other words,

school in general, but especially high school and college, helps people find acceptable marriage partners. (*Watch Movie 1.4*)

Movie 1.4 The Internet - A Functionalist Perspective



- 1) https://youtu.be/FstUQ5bzd_U?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of other things that the internet has affected? Explain.*

However, the most challenging part of the functionalist perspective is that if a social element has endured over extended periods of time, then that suggests that it is necessary to the operation of society. What this suggests is that something like prostitution, which has been called the world's oldest profession, is an essential social institution because it has been able to thrive even when people actively fight against its practice. If this is the case, then we would also need to consider how necessary drug use and poverty are to society because of the inability to rid society of their use.

Functionalist Theorists

Auguste Comte (1798 – 1859) is credited with the concept of **positivism**, the idea that social behaviors can be calculated and quantified, and that real knowledge can only be gained through science, not religion. His theories have led to establishing statistics as a basis for making predictions of social behavior. (Watch Movie 1.5)

Movie 1.5 War on Drugs - What the Data Tells Us to Do



- 1) <https://youtu.be/8l2hCFFgkL4?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of other things where research tells us to do something different but society chooses not to? Explain.*

Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) focused his research on how the rapid growth of society lessened personal bonds and social integration with others in society and created a state of **anomie**, which is a state where social rules, norms and expectations are confused, unclear or entirely lacking. Durkheim argues in his book *Suicide* (1897) that this lack of connection with others increases the likelihood of deviant behavior and ultimately leads to higher suicide rates. In his research, he found that Catholics

had a lower suicide rate than Protestants (Christians that are not Catholic). He argued that these lower rates were due to the highly structured lives of Catholics, who have practices such as formal confessions, memorized prayers and established ages for convocation, while all of these elements are completely missing in Protestant churches. A more current example of how anomie can affect our lives is in families that experience divorce. Children of divorced parents are far more likely to engage in deviant behavior, i.e. drug use, illicit sex, and poor academic performance, than children whose parents have not been divorced. (*Watch Movie 1.6*)

Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis

Twins By Ant Black



1) <https://youtu.be/O9W0l-7ftmE> - Video

2) *What is the poem about?*

3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*

4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*

5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Herbert Spencer – is known for his ideological support of **social Darwinism**, or the “survival of the fittest,” which suggests that as society evolves people who cannot adapt to current social conditions will ultimately be eliminated from the human gene pool. In other words, Spencer did not see any social responsibility to alleviate the circumstances of the numerous poor people that were being created through the implementation of capitalism during the Industrial Revolution period. Spencer argued that poor people were socially, economically, physically and/or mentally unfit for the modern era, which explained their current social position. If society did anything to try and ameliorate the conditions of the poor it would only be preventing the inevitable and therefore use scarce and valuable resources on people that will not not succeed regardless of how much help they receive.

Section 3

The Conflict Perspective

The **Conflict perspective** focuses on how the imbalance of power in social relationships leads to the uneven distribution of resources in society. This perspective, more than the other two, views society as an arena where small groups of people try to exert their influence over others to obtain valuable resources. This perspective is usually broken down into three major theoretical groupings: Class, Feminist and Race. **Class theory** seeks to explain society's political and social behavior based upon its economic system. **Feminist theory** is a theoretical approach that focuses on the role of women in a particular society, unequal treatment based on gender categories and the perpetuation

of patriarchy as a system of domination. **Race theory** puts racial and ethnic groups at the center of analysis regarding social structural organization, which inherently leads to inequality. (Watch Movie 1.7)

Movie 1.7 Prison Sentencing - The Case of Brock Turner

Washington Post June 7, 2016



- 1) <https://youtu.be/uHpEk8iUmPY?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of any other situations where the punishment may not fit the crime? Explain.*

Conflict Theorist

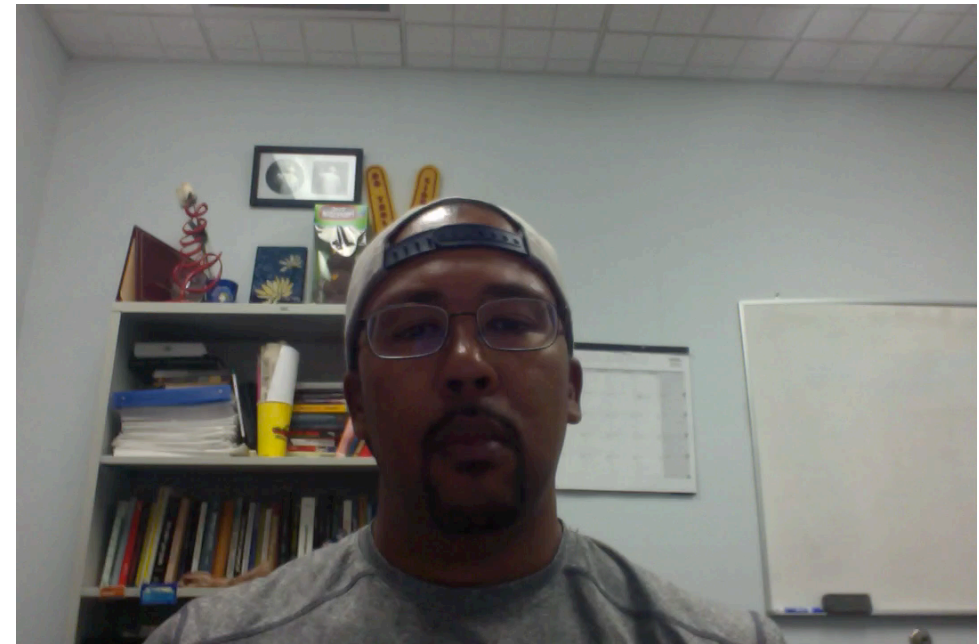
The quintessential class scholar would be **Karl Marx** (1818–1883) who wrote the *Communist Manifesto*. His research focused on how capitalism ultimately created a two-class structure: the **proletariat** who are the workers of a given society and the **bourgeoisie** who are the owners of the means of production. Marx theorized that once the proletariat gained a shared awareness of how the bourgeoisie manipulated

them to stay in power, the workers of the world would unite and overthrow their common oppressors through a worldwide Communist Revolution. Marx argued that the reason for this impending social upheaval was because capitalism is an inherently evil and untamable beast that is full of contradictions, e.g. profit over people. The combination of all of these elements leads individuals to feel **alienation**, which is the loss of control over our creative human capacity to produce, separation from the products we make, and isolation from our fellow workers.

Marx would argue that an example of this concept would be the music industry. To make the most profit, artists are often encouraged to restrict their creativity to make “pop” music, which is why people in this genre essentially sound the same. This mass production of music creates in many artists a sense of separation from their songs because they do not feel it reflects who they truly are anymore. Artistic compromise solely made to increase profit isolates these musicians from the community of artists that they originated from creating a sense of loneliness and despair.

Another class theorist would be **Max Weber** (1864–1920) who took issues of power a step further than Marx. Weber argued that who has power was determined not only by social class and control of material resources but also by social status and organizational resources. (*Watch Movie 1.8*)

Movie 1.8 Max Weber on Power



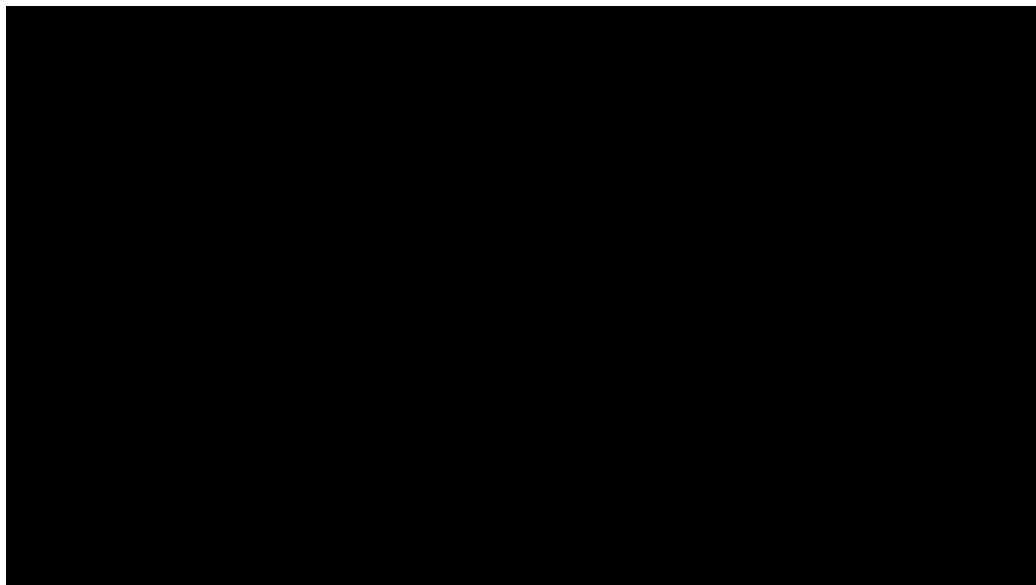
- 1) <https://youtu.be/MppyZZP8Rxk?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) did the author use to illustrate his point? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of any other examples of how power manifests itself in our society? Explain.*

Although Simone de Beauvoir stood in opposition to women being heavily restricted to work in the home and the poem *Ain't I a Woman* by Sojourner Truth stated that women are not weak and fragile and are completely capable of doing strenuous labor, the feminist perspective in sociology is best represented by **Margaret Mead** who argued that gender roles are not “natural”, but socially constructed. Her work on gender roles in Papua New Guinea found that women were the dominant sex, which challenged male

conceptions of the role of women in society as biologically determined rather than culturally constructed. Her research suggested that men and women can be leaders; both men and women can be warmongers; both men and women could be competitive, and both men and women could be nurturing. In other words, culture, not biology, largely dictates the gender roles that we find in our society. (*Watch Movie 1.9*)

Movie 1.9 Poetry in Praxis

Monster by Split this Rock



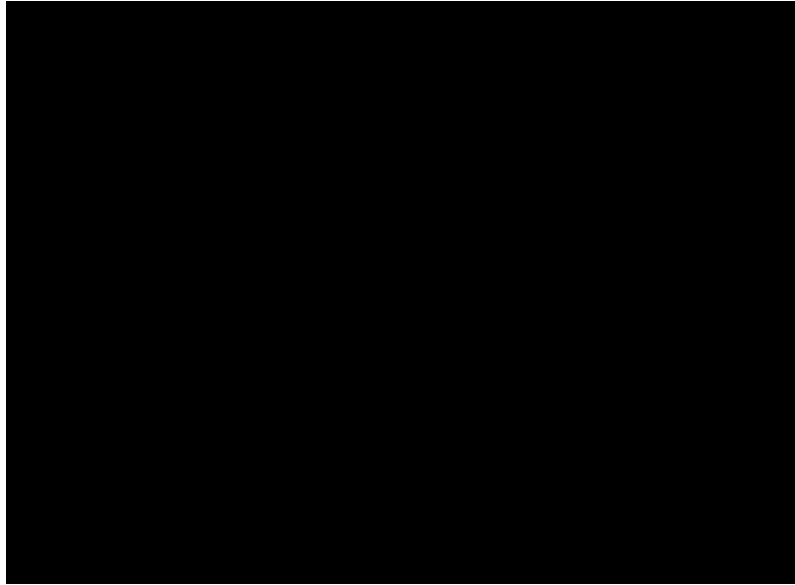
- 1) <https://youtu.be/jXk3uhlhAVY> - Video
- 2) *What is the poem about?*
- 3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*
- 4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*
- 5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

The sociologist that epitomizes race theory best is **W. E. B. Du Bois** (1868–1963) who wrote *Souls of Black Folks* (1903) in which he proposed the idea of **double consciousness**; that black people in the US maintained dueling identities, simultaneously American and black, and thus experienced social marginality. To understand this concept, we must first know that being considered *American* is a status that confers rights and privileges on that person while being considered *black* significantly lowered a person's social status. Throughout US history, times of war typically signified a limited amount of acceptance of black people. Even during times of slavery and segregation, black people have fought in all of this country's wars searching for the ever-allusive rights of freedom and equality that were stated in our founding documents. However, once the World Wars were over and black soldiers returned to the United States, they found that the liberties that they fought to protect in Europe were not extended to them thus creating and perpetuating a double consciousness for black people.

However, it is important to state that this concept is not restricted to the black population. Homosexuals may experience this concept between the spaces of being perceived as *straight* or *lesbian/gay*. Women may experience this concept through the socially conditioned roles they are taught at a very young age. While Chicano/Latinos may experience their immigration status in a manner that resembles double consciousness. (*Watch Movie 1.10*)

Movie 1.10 Poetry in Praxis

White Girl by Ant Black



- 1) <https://youtu.be/bZrQbv9RO3o> - Video
- 2) *What is the poem about?*
- 3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*
- 4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*
- 5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Section 4

Symbolic Interactionist

The **Symbolic interactionist perspective** analyzes everyday forms of social interactions to develop an understanding of society as a whole. More than any other perspective, interactionist challenge how we view the world and moves us away from the idea that reality is fixed and unchangeable. These theorists argue the **social construction of reality**, which states that our perception of what is real is shaped by the subjective meanings we bring to any experience and is learned through human interaction.

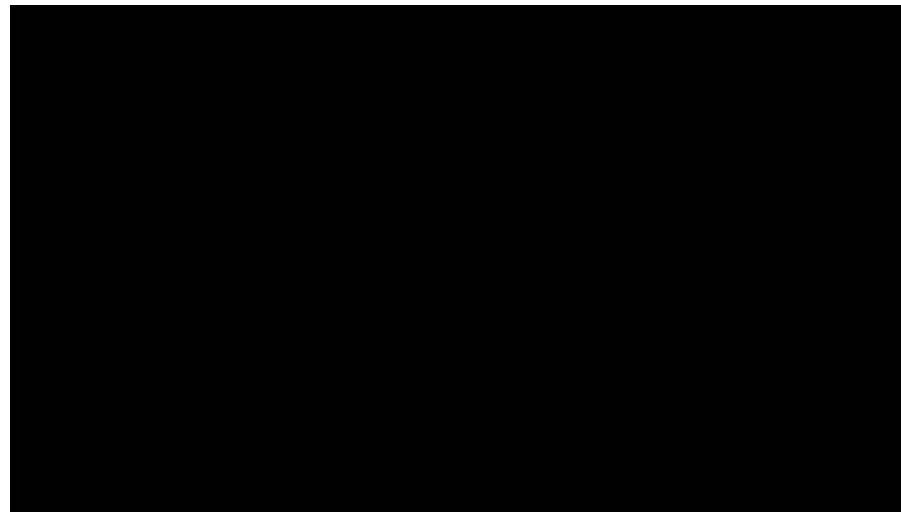
However, not only do we construct our own realities based on our personal

experiences, but our social realities are also built for us. A good example of this concept is what we call reality TV shows. By

putting the word *reality* in the title of the genre, it suggests that the action, situations and plot lines found in these shows are somehow more real than other TV shows. However, what we find is that these reality shows are just as constructed and scripted as any other show. Camera workers look for specific shots. Producers create material for the show rather than just let things happen haphazardly, while directors and editors cut out the very real parts of people's lives that the audience would consider boring.

Symbolic Interactionist Theorist

Movie 1.11 Black and White Friends on Facebook by Strange Fruit Sociology



- 1) <https://youtu.be/7ZYD2BOpx2A?list=PLLejE0fx8zBIUxm7MSuskKWZYAijwFGXo> - Video
- 2) *What is the main point of this video?*
- 3) *What example(s) do the authors use to illustrate their point(s)? Do you agree or disagree? Explain.*
- 4) *Can you think of any other examples of how certain social issues can show how you and your friends are concerned about very different things? Explain.*

A sociologist that would be regarded as a symbolic interactionist would be Erving Goffman (1922–1982) who popularized a concept known as the **dramaturgical approach**, which compares everyday life to the setting of the theater and stage and sees people as theatrical performers. He argues that people *act* according to how they want to be interpreted in a given social situation and we do this through **impression management**, which involves an individual altering his or her presentation of self to provide information and cues to satisfy particular audiences.

Movie 1.12 Movie 1.12 Poetry in Praxis

To The Boys That May Eventually Date My Daughter
by Jesse Parent



button
poetry

- 1) <https://youtu.be/KclwZ1Dth0c> - Video
- 2) *What is the poem about?*
- 3) *What larger social factors is the poet concerned about?*
- 4) *What do you think the poet believes is the problem?*
- 5) *Is the poet suggesting a solution? If so, do you agree or disagree? If not, what do you think might help?*

Chapter Review

Chapter Vocabulary ***parentheses indicate page number***

Sociology (2)

Macrosociology (2)

Microsociology (2)

Sociological Imagination (3)

Private Troubles (3)

Public Issues (3)

Functionalist Perspective (6)

Equilibrium (6)

Manifest Functions (6)

Latent Functions (6)

Positivism (7)

Anomie (7)

Social Darwinism (8)

Conflict Perspective (9)

Class Theory (9)

Feminist Theory (9)

Race Theory (9)

Proletariat (9)

Bourgeoisie (9)

Alienation (9)

Double Consciousness (10)

Symbolic Interactionist (12)

Social Construction of Reality (12)

Dramaturgical Approach (12)

Impression Management (12)

Key Terms ***need to illustrate concept with an example***

Sociological Imagination

Positivism

Anomie

Social Darwinism

Alienation

Double Consciousness

Social Construction of Reality

Dramaturgical Approach

Impression management

Bullet-point answer questions:

- What are the three sociological perspectives?
- What are the three theories within the conflict perspective?
- Name three of sociology's most famous theorists.

Short answer questions:

- What is the difference between macro-sociology and micro-sociology and give an example of both?
- What is the difference between private troubles and public issues and give an example of both?
- What is the difference between manifest functions and latent functions and give an example of both?

Critical thinking questions:

- What are the three sociological perspectives and what would they study regarding the criminal justice system?
- What would a class, feminist and race theorist study regarding the importance of sports in our society?
- Define the sociological imagination and explain how a person's employment status could be the result of larger social factors.

Transcripts

Movie 1.1 Differences Between Sociology and Psychology

All right so one of the best ways to describe the difference between psychology and sociology would take an example like people who are diagnosed with ADHD or attention deficit hyperactive disorder right #so on the psychology side what we know Russian Mark well what we know is that after being diagnosed with ADHD that the person will probably be sent to therapy and they would be taught you know different coping mechanisms and strategies in order to help them deal with their condition and you know on the more severe cases what then would happen they would do some kind of medical regimen to help the person deal with their symptoms. A look and this is a completely valid and scientific way of approaching this problem, however as a sociologist we would even think of it this way. As a matter of fact, but we continue to find in the research is that people who are traditionally diagnosed with ADHD, they actually would thrive in hunter and gatherer societies, and they also for whatever reason make really good soldiers. And so then if the problem is not ADHD than what exactly is the problem? And as a sociologist we have to point toward where the problem is being

diagnosed the most, and that's in the education system, and the education system tends to have a very style to where only one type of learner is really privileged in that space and so a person with ADHD, they might actually be more of a kinetic learner, or maybe they're more creative, on the creative side of what we as sociologists would say is that these types of learners need to be given more opportunities to learn in those spaces so that they can pay attention and they can do things that will actually help them retain the knowledge other than the one-size-fits-all education system that we tend to have right now.

Movie 1.2 Dating and the Sociological Imagination

Alright so let's give an example between the difference of a private trouble vs. a public issue. Okay, so let's take something like dating for instance we're being shy or having ill-fitting clothes or maybe even a little bit of body odor would be considered like a private trouble. Alright, because you can deal with all of these on like an individual basis. You know if you could take a communications class to help you out with being shy, you can go to the department store in order to buy better fitting clothes and you know, you could increase your personal hygiene habits in

order to deal with your body odor. However, larger social factors can be affecting your dating practices because of how tall you are. So, let's take like you're good looking, you know, career oriented male who just happens to be 5 feet tall. Now look, there is literally nothing wrong with being 5 feet tall, but our society has suggested, has socialized us into believing that men should be taller than the women in their lives. So therefore being a 5 foot tall man, Even though there's nothing wrong with you, they would have a hard time finding a date in our society because of that socialized notion that men are supposed to be taller than women. And then what about if you're homosexual? being homosexual because of the violence that happens to people in the homosexual community, they generally can't be as open with their dating practices like going up to some random person and asking them out on a date because of the possibility of the violence and so therefore they're more likely to go on online and to have more personal relationships with folks in order to figure out who they can date or not. So then, so it has nothing to do with you and there's nothing wrong with you necessarily but in our society, defining homosexuality as deviants and defining 5 foot tall as undesirable, that can lead to a lot of consequences in regards to your dating practices.

Movie 1.3 Poetry in Praxis *Daddy Loves You* by the Professor

I tell you folks, God must have a sense of humor/Because after having three boys at the age of 37, my wife tells me she is

pregnant again/And I automatically think it will be another boy/But lo and behold God blesses me with a beautiful, bouncing baby... girl/And she rocks my world/And she makes me rethink my entire parenting strategy/All while standing in the center of a pile of pink one-sies, blankets and clothes/Pink, pink, pink as far as the eye can see, no diapers or wipees/And so I guess the world is already trying to suggest to me, that her pooh pooh won't stink/Because what am I to think/Because at the baby shower for my boys/They got all of those things /And even things that they couldn't even play with yet like Tonka truck toys/And I thought to myself really? Does the programming begin that early?/Where the world is already obsessed with my girls looks/But me personally, I would rather see her head in those books/But what if it is the books that teach her about history, or is it HIS – story/Where men are seemingly the center of the universe/Or that her self worth can somehow be measured in dollars and cents/Or that this fleeting thing called equality/Is something that she is going to have to fight for everyday of her life/And if that is what the books will do, what will TV teach her?/How to act like she eats regular, and then take her finger/And jam it down her throat along with all her hopes and dreams in an effort to be thin/But what about the woman within? But I guess that is where I come in/And I tell her, baby girl, God don't make ugly, but you can/If you fail to understand/That the beauty that the world seeks after, no matter how hard you try/Will ultimately wither into a bag of sagging body parts and wrinkles/But your true beauty will lie/In that twinkle in your eye/When you hear me say, Daddy loves you/I will protect

you, I will support you/And when you learn to skate and fall down,
I'll kiss your boo/And you will never have to worry about where I
am at night/Or why mommy and daddy always fight/Or watch
your daddy raise another woman's kids/While his kids don't have
school clothes, eat top ramen every day and bounce around from
apartment to apartment because momma can't pay the rent/Like I
did/And I don't want to just be there in your life, I want to be
present at every moment/And I pray that I teach you that you are
worth waiting for/That you are worth being committed to/That you
are the sweetest apple sitting at the top of the tree/And that a real
man, I said a real man/Will work his behind off to try and get you/
While little boys will try and lie to you/So that they can lie with
you/Or spend money on you so you will give up the bootie/All for
the discount price of dinner and a movie/So any fool who steps to
you like that you know will be unworthy/Simply because/You will
be looking for a man that loves you the way that... Daddy does

Movie 1.4 The Internet - A Functionalist Perspective

So talking about the Internet is actually a really good illustration of
what the functionalists are talking about how our institutions, our
social institutions are intricately woven together and whatnot and
the changes in one space will create changes in another and so
think about the technological shift right the Internet and look I'm
44 years old so you have to understand I was actually there when
the Internet was first made public and whatnot and so people
were so excited you have no idea we had classes about how to

surf the web and things like that and so people were really
excited about this and whatnot I don't know though that people
really understood what was going to change in our society and
what effect this technological shift would make and so now I'm
thinking about it I mean think about how our social interactions
have changed you know back in my day you had to actually pick
up a phone or write a letter to someone in order to communicate
to them while now a many students of mine they use like
Facebook and other social networking sites as their primary
contact source and things like that. Also for crying out loud you
have so many people who interact with people all across the
world because of the video games and things like that that people
play and whatnot. In another place that is affected the education
system, now with videos and being able to post videos, teachers
can actually send their students to alternative learning sites in
order to for them to teach concepts in class ,and then also I mean
think about also the instantaneous nature of information now
right? It's that now with our cell phones also adding to this mix
that many times any informational question that we have we can
just go online right then and there and figured out almost
instantaneously. And lastly you know as we continue to move
towards a paperless society we've learned how to pay bills online
and learn how to fill out forms and now were even moving and
switching over almost completely into reading books and things
like that online. So this is how the Internet how a technological
shift can actually affect all parts of our society.

Movie 1.5 War on Drugs - What the Data Tells Us to Do

Okay so August Comte belief in Positivism has actually allowed him to kind of job as sociologist as societies doctors where our research is designed to cure society of its social ills. Now look just like any other doctor though just because we make a recommendation doesn't mean that the societies actually going to pay attention to it. A case in point would be the one drugs, now look, that when we think about the one drugs all the research dictates that in order to win the war on drugs we should actually surrender. And the someway that we do with alcohol because look and I'm not trying to condone drug usage in any way whatsoever but if you think about the prohibition we prohibited the sale and usage of alcohol in the United States that's when the vast majority of the violence was created around it. And then we legalize it again much of that violence when away I mean you know you don't hear about, you know Budweiser jumping on their Clydesdales and doing drive-by shootings against the cores getting because that stuff just doesn't happen because we've legalized alcohol. And so if we were to legalize drugs that we wouldn't emphasize other preventative measures just like we do with alcohol and to me the biggest social benefit of this would be that to legalize drugs would drastically reduce the number of prisoners that we have in our prison system and whatnot. And so if you think about it like that I would hope like the United States will ultimately follow the example of a lot of other countries who have legalized other drugs.

Movie 1.6 Poetry in Praxis *Twins* By Ant Black

What's up you're watching the 2014 Ink Slam Poetry Festival and I'm Shihan and you're watching ALL DEF DIGITAL.

They were twins nothing in common but blood lines and destiny in an average American family not knowing which way life will cut typical childhood consisting of stone-cold stutters and Disney princess sing-alongs their primary interaction usually involved television fights which always ended in the decapitation of one of her Barbie's hardly dysfunctional PTA parents, used

Chrysler minivan driving the license plate frame said "twice the bliss with twins" I met them in high school he was a four sport athlete naturally fast but what he lacked in size he made up with heart and she was hardly prom queen material band geek, Goth core, nor book worm. Just some dimple cheeked face who blended in with the rest of the 12th grade. But that was the year everything changed. Attorneys and judges enforcing divorce couldn't have distracted him in sports but it only made him more focused. Playing his best for college and scholarship offers don't easily come with a sprawling frame. Trains every day for a body God didn't intend to give him. He swears that keys to muscles that are ripped and cut. She grows up. Newly finds that boys don't give her the attention her daddy used to she was used to hearing the words "love" and "princess" twice-daily. Now replaced with twice month visitations and usually staying in a door closed room counting the smiles of Beyoncé, Britney, and J-

Lo. She thinks, if she was famous she would never have to feel the pains of emotional cuts. He blows up and college recruiters pack stands to witness an athletic genius. I heard whispers of secrets and needles confirmed only by two syringes hidden in a compartment of an old Nike duffle bag. Like she has this hidden personality complemented by long sleeve secrets after school she sits alone touching her full arm with the blades of razors the pain escapes her feelings of isolation tilts her wrist so the blood will drip into the center of her palm. Gripping it tightly, thinking she's finally got ahold of herself. You would think he had ahold of himself as theirs six touchdowns and the game went into overtime. Couldn't get up high enough, he opens the vial, draws a clear drip out of the bottle injecting it into the fabric of his hormones hoping one day he can be strong enough to bring his parents together. She barely keeps it together. A 17 year old junkie addicted to no substance, just sits in class fantasizing on how deep she can feel her veins. Prays to the sensation of pain. Goes home and plays Sound Garden's "Black Hole Sun" ritualistically pricking her skin with a safety pin till she finds a spot she wants to touch. Kisses a razor blade and cuts. Kisses his biceps, now he's cut. But as suddenly as he admires, he still feels uninspired, especially the lack of chisel in his gluts. Smashes his head in the mirror yelling "I WANT TO BE HUGE!" Makes the entire house shake, causing the razor blade resting delicately on her forearm to slip and slice through the center of her wrist. She... slips away lifelessly in excruciating pain still unable to cry even if it was for help, for the hours she lay there dying. He stared at the

broken reflection of himself. He died days later, his heart couldn't keep up with his muscles and he collapsed at the 2-yard line, two funerals, one-time. Brother, sister. Buried right next to each other underneath twin oak trees. Her, in a black dress with long sleeves. His muscles still growing, bursting the suit at the seams. That's when I found out they were twins. Same blood line. Same destiny. Victims of the way life cuts.

Movie 1.7 Prison Sentencing - The Case of Brock Turner

Washington Post June 7, 2016

So recently in the news there's been a lot of focus on the prison sentence that a man by the name of Brock Turner received he is a 20 year old white male Stanford student and Collegiate level athlete who was convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman behind a dumpster at a frat party. the maximum sentence that he could have received was 14 years the prosecution was looking for 6 years. He received a six-month sentence, a six-month sentence and so although there is a lot of details that go into this I understand that but read the article yourself if you want to his name is Brock Turner. What I want to do is focus on how sociologists, How the conflict perspectives would look at how he received such a minimal sentence. Right? the class perspective would talk about how Money Matters, literally Money Matters, money is able to buy a lawyer that can spend exclusive time on that particular case and so therefore make sure that Brock Turner received the best defense possible. with a race perspective,

look, this is real, this is research and so I'm going to say this clearly that the research clearly demonstrates that white people are far more likely to get lesser sentences than people of color for doing very similar crimes. and so you have to ask yourself the question, it's like what would this have looked like if this person was black? what would this have looked like if this person was poor? What would this have looked like if this person was poor and black, or poor and a person of color? Right? And so while lastly though and most importantly is the feminist perspective that this sentence is a Cornerstone this slap-on-the-wrist is literally a Cornerstone of a culture that promotes rape. In other words a rape culture or not seeing this is a serious crime not only devalues women but it also encourages this type of behavior in our society. you know the perpetrators father, Brock Turner's father, he made it even worse by asking the court to give his son a lesser sentence and really focus on how his son was going to have not to be able to live a normal life because of this and not even thinking at all and not even empathizing at all with the fact that that woman, the victim is not going to be able to live a normal life ever also! But she didn't do anything wrong, all she was, was the wrong person, wrong place, wrong time, you know. So then that is the epitome of what we're talking about with the feminist perspective we're talking about how our culture promotes rape.

Movie 1.8 Max Weber on Power

So now let me give you some examples of about how power manifests itself in our society in accordance to Max Weber. Now I am saying Weber not Webber even though it looks like Weber it's pronounced Weber because he is German and so let's just remember that as I continue here, but anyway so he talks about how does it how does it difference in power in regards to people of a different social class, people of different social statuses, right? And then also people that have access to organizational resources, and so the easiest thing to talk about probably is social class. And so these are the truly elite the wealthy people in our society and besides may be Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg we probably don't know a whole bunch about them. the reason why I know anything about Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg is because there was movies made after them and a lot of things like that, but Warren Buffett probably don't know about, may be even Larry Ellison, how about the Walton's that run Wal-Mart? These are people that we tend not to know much about alright, but they have tremendous power in our society because they have all the means of production if you would from a Marxist perspective. but anyway, but then there's also social status, and social status than is like I think of celebrities when I think about when I think about them they don't have any real actual power but people perceive them as powerful and so people are likely to listen to them so then if Emma Watson who played Hermione in Harry Potter she went and talked to the United Nations about

feminist issues and so I don't know how that happens but she definitely did Heath ledger Jake Gyllenhaal and Hathaway they make a movie called broke back Mountain which you know definitely supports the homosexual community and queer community in general and definitely make a public statement about that. Jay-Z and Beyoncé they support black lives matter but besides just you know them being who they are the reason why we're listening to them is because of their social statuses in our world right. And so then lastly it's people with organizational resources and this is the a little bit more difficult because besides the president of the United States we surely don't know a whole new bunch of the names of people that are associated with this and so the president of the United States they have vastly the most organizational resources they can mobilize entire armies in regards to things that they need to get done in the United States and whatnot. But then there is also like the secretary of defense there is the secretary of state there is also directors like direct tour of the FBI director of the CIA even the director of the IRS has incredible organizational resources at their disposal and so that would be how the power manifests itself in our society in accordance to Max Weber.

Movie 1.9 Poetry in Praxis *Monster* by Split this Rock

Every year for Halloween I wanted to be a pumpkin, sunflower, M&M, turtle. But when you get older, the costumes tend to get smaller, nesting curves into eye candy, instead of masterpiece.

American Beauty turned apple pie cutie. So this year I decided to be a schoolteacher, nurse, fairy, Wonder Woman! But when I went to buy the costume I was like "Where's the rest of it?" /Is "B" for books or for boobs?/Was the tooth fairy a stripper? /To check temperatures or raise them? /Oh hell naw, heels?!/ Halloween has become a different type of freak show, and all that I am don't fit prettily into polyester and spandex. I much rather be a Sasquatch, Godzilla, King Kong, Loch Ness, goblin, ghoul, a zombie with no conscious cuz' everybody knows I'm a mother fuckin' MONSTER! Society is trying to squeeze the fantasy out of us. Turn our feminine fatal. So this year I think I'll be monster! /Let me be mummy. Empty of all organs so they never fail me. Only my heart would remain. The center of intelligence and emotion./ But I never need to feel another pair of greedy eyes on me! Monster./I'd much rather be a vampire. My reflection disappearing every time I looked in the mirror so I wouldn't have to worry about flaws that stare blankly back at me./I will suck every woman stereotype out of your throat! Monster./I've heard that some of the most beautiful women are the craziest ones! On a bad day I'm human. On a full moon, werewolf that I exist when the lunar ticks (ticks, ticks, ticks), ticking till the time comes when I'm finally comfortable in my own skin. Monster./Let me be your worst nightmare for one night!/I'll shut away my wings and Betsey Johnsons and I'll play boogeyman. See, I know what you're afraid of...a woman! Who can do bad (Evil), all by herself. But nowadays boogeyman is a lot less frightening than a strong woman. Monster./But no matter what garments we wrap ourselves in, a

woman's status as trick, treat, or geek is not up for discussion. A woman dressing, acting, or being should be her choice! If a woman wants to wear a skimpy outfit, let it be her choice! If a woman wants to cover up, let it be her choice! If I want to be a motherfucking MONSTER...then let it be my choice!/Is "B" for books or boobs?/Both!/To check temperatures or raise them?/Both!/Was the tooth fairy a stripper?/Maybe...but who cares?!/See I'd much rather be woman, and if it means that I must be a monster, then Happy Halloween.

Movie 1.10 Poetry in Praxis *White Girl* by Ant Black

First grade I asked this white girl to be my girlfriend her name was Maria Mancini and when she said yes, I began calling her Leslie because like the Michael Jackson song I wanted to love her endlessly. Second grade, Isis was the only white girl I knew she had red hair and freckles and said the word "fuck" a lot, she was half Irish, half Italian, but would fuck you up if you ever called her a white girl because in our class the only races were Mexicans, Black, and poor. Third-grade, the school district placed me in a gifted and talented education where I sat next to, across from, and right behind a white girl. Janet. We would tease you each other every day like "I heard you live in a big old Hill because you're afraid of back people", "oh yeah, well I heard you're afraid to get in the water because you're scared your blackness gonna rub off", "oh yeah..." her jokes always hurt me more than I would hurt her, but "it's okay" she'd reassure me "you're really good in

sports". And I turned out to be really good in sports. And Janet who I had a class with every year until we graduated from high school would come watch me whenever there was a track meeting at her university, never take the bus home from a competition, never stay in photograph sunsets from the window of Janet's revealed dorm room. Year after year, I watch the faces of friends and pictures get whiter, the struggle to make conversation get harder, and the desire to say "you really don't have to come or stay" got easier. Janet, I wish you would've missed the track meet that day. Better the sun not set than to turn forest at UCSD into the Ku Klux Klan's lynching ground in the corners of my imagination. Better for you to break tradition and let friendship fall through the spaces of our fingers and to invite me to that fucking party! You told me it was a Compton cookout, menu consisting of 40 ounces, fried chicken, and Kool-Aid dressed to impress, baggy pants, wife beaters, white tees, and a blue and red rag is the perfect accessory. Nudged me on the elbow, "all the women are dressing like gangster bitches and hoes" you know, weaves, braids and ass hanging from Daisy Dukes". Janet how could you...drown my "please have nothing to do with this" in surround sound stereo types of the ghetto you drove through to get to school, but never once spent a day in. Reduce my mother to sloppy interpretations of hairstyles and sex in the same breath that complemented her Dutch apple pie, tight rope around our friendship, string it around the branches of Louisiana hop trees and expect me to point and laugh at the lynching before I knew of racism in the 21st century you enslaved

my soul in perpetuity. Your right! I am overreacting, to white folks who liberate their inner coon ass niggah through the culture of black people replacing characters in hip-hop music with stereotypes of Dixie. I'm sorry! But I've never heard Al Jolson or a minstrel strong that didn't make me puke a little in my mouth and it's not fried chicken or Kool-Aid. It is waves rolling onto your campus shores and you wondered why I never got in the water. Janet, it is because of you I hold on the first and second grade so tightly that sometimes I forget to breathe. Isis, with the red hair and freckles. Maria, who answered to a different name to make me feel like a star cause it's too easy to feel like every white girl is a bigoted racist, like it's too hard to forget this skin stays on after parties.

Movie 1.11 Black and White Friends on Facebook

by Strange Fruit Sociology

ANT: So given the non-indictment verdicts, given the demonstrations and the hash tag, black life matters, umm I'm curious, how has...what, what is going with you? How is your social media? Getting a lot of backlash, getting a lot of heat right? You're expected, you're the professor, they're expecting you to come out and say some crazy stuff and talk about it right? Everyone is asking for your opinion right?

BRUCE: You know that's right. Look for real. I actually sat on this one on my Facebook for 24hrs. I wanted to have a proper

mental, emotional, spiritual cool down period or else shit would have went off. Like for real, like I would have just said some really crazy stuff. Instead I'm just like let me, let me, let me back myself up and just wait it out. And so over those 24 hrs. I was paying attention to what all my Facebook folks were saying and I arrived at this very interesting statistical pattern that I saw on my Facebook friends and that was simply this: We are clearly living in two very different worlds. Black people and white people clearly live in very two different worlds and look, I'm really blessed to have a lot of friends who are not black if you will. I have a very diverse group of friends and what I continue to see in that 24 hr. period was that the black folks, like over 80% of black people on my Facebook were like: "Yo, what we going to do about the non-indictment? What we going to do? Where are the protests at? What we going to do? Where's Oceanside? How we going?" It was like all about Michael Brown. It was all about that space. It was all about what are we going to do?

ANT: It was unity. It was gathering. It was like coalition.

BRUCE: Right. It was all that energy coming forward from my Facebook friends, and all positive and what not and things like that. Now on the other hand. Like 80% of my white friends though, they were like "So what we going to do for thanksgiving? Here's the pie that I'm making. Oh my god, I'm going to eat too much turkey. I'm going to take a nap after because I'm going to get you know so fat *Because of the tryptophan* right, because of

the tryptophan. Oh my god, does anybody know a good sweet potato pie recipe?” Shit like that! Like if I’m, like for real I was like, I was like yo. Like really, like really? It just kept on going through, going through, going through and I’m like oh my god, really? Even my friends? Like I’m a professor dammit, they my friends, they supposed to like something. It was like constantly just reinforced, reinforced. I walk into work and same damn thing. People were laughing and they were joking and all of this and I’m like man, I’m about, I’m one match light away from just blowing up this bitch! Like for real, I’m like about to go off, I’m about to go off! And I’m a tenured faculty member who has a decent job and I’m like I’m about to go off! If there was a riot right now I’d be in it! White folks just laughing. Where you going for thanksgiving? I’m like man you’ve got to be freaking kidding me. Anyway, man...what’s happening with you man? What’s going in your world?

ANT: See all that, see all that that blood pressure that just went all up. I’m just cutting them off. *hahaha* They get cut off. And you know what’s cold? They don’t even know

BRUCE: That would be so much more easier.

ANT: They don’t even know they cut off. I’m not even giving them the dignity of unfriending them. *yea* I just read the racist comments. I just read the “see this article explains exactly why black people are a problem”, “See this article explains exactly why this should not be a homicide and why it was self-defense”. Cut off. I don’t need. I don’t even, sometimes I don’t even tell my

wife. *hahaha* I just know the next time that person asks for: “When are you guys going to come over? We haven’t seen you in so long!” You will either get the ignore or, or they will get the “I’m busy right now. Maybe next time, maybe next year.” Because it, it is too much. It’s too much. Were already carrying it on our bodies. We’re carrying it in our bodies. This is why we die 10 years earlier.

BRUCE: You know what. I...I realize how much energy and effort it takes to even keep up with all of that because there was this white, a white student who had a diametrically opposed, two white students that I had that had diametrically opposed opinions about this than I did. And man, the...all the effort that it just took just to try and explain what I consider even the simplest stuff *I’m done* and it was just like *I’m done* But see I can’t! See I can’t, I get what you’re saying.

ANT: You be racist. You go ahead and be racist. The line has been drawn. I’m on this side. You on this side. There is no room for gray anymore. You either want to know or don’t want to know. *I hear you* You either want to have your opinion and keep it regardless of my feelings and statistical evidence. *hahaha. Which points otherwise.

BRUCE: Piles and piles of statistical evidence, but you know what? It’s like, for me, I don’t want to cut people off because it’s like I’m not just a professor. I’m supposed to be the professor. And if I cut you off, that just lets you know...if I get to the space where I’m cutting people off and I’m supposed to be the

professor. Man...the world got a lot bigger problems for me to solve than all of this. If I go that route, who else will they hear this from? That's the part that I've decided to carry on my back when I came up with my you know, stage name if you would and what not. But that's the...that's the cross that I have to bare in all of that, but I get all of that, but like I said it would be so much easier to just let it all go. Trust me, there's been plenty of times I just wanted to let it all go but I just can't do it because I want to continue to hope that the worlds going to become a better place and the only way to do that is by talking to people.

ANT: Cut off..

Movie 1.12 Movie 1.12 Poetry in Praxis

To The Boys That May Eventually Date My Daughter
by Jesse Parent

To the boys who may one day date my daughter! I have been waiting for you. Since before her birth, Since before my spark took hold and ignited the fire in her mother's belly, I have been training to kill you. When you took your first steps I was preparing to make it so you never walked again, When you played at war I was perfecting headshots, You can't catch up at this point. And when you first meet my daughter and fall in love with the look she sends over her shoulder, Her crescent-moon eyes framing her laughing smile, you Are gonna wanna talk to her. And when those hours pass by like sprinters

during that first timeless conversation You will also know with a deep and impending sense of dread, That you are going to have to talk to me When you first come to my home, and see the bone carving over my threshold- Try not to imagine your own femurs so expertly carved.vPay no attention to my "ample crawl space", myv"Room with a rubber mat and a drain", be carefulvTo only approach me with love for my daughter, See, I have been seeding her childhood with tap-root hugs To weed out indifference and apathy, There will be no Daddy Issues for your teenage talons to latch upon. If you Break her heart; I will hear it snap with the ear I pressed against her mother's belly- The elbow I cradled her head in will send a message to my fist. My cheeks Are attuned to her lips. I will know if they tremble. I have taught her that a man should never hit a woman- Now her mother would like to add that you really shouldn't ever hit anybody- But I have taught her that a man should never hit a woman. Consider my genes a mark of Cain; You will suffer seven times whatever you do to her, And she will not keep your secret: You can't make fire feel afraid. I have been teaching her love all of her life, And all that I ask is that you continue the lesson. Love her. Befriend her. Protect her- be there when I can't, and when my body gives up to the grave, Let the grin that eternity carves into my face be a reflection of the peace that your love brings to her, And we should get along just fine... ADDENDUM: To the girls

who may one day date my daughter!... My wife is a better shot than I am.