The Sociological Imagination

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http://www.iastate.edu/~soc.134
Individuals and society

Society

Everyday interactions

Social movements

Socialization

Social control

Stratification

Ideology

Individuals
Individuals and society

✓ Socialization: process through which one learns how to act according to the rules and expectations of a particular culture (p. 129)
✓ Social control: various means by which a society encourages conformity to its rules and expectations
✓ Stratification: ranking system for groups of people that perpetuates unequal rewards and life chances in society (p. 328)
✓ Ideology: coherent system of beliefs, values and ideas (p. 514)
✓ Social movement: continuous, large-scale, organized collective action motivated by the desire to enact, stop, or reverse change in some area of society (p. 511)
Two insights of sociology

The social construction of reality: process through which members of a society discover, make known, reaffirm, and alter a collective version of facts, knowledge and “truth” (chapter 3)

The sociological imagination: the ability to see the impact of social forces on our private lives (p. 8)