

Sociological Methods and Theories in the Study of Families continued...

- Theoretical Frameworks continued...
 - Cross-sectional vs Longitudinal Data
 - Cross-sectional
 - One point in a time
 - Different samples
 - Snapshots of a given point in time, change at societal level
 - American Social Attitudes
 - Longitudinal
 - Several points in time
 - Same sample
 - Change at the individual level
 - Designing a scientific study: data collecting techniques (research methods)
 - 1. Naturalistic observation: collect data from the field
 - 2. Interviews
 - 3. Questionnaires (survey)

Main ideas of chapter 3

- How one defines family has both symbolic and practical implications
- Sociologists use 4 approaches to defining family
 1. Structural
 2. Household based
 3. Role based
 4. Interactionist
- Americans are becoming more inclusive in their definitions of family, integrating interactionist and structural definitions
- Extended kin are becoming increasingly important in American families

- Transition to Adulthood in Early 21st Century: Using a Sociological Imagination
 - Economic Uncertainty and Higher Education
 - High unemployment and stagnant wages
 - High college attendance: about a third of Americans aged 25 to 29 have a college degree
 - Varies by race ethnicity
 - Asians
 - Most likely to finish higher education
 - Asian Americans are the highest paid
 - White
 - Second most likely to finish higher education
 - Black
 - Next highest to finish higher education
 - 40% of first year students do not finish a degree
 - Economic disadvantage
 - Higher unemployment rates
 - Changing Patterns of Family Formation
 - Delaying marriage (and cohabiting instead)
 - Median age at marriage is 29 for men and 27 for women
 - Median age at first union is 22-23 for men and women
 - Delaying child bearing
 - Three in ten 20-24 yr olds have children
 - Varies by education level (more in chp 5)
 - Changing Relationships with Parents
 - Semi Dependence into twenties
 - Parents who can help pay for college or provide a place to live
 - Variation by socioeconomic status
 - Public concern about young people living with parents
 - But not that different from early-20th-century patterns
 - Ex. in 1900 32% of 25 yr old and 14% of 30 yr old white men lived with parents
 - Living with parents as a positive
 - Support for single parents
 - Parents as safety net
 - Help parents as they age
 - Expected for some racial-ethnic groups, including immigrants

- Dating in Historical Context
 - From calling to dating
 - Early 20th century
 - Started in lower class and spread to other segments of population
 - Generational shift in power
 - Gender shift in power
 - 1920's sexual revolution
 - Commercialization
 - Rating and dating complex
 - Criteria for popularity
- Decline of Dating and Rise of Hookup Culture
 - Ambiguity- what does dating look like today
 - Most adolescents have some experience with romantic and sexual relationships
 - Dating tensions for adolescents in immigrant families
- Hooking up
 - Sexual encounters that take place outside of a committed relationship
 - Intentionally ambiguous term
 - Most take place with a friend or former boyfriend/girlfriend
 - Hookup culture is highly gendered
 - Men define the terms of the relationship
 - Mens pleasure is prioritized more than womens in heterosexual hookups
 - Same-sex hookups are more reciprocal
 - Hookup culture is classed
- Sexual Debut
 - Median age of first intercourse is 18 yrs old
 - Compared to 1990's
 - More of today's teens are older at sexual debut
 - Fewer have sex younger than age 15 yrs old
 - More use contraception
 - Fewer girls become pregnant
 - More young people are engaging in oral sex and other non-intercourse sexual behaviors
- Gay and Lesbian Youth
 - Sexual identity is fluid and distinct from behavior and attraction
 - Coming out is happening at younger ages
 - Bullying, violence, and family rejection are a reality for many LGBT youth

- Parenting a social class
 - 2 styles of parenting affected by class system and material resources
 - 1. Concerted cultivation
 - Middle class
 - Cultivate child's unique talents and interests
 - Many organized activities:
 - Negotiation between children and adults
 - money - and time -intensive
 - Family life organized around children's schedules
 - They look at the child as the king or queen of the house
 - 2. The accomplishment of natural growth
 - Working-class and poor
 - Due to lack of money they can only provide basic needs
 - Meet and nurture child's needs for safety, health, and well-being
 - Allow children to develop naturally
 - Few organized activities
 - Respect adult authority
- Immigrant and transitional parenting
 - Native american fertility rates
 - Native american women who live on reservations have significantly higher fertility than those who do not
 - Differential birth rates reflect the fact that cultures have different beliefs and values about having children
 - Asian families never use violence (they use shame and guilt towards their child)
 - Native americans also do not use violence because of their culture they also use guilt and shame
 - White families use violence to teach child they have made a mistake
 - More likely for uneducated lower-class single mothers
 - Findings show violence is useless in educational settings
 - Young parents are more likely to be violent than older parents
 - This is because when becoming older they became more patient
 - 24% of children live in immigrant families
 - Mixed-status families are vulnerable
 - Generational dissonance
 - Cultural innovators, adapting cultural values to new context
 - Transnational families

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- 83% of American women say being or becoming a mother is important to their identity
- some of the strongest pressures may come from couples parents
- Is American society Antinatalist?
 - Some argue that U.S. society has become antinatalist- slanted against having children or not doing all it can to support parents and their children
 - Compared to other nations at our economic level, nutrition, social service, financial aid, and education programs directly affect the welfare of children are not adequate
- Motivations for Parenthood
 - Value of children perspective: the idea that children bring unique benefits to parents
 - Social capital perspective: the anticipated social capital benefits parenthood
- Value of the children in the lives of parents
 - Children can bring vitality and a sense of purpose into a household
 - Having a child broadens a parents role in the world
 - Mothers and fathers become nurturers, advocates, authority figures, counselors, caregivers, and playmates
- Non-marital births
- Abortion

2 kinds of ideology parenting

- 1. Intensive mothering: the more you worry the better mother you are
 - mothers have to spend all their time for their kids and children
- 2. intensive fatherhood
 - all good fathers are responsible for material resources
 - also have to find a balance between being at home and working and working outside the home

Different styles of parenting

- punishment (micro)