Immigration & multiculturalism

1. Administrative
2. Canadian multiculturalism
3. *Theoretical tradition 3*: symbolic interactionism
4. Group discussion

Discussion groups

- A few groups have been slightly adjusted
- Double check `Groups` tab on MyCourses

Today's worksheet

- Will cover content from today and Thursday
- Due Friday at 5pm
- Assessment due Monday at 5pm

Citations

- Citations on worksheet can be informal, e.g. author–date
  (Mahtani 2002) or *(Jan 23 lecture)*
- No need for reference list

Canadian multicultural policy

CANADIAN MULTICULTURAL POLICY

1963 Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, recommends official federal policy of bilingualism and biculturalism

1971 Pierre Trudeau announces policies of bilingualism and multiculturalism

1982 Multiculturalism enshrined in Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1988 Canadian Multiculturalism Act

Motivations

- Divisions between French- and British-descended Canadians
- Increases in non-European immigration
- Formal response to existing cultural divisions

Key points

- Stated desire to maintain the cultural heritage of all groups in Canada's multicultural population
- Equity between visible minorities and those of French and British ancestry
- "Unity in diversity"

The ideal of the multicultural mosaic

(the stated goals)

- 'Each' ethnic group keeps its unique heritage and culture
- Intended to contribute to unified national identity
- No explicit hierarchy
- Intended to promote mutual understanding and tolerance

Salad bowl *vs* Melting pot

Implementation

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

  "This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

- Broad array of policies, laws, and agencies provide legal protection and direct support for culturally and linguistically defined groups

Contrasting models

- Segregation
- Interculturalism
- Melting pot
- Self-governed nations
- Special representation

Policy ⬌ identity

- Policies shape perception and experience of cultural identity
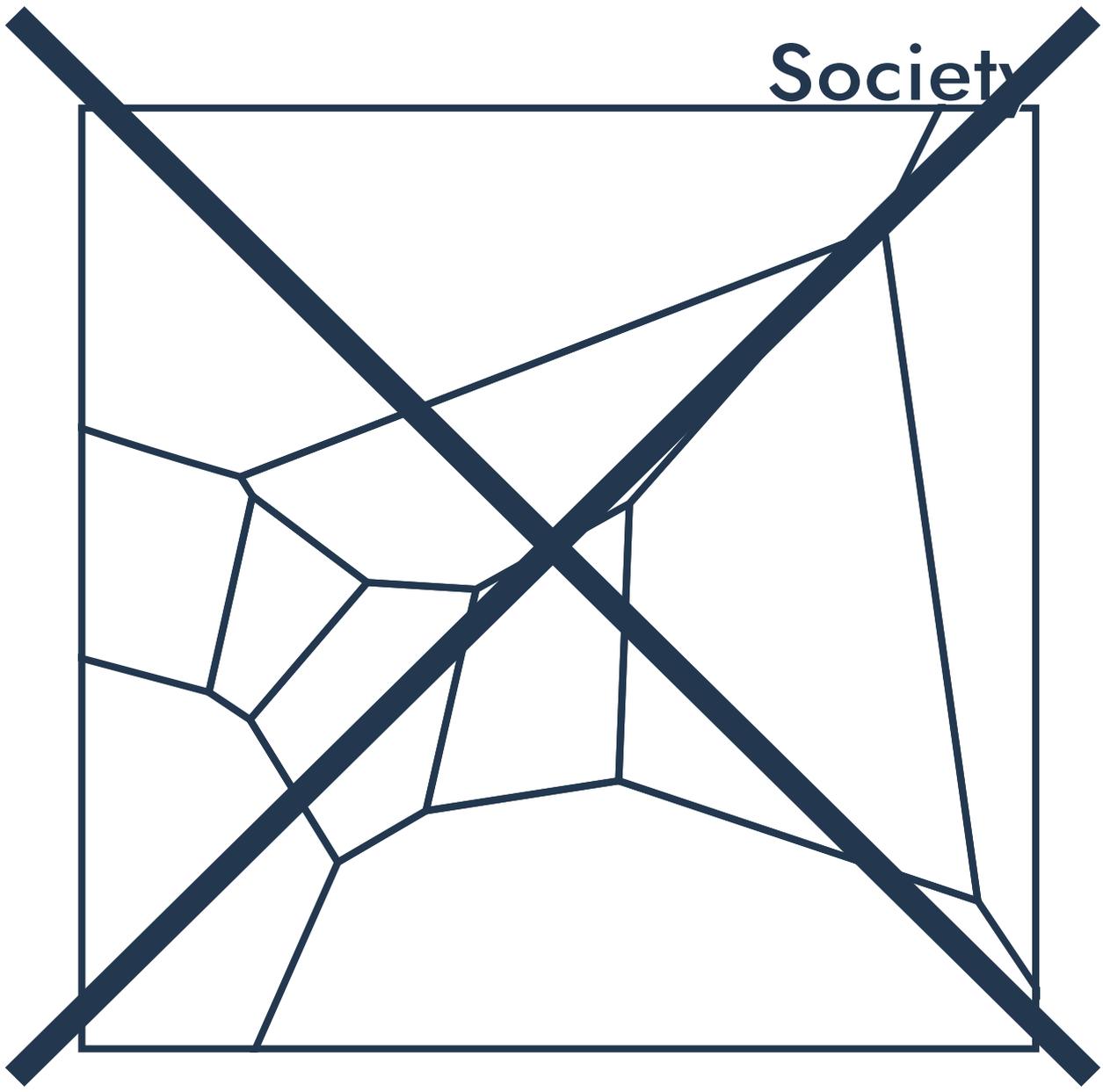
Symbolic interac- tionism

Throughout the semester, we will be be using *three broad theoretical lenses* to make sense of social phenomena:

1. Structural functionalism

2. Conflict theory

Today 3. Symbolic interactionism

Society

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Micro-level explanation of society

Focus on *symbolic meaning*

- Explains institutions, behavior, social structure through the meanings people ascribe to objects in the social world

Focus on *interaction*

- Interactions (rather than classes, roles, or institutions) are basic building block
- Examines behavior—social psychology

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Some major themes from symbolic interactionism:

Interaction as basis of self
(George Herbert Mead, Charles Cooley)

- Social world based on mental images of one another and our interactions
- Interaction involves imagining viewpoint of other person
- "Looking-glass self"
- Concept of self is same process, internalized

Multiple selves
(George Herbert Mead, Erving Goffman)

- Self is built through interactions with others
- Therefore: different conceptions of *who* we are depending on the social situation we are in

SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM

Some major themes from symbolic interactionism:

Negotiation of social order
(Herbert Blumer, Erving Goffman)

- Institutions, norms, hierarchies, structures are negotiated through interactions
- Roles are created and recreated in situational contexts

  Mutual work of defining the situation
- Regularity of social roles from repeated interaction and expectations

Small-scale-structure
(Georg Simmel)

- Small-scale structures of groups (as small as three) have large-scale consequences
- Interactions are not in a vacuum
- *(More on this when we talk about relational sociology and network theory later in the term)*

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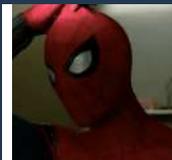 Clip from Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991), via tenor

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