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| Agenda | 1. Administrative |
| Intersectionality | 2. Intersectionality in
the social sciences |
| | 3. Conflict theory |

Lecture recordings for Jan 29

- ∴ Due to wireless network issues in the classroom, the lecture recording for last Wednesday, Jan 29 was interrupted
- ∴ Two recordings on the same topic from 2023 have been uploaded Teams -- find them in the "Lecture Streams and Recordings" channel

Synthesis essay 1

- ∴ Due **next Wednesday, February 12** by 11:59pm
- ∴ The structure of the essay is completely up to you
- ∴ Fitting all of this into 800-1,000 words can be *hard*, but it is also a good way to gain understanding

Exam Reference sheets ("cheat sheets")

- ∴ The midterm exam is in class on Feb 21.
- ∴ Reference sheets must be finalized by **Feb 19 at 11:59pm**
- ∴ I will print them and bring them to class

Logistics

- ⋮ Groups of 7-8 students
- ⋮ Teams channel for submission and collaboration
- ⋮ Each group must **choose one member** who will collect the sheets from me on the day of the exam and distribute them to group members.

Format

- ⋮ Max 2 pages, 8.5x11" (printed double sided)
- ⋮ Minimum 7-point font
- ⋮ Margins minimum 0.5 inches
- ⋮ List **all group member names** on top of first page

Suggested content

- ⋮ *I am not interested in testing rote memorization; the reference sheets are meant to help you focus on the "big picture"*
- ⋮ **For each "scholarly" reading:**
 - ⋮ Author/year
 - ⋮ Type of document (e.g. summary chapter, empirical article, ...)
 - ⋮ Primary research questions
 - ⋮ Methods (focus on relevant details)
 - ⋮ Findings and implications
 - ⋮ Other notable aspects or concepts
- ⋮ **For each class period:**
 - ⋮ Main topics (headers) and relevant textbook content
 - ⋮ Relation to the reading(s)
 - ⋮ Focus of any in-class discussions or activities
- ⋮ **Broadly:** How does the content fit together?

Intersectionality



Barbara Smith with the Combahee River Collective in 1979

The image shows a web form with several fields. The 'Ethnicity*' field is set to 'Hispanic or Latino'. The 'Race*' field is open, showing a list of sub-categories: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Costa Rican, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Salvadoran, Other Central American, Argentinean, Bolivian, Chilean, Colombian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan, Other South American, Spaniard, Unknown Hispanic, and Other Hispanic. The 'Student ID#' field is empty. The 'ing Sources' field is empty. The 'ld Care' field is empty. The 'vate' field is empty. The 'ld Care and Development' field is empty. The 'itary' field is empty. The 'her' field is empty. The 't C Early Intervention' field is empty. The 'dicaid' field is empty. The 'test' button is visible at the bottom right of the form.

Social categories

- ⋮ Race, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality ...
- ⋮ Central to sociological research
- ⋮ Used to explain differences in outcomes, role expectations, etc.
- ⋮ Key explanations of inequality and discrimination

Often studied separately

- ⋮ Disciplinary framework encourage categorical separation
- ⋮ E.g. "Sociology of race and ethnicity" or the journal "Gender and Society"

Intersectionality

- ⋮ Intersectional sociology maintains that studying social categories (like race, disability, class, gender, sexuality, ...) separately impedes our understanding of those categories

DeGraffenreid v. General Motors (1976)

- ⋮ Term “intersectionality” coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the outcome of a workplace discrimination lawsuit at General Motors filed by Black women employees (among other legal cases)

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. "Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics." *u. Chi. Legal f.* (1989): 139.

- ⋮ GM had many Black men working in their factories, and many white women working in their offices, so the court found no evidence of racial or gender discrimination



Social categories are *not* independent

- ∴ “Rather than examining gender, race, class, and nation as distinctive social hierarchies, intersectionality examines how they mutually construct one another.”

Collins, Patricia Hill. “It’s All In the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation.” *Hypatia* 13, no. 3 (August 1998): 62–82.

- ∴ The experiences of, e.g., Black women is not just the experiences of being Black “plus” the experience of being a women

Intersectional analyses

- ∴ Look at the way that multiple, overlapping social categories affect a social outcome
- ∴ E.g. *How can the intersection of gender, race, and class help us explain why Black women are 360% more likely to die during pregnancy than white women in the United States?*

<https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternal-mortality/pregnancy-mortality-surveillance-system.htm>

- ∴ E.g. *“The intersectional/interlocking nature of racism, sexism, classism, and colonialism compound the vulnerabilities faced by Aboriginal women in Canada.”*

Gilchrist, Kristen. 2010. “‘Newsworthy’ Victims?” *Feminist Media Studies* 10 (4): 373–90.

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What Serena Williams’s scary childbirth story says about medical treatment of black women

Black women are often dismissed or ignored by medical care providers. Williams wasn’t an exception.

By P.R. Lockhart | Jan 11, 2018, 4:40pm EST



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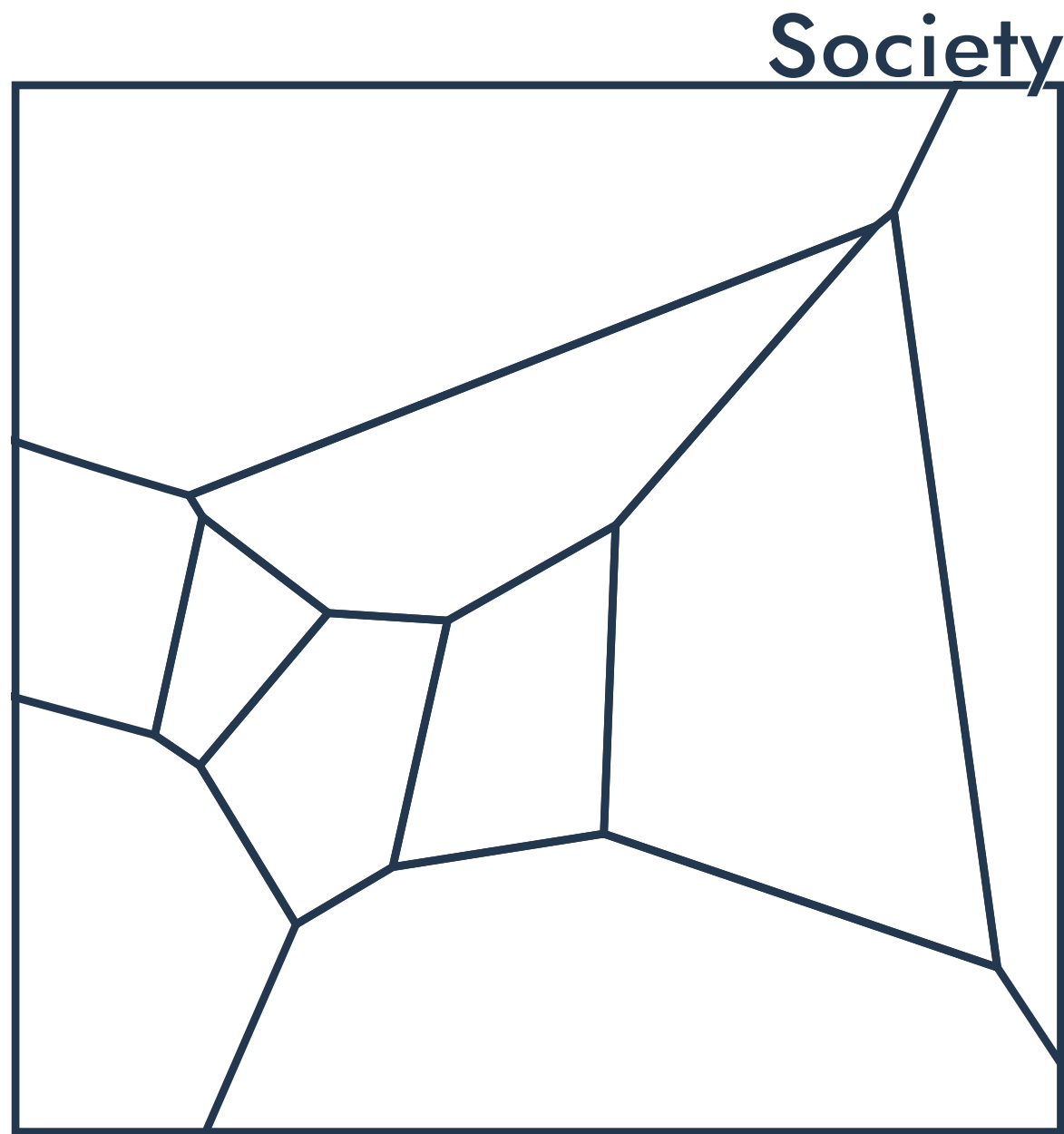
Clive Brunskill/Getty Images

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

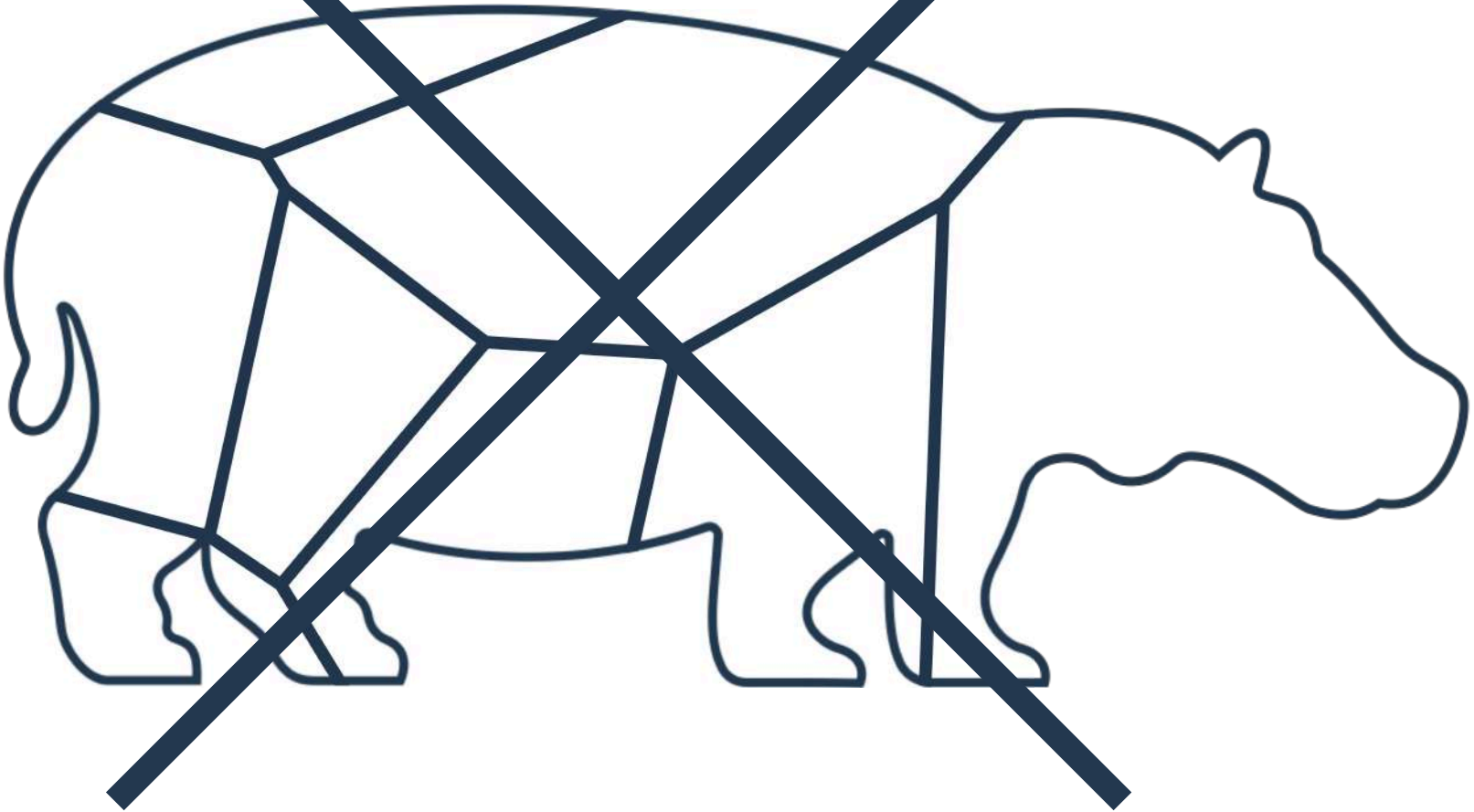
**1. Structural
functionalism**

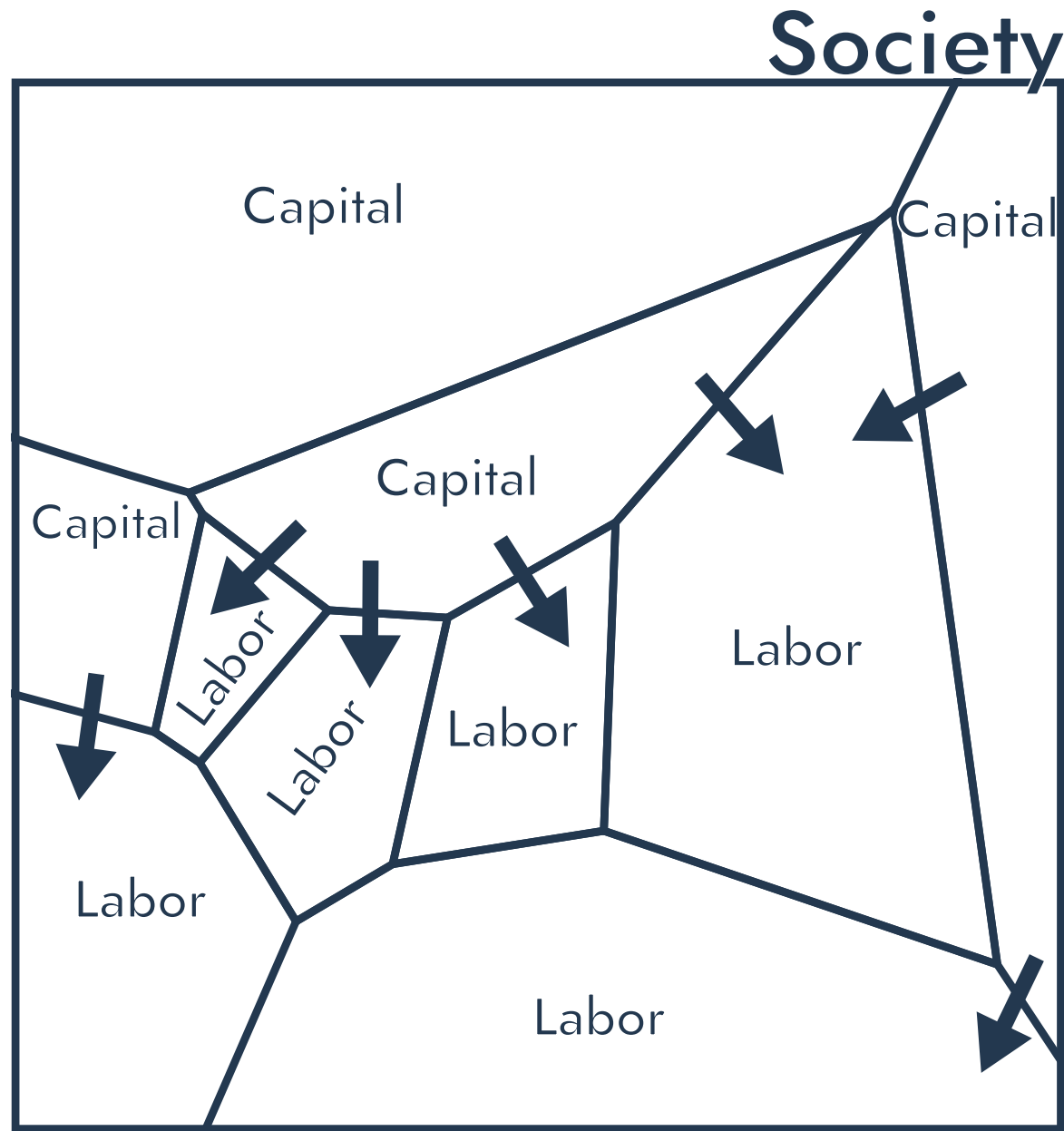
**2. Symbolic
interactionism**

Today ➤ 3. Conflict theory



Society



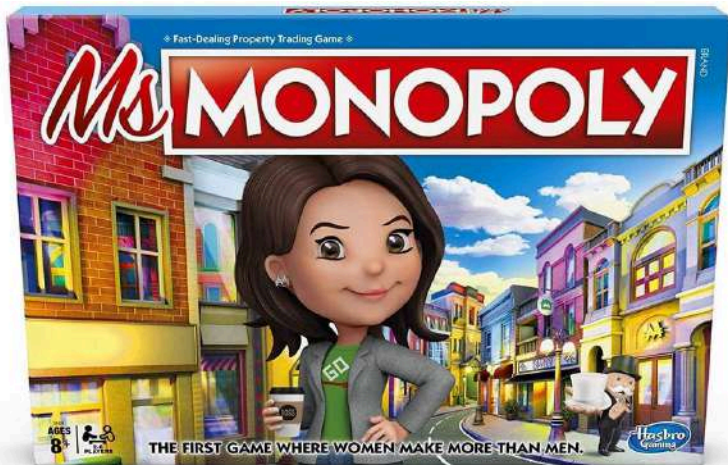


Some major themes from conflict theory:



Alienation (Karl Marx)

- ∴ Humans relate to the products of their work in a very real way
- ∴ Capitalism disconnects workers from the goods they produce
- ∴ This necessarily yields feelings of alienation, dehumanizing workers



Ideology (Karl Marx)

- ∴ The ideology of the oppressors is adopted by oppressed
- ∴ Ownership of means of production yields material and ideological power
- ∴ Unified ideology of a culture is not due to a sense of collective belonging (as in Durkheim) but the imposition of that ideology by those in power

Some major themes from conflict theory:



Authority (Max Weber)

- ∴ Domination does not always come from a direct use of force
- ∴ Government authority based on monopoly on “legitimate” means of force
- ∴ Authority is given as much as taken
- ∴ Weber: *rational-legal*, *traditional*, and *charismatic* authority



Multi-faceted (Weber, Du Bois, ...)

- ∴ Conflict is not just about capital versus labor
- ∴ Many dimensions of society are defined by conflict within and between them
Class, status, party stratification (Weber) Race, “Double consciousness” (Du Bois)
- ∴ Many contemporary theoretical approaches can be thought of in the tradition of conflict theory (or critical theory)

Image credit



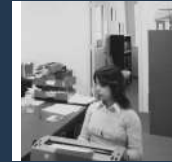
Barbara Smith at a 1979 rally. Photo by Ellen Shub, via The New Yorker



Image from teachingstrategies.my.site.com



Bettmann/Corbis via The New York Times



FPG/Archive
Photos/Getty Images via
CNN



Screenshot from Vox