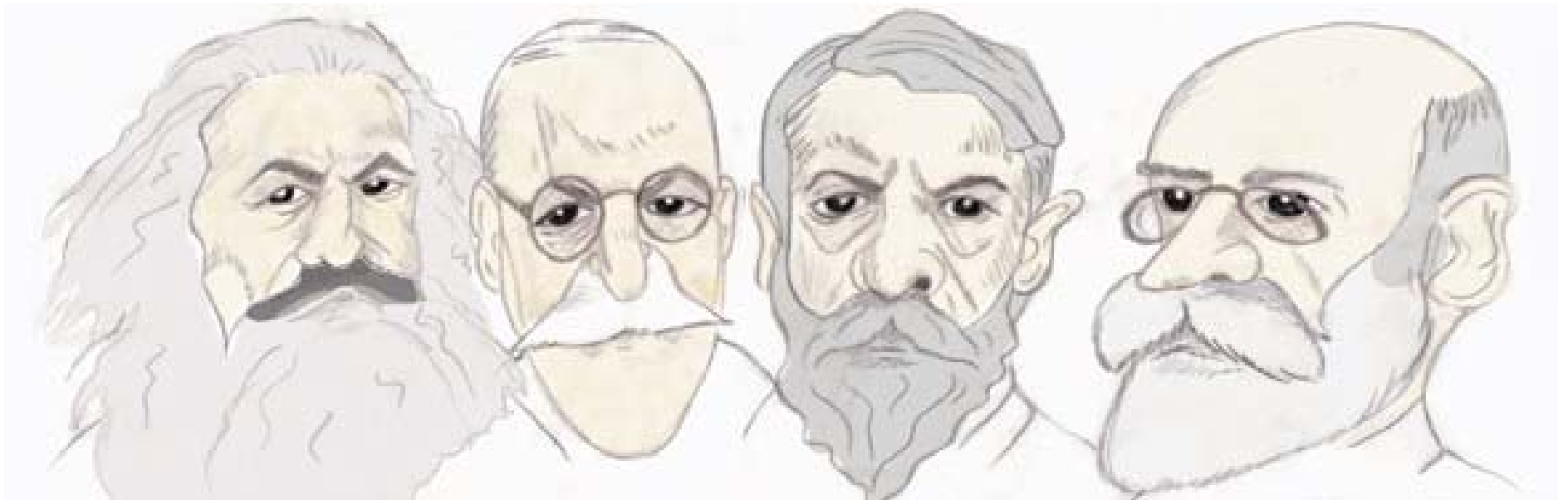


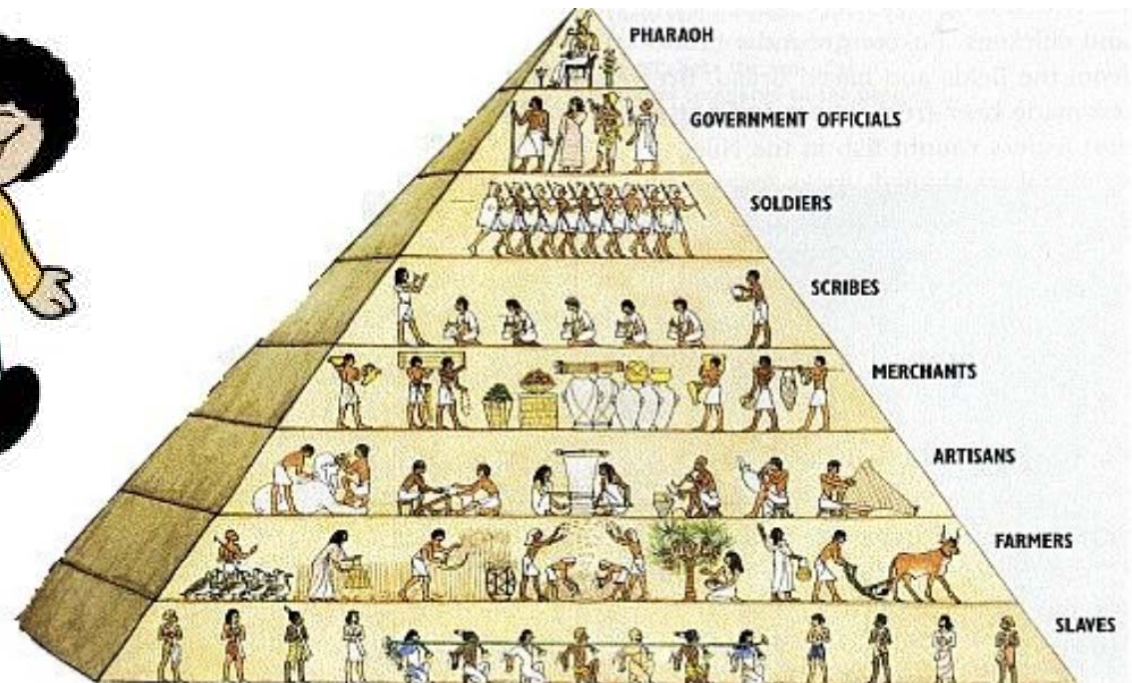
Sociological Theory



Key Vocabulary

Social – groups of people

Social Structures – organized pattern of social relationships and social institutions

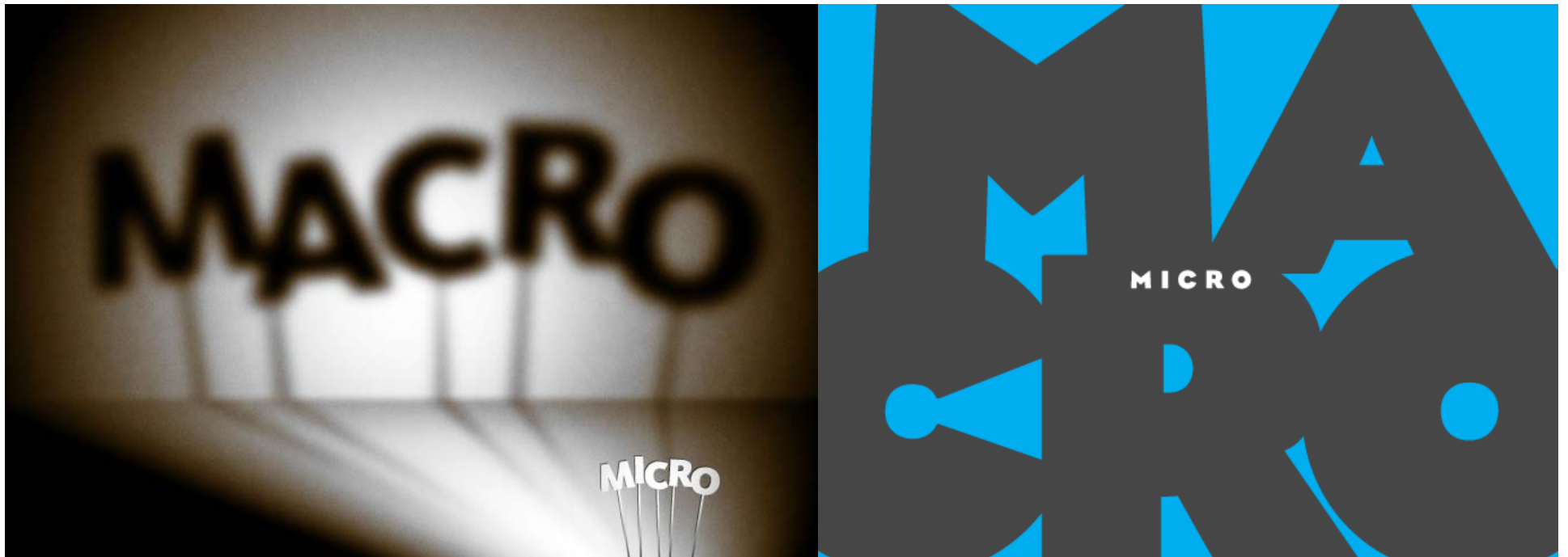


A Matter of Perspective

Sociologists look at the world in two different ways:

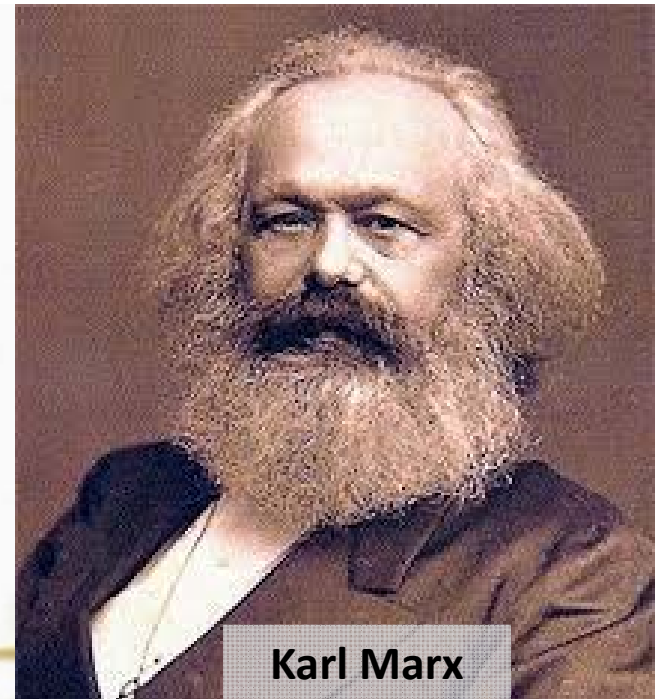
Macro- larger picture

Micro- localized viewpoint



Conflict Theory

- Groups and societies compete to promote their own self interests and values
- Results in competition, inconsistency, coercion and constraint
- **Who has the power?** (wealth, prestige, privilege, etc.)



Conflict Theory

In order to enact a change in society, there must be a shift in the balance of power.



Functionalism

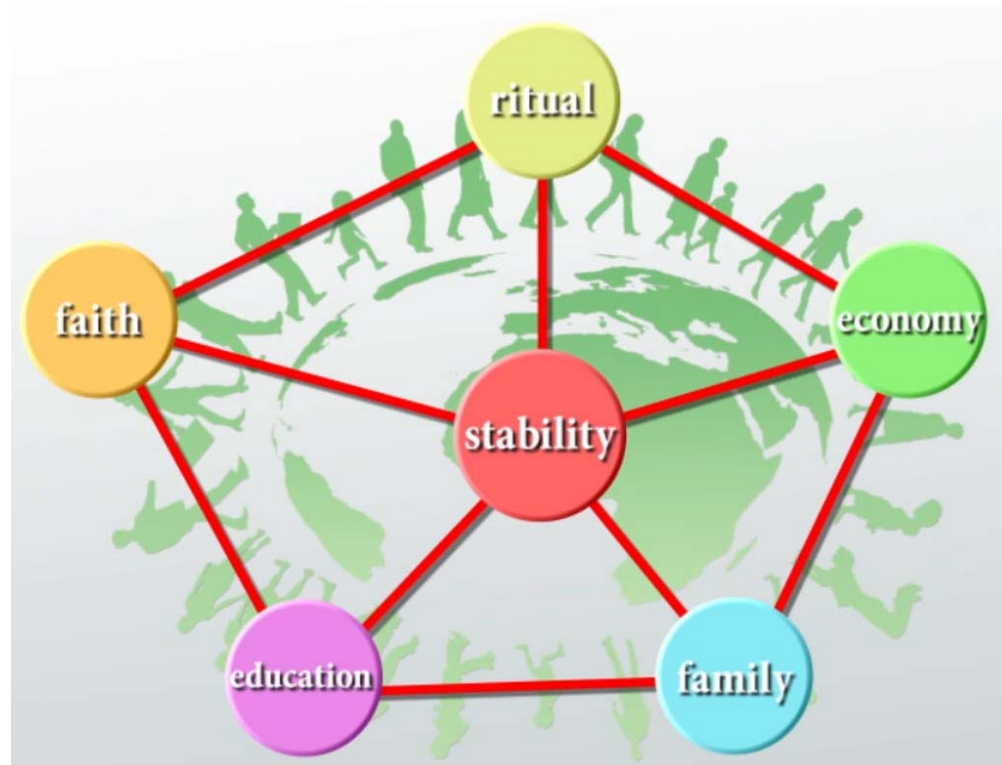
- Around the world, there is a basic agreement on the values of any given society
- People cooperate to reach common goals
- Parts of society are integrated to form a whole



Emile Durkheim

Functionalism

- Change in one aspect may effect change in another
- Changes are absorbed into society
- Societies will return to state of stability



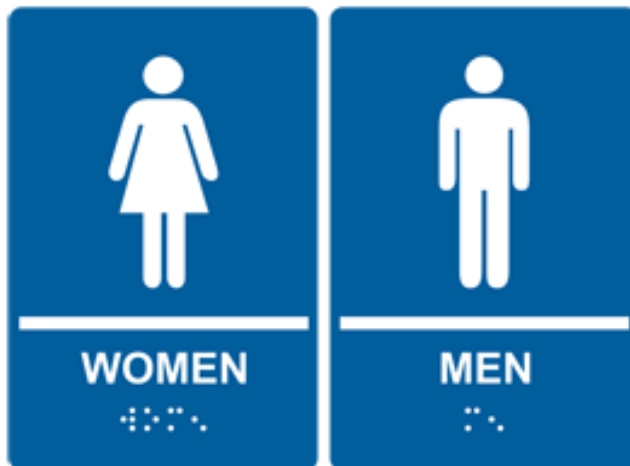
Functionalism



Symbolic Interaction

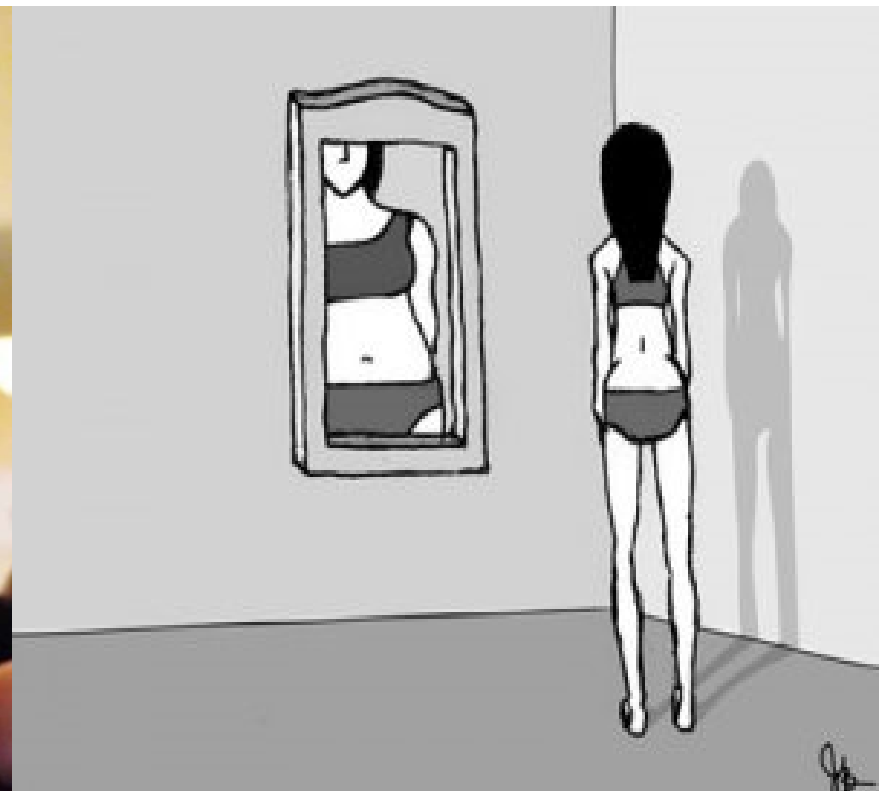
Symbol – one thing that represents something else (i.e. object, word, gesture, sound, etc.)

1. Learn meanings from other's reactions
2. We base behavior (interaction) on meanings
3. Meanings then form our future behavior



Symbolic Interaction

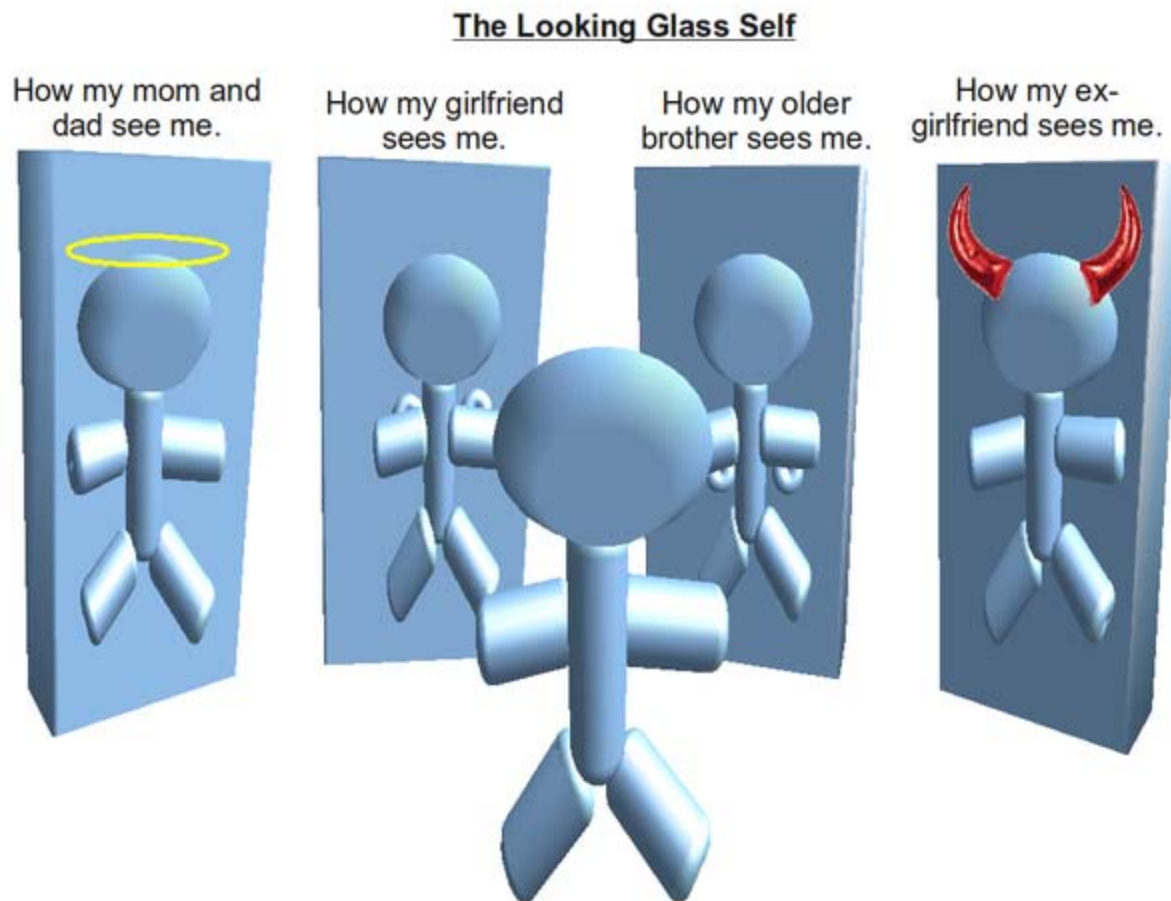
We modify our *behavior* and even *thinking* based on how we *think* others may react to us



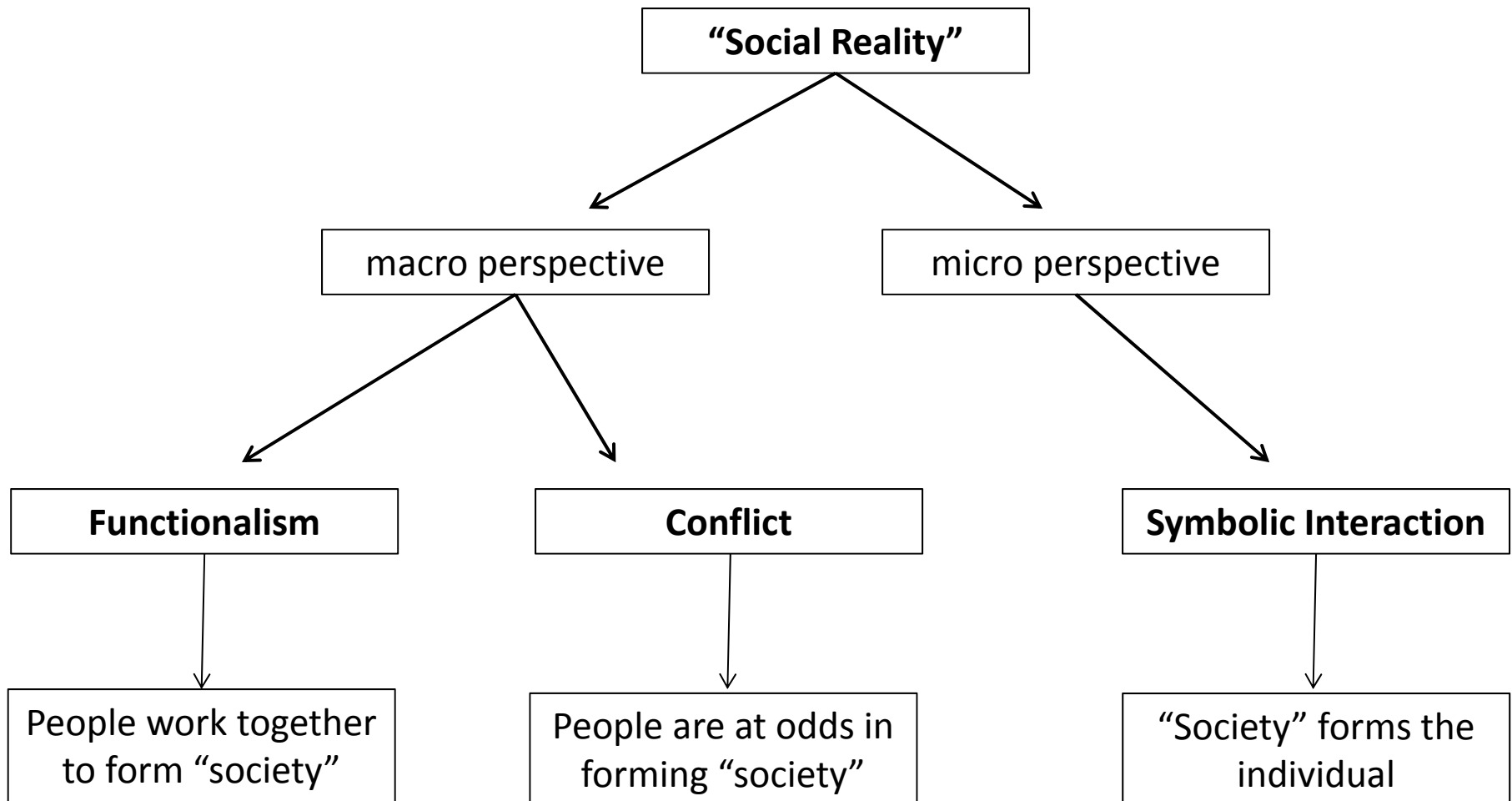
Symbolic Interaction

Human interaction as a dramatic performance

We present ourselves through dress, gestures, tone, etc.

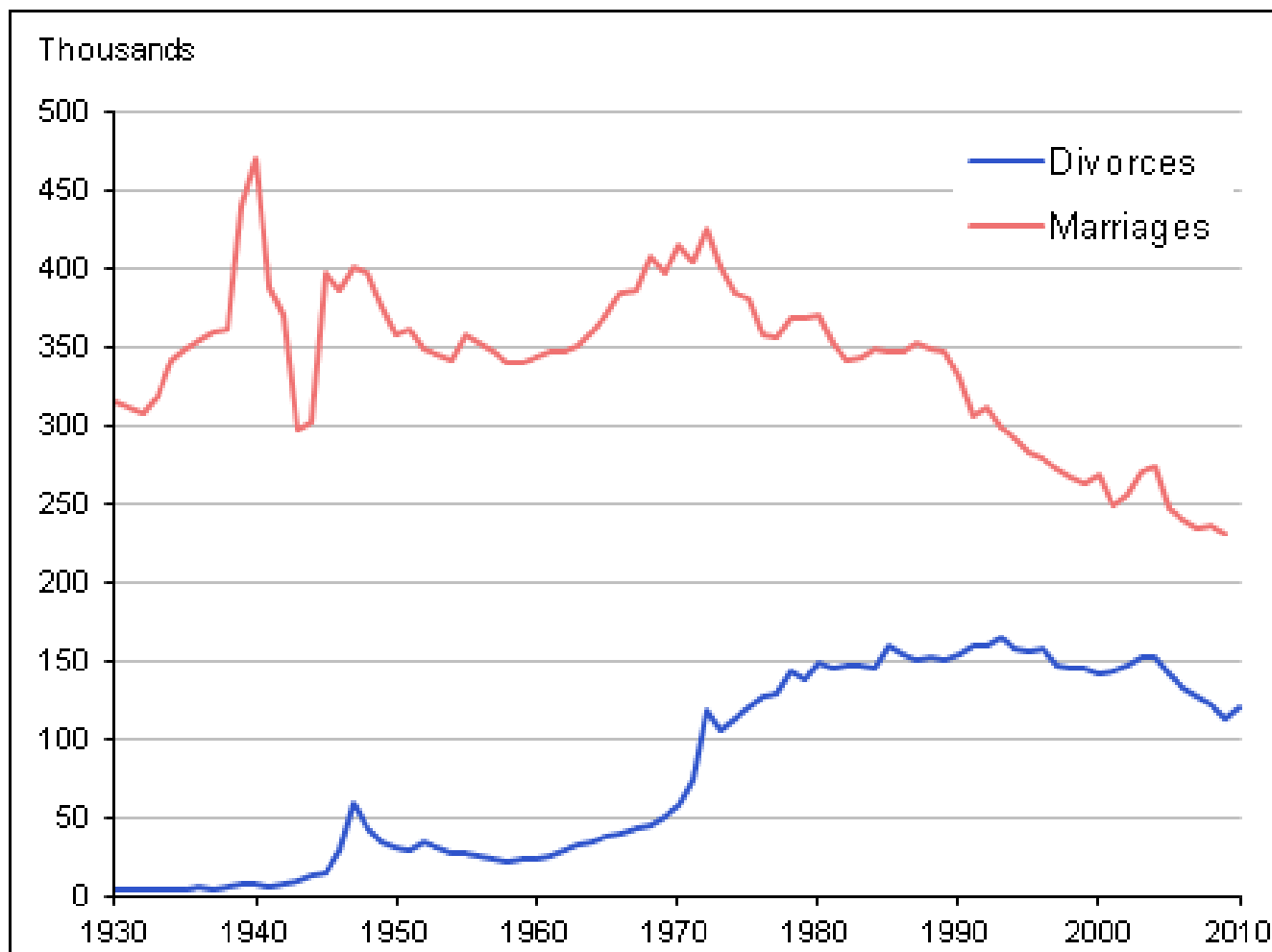


Summary



Divorce in America

Statistics show that the number of divorces in a given year has been on the rise in recent decades. Sociologists want to know why this trend is occurring in American society...



Divorce Facts

Servings Per Marriage: **50%**

Divorces Per:	% Value
1st Marriages	41%
2nd Marriages	60%
3rd Marriages	73%

Average:

Age	30
Years before remarrying	3
Divorces per hour	100

Conflict Theory

During the last few decades, the rights of women have expanded greatly. With the move from a male dominated society to a more gender equal culture, women now have the ability to end bad relationships and live independently.



Functionalism

Traditionally, men and women were dependent upon one another to work a successful farm. In the modern world, we are no longer codependent.



Symbolic Interaction

The meanings behind the symbol “divorce” has changed from negative to positive.



The Internet

In your lifetimes, the use of the internet has become standard for the bulk of the US population. In 1969, there were only four connected computers. By 2000 an estimated 55% of the population was online. Today, 84% have internet access. How has the internet effected our society?



Sociology of the Internet

Functionalist: individuals with disabilities can do jobs at home that would be denied to them otherwise.

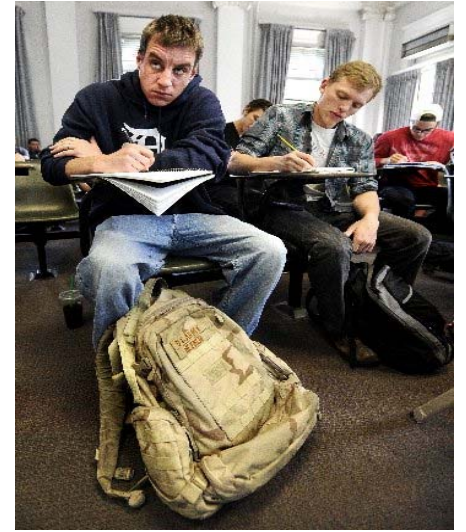
Conflict Theory: individuals coming from schools with few resources have less opportunity for success in our modern tech-driven society.

Symbolic Interaction: children are more prone to misbehavior, learning from the poor messages and lessons offered by what they experience online.





Applying Theory



Many veterans of the Armed Forces, after completing tours of duty in the Middle East, are returning to college rather than entering jobs as veterans like previous generations did. How might any of our theories explain this trend?

BOOTS TO BOOKS

The transition from military life to college life



See if you can apply any of our theories to some more examples...

- US adults who claim to believe in God is declining (85% in 2005 to 71% in 2015)
- US ranks as a global leader in scientific publishing (30% of published articles in 2012) but scores low on standardized tests in school (27th of 64 in science and 35th in math)
- The United States has a lower number of doctors for each member of the population than European countries (2.7 per 1000 people compared to over 3/1000)

Activity

In a small group, create a short skit that models social life. It could be something from a specific event in history or simple daily interaction. Then describe how sociologists from two of the three perspectives might explain why the events occurred as they do.

Historical Event- Colonization, WWI/II

Current Event- Same Sex Marriage, Death Penalty

Daily Interactions- Getting ready for school, at lunch with friends, etc.

Analyze why people are behaving the way they do.