

Social Class

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Definition

„A class is defined as a large-scale grouping of people who share common economic resources that in turn influence their lifestyle.“

Anthony Giddens (2013)

Social Class in different countries

What meaning has Social Class in your Country?

What has or had influence on that?

- negative/ positive
- history
- political situation
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Types of Social Class

- Ownership Classes (upper Class)
- Commercial Classes (upper-middle Class)
- Acquisition Classes (middle Class)
- Major Classes (working and lower Class)

How do we measure Social Class in surveys?

3 Methods in Sociology:

- subjective
- reputational
- objective

2 different views:

- nominalist view
- realist's view

Exercise



Movie: What if the homeless gave you money?



Stereotypes: Positive? Negative?

“We see patterns, we make rules”

Keith Jason at TEDx Talks



“Give people and individuals the freedom to see a pattern, but give them the opportunity to break rules”

Keith Jason at TEDx Talks

Conclusion about Stereotypes



- ➔ Be sensitive and aware of them
- ➔ Reask them
- ➔ don't stick to them
- ➔ don't judge others, because of them

Oppression, (Dis-)advantages, Privileges

If you don't
have to think about it,
it's a privilege.

Movie: What is privilege?



How do we think about Social Class?

- Concept which will always be there.
- Results of different aspects and resources (privileges)
- Change social classes can be really difficult, but not impossible
- Social Class is a social construction that always changes, because it is made by people
- Social Class is a hidden category in combination with other factors (gender, race, disability, religious belief, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation)

Movie: Stop thinking in boxes



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