

SOCb2531 Sociology of Identity

MUNI
FSS

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Introduction

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Dr. [Name] is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. She has published several books and articles on the sociology of identity and social movements.

She is also a frequent speaker at national and international conferences on the sociology of identity and social movements.

She is currently working on a book about the sociology of identity and social movements in the 21st century.

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OUR STYLE OF STUDYING

Lectures and presentations on weekly basis

1 discussion assignment during the semester +10 points

Final Writing Exam, based on the assignment and the readings +30 points

Homeworks and homeworks on weekly bases +up to 50 points

1 practical assignment during the semester +10 points

Final Writing Exam, based on the assignment and the readings +30 points

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Identity Formation

©KOUPEKROSE

Objective of the exercise: To form an understanding of social identities, their importance for a person, their functions, and hierarchy. Learn to detect personal differences in identity systems.

Questions for discussion:

- How are you feeling?
- What did you see, what did you notice? In your actions and in the actions/choices of others and their discussion?
- How did the three different instructions differ for you? (There are identities that are important in certain situations, and those that define us in general)
- Did you interpret the inscriptions on the clouds differently?
- Why do we need to belong to a particular group? Why is it important for us to belong? (The participants talk about the functions of identity while walking on the clouds, and they can be summarized on a flipchart: safety, support, clarity of rules and norms, self-realization, etc.)

Conclusion

For the end of class

R. Jenkins, *Identity, Modernity, Social Identity*, 3rd Edition, Routledge, 2004, pp. 1-10

Name: _____

Prepare the discussion on paper. Bring above for the instructor at the next mg.

Please be a critical and active participant of all class & reflect on the identity you are interested in.

Please, upload to the Blackboard file to together with the discussion paper.

Introduction

Olga Zhmurko

I am Ukrainian in birth, was born in Zaporizhzhya region (the Southern part of Ukraine)

I graduated from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University



I found my research company in 2018

**VOX
POPULI
AGENCY**



I started to work in sociology in 2005



Sociologický ústav
Akademie věd ČR



МІЖНАРОДНИЙ
ФОНД
ВІДРОДЖЕННЯ



I worked for the international organization OSF for 9 years

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Understanding Identity

Personality is a way the person demonstrates or emphasize the identity.

The identity depends on our assessment of others – who is similar to us, and who is different (Lawler, 2014). The identity is a kind of labelling others and the way we are labeled by others.

There are inner "I", and the "self", according to Mead (1934) where the "I" is not influenced by the external factors, and the "self" is permanently changing under the external factors. Therefore, there is something, that bring us to the units, groups, communities and the way we would like to join them or leave.

"Identity involves knowing who we are, knowing who others are, them knowing who we are, us knowing who they think we are and so on"

Jenkins (2008)

Personality and identity are different

The Variety of Identity in the Social World



Bauman (2004) argues that, with the collapse of apparently fixed and stable identities around gender, nation, etc., there is more of a social fluidity – and insecurity – around identity. Or, more accurately, he argues that the fluidity and insecurity that have always existed around identity have become more apparent.

OUR STYLE OF STUDYING

Homereading and
hometasks on
weekly bases *up to
50 points

Lectures and
presentations on
weekly basis

1 practical assignment
during the semester
*10 points

1 discussion
assignment during the
semester *10 points

Final Writing Exam, based on
the assignment and the
readings *30 points

WEEKS 1 -3

01

Introduction to the course and brief overview of the content.

Making acquaintance with the group, interactive practice “Who am I? Who are we?”

02

How do we emphasize our identity(s)?

Obligatory reading:
R. Jenkins. Identity matters. Social Identity, 3rd Edition, Routledge, 2004, pp. 1 -15

03

Surfacing the field: the social construction of identity
Obligatory reading:
Karen A. Cerulo. Identity Construction: New Issues, New Directions. Annu. Rev. Sociol. 1997. 23: pages 385-409

Home tasks:

Prepare the discussion paper (look above for the instructions) on the reading.
Provide a video/audio/an object which could reflect on the identity you are interested about.
Please, upload to the Homework Vaults together with the discussion paper.

Home task:

Prepare the discussion paper (look above for the instructions) on the reading.

WEEKS 4 - 6

04

From “me” to the “collective.”
The concept of “stigma.”

Obligatory reading:

George H. Mead. *Mind, Self and Society*. 1934. Pages: 173 – 185; 253 – 280.

Supplementary reading

Dr. Pragya Agarwal

Sway: Unravelling Unconscious Bias.
Bloomberry, 2020, pp. 54 – 66.

Home task:

Prepare the record discussion based on your discussion questions (instructions above)

05

Collective Identity:
interconnections between
subjective and objective
social realities.

Obligatory reading:

Peter Berger and Thomas
Luckman. *The Social Construction
of Reality*. 1966. Pages 183 – 204

Home task:

Prepare the discussion paper (look above for the instructions) on the reading.

06

The “trinity” of the
discursive field of identity:
gender, ethnicity and class.

Obligatory reading:

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Language and
Symbolic Power*. Polity Press,
1992. Pages 220–251

Home task:

Prepare the discussion paper (look above for the instructions) on the reading.

WEEKS 8-10

08

Gender identity – construction and reconstruction

Obligatory reading:

Judith Butler. Gender Trouble. Feminism and the Subversion of Identity.

Supplementary reading

C.G. Jung “The love problem of a student”.

Home task:

Prepare the record discussion based on your discussion questions (instructions above)

09

Ethnic and racial identities, guest lecture

Obligatory reading:

Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky. ‘It’s (not) who we are’: Representing the nation in US and Canadian newspaper articles about refugees entering the country. Nations and Nationalism. 2021; 27: 513–529.

The fieldwork: study visit to the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno. Write your sociological perspective reflection on what you knew or noticed from the visit.

10

Identities in Organizations.

Obligatory reading:

Andrew D. Brown. Identities in Organizations. The Oxford Handbook of Identities in Organizations. 2020. Pages 1–31.

Additionally:

Patrizia Hoyer. Career identity: An ongoing narrative accomplishment.

Home task:

Prepare the discussion paper (look above for the instructions) on the reading

WEEK 11 - 13

11

Identities and ideologies.
Identities in the dimension
of history.

12

Researching Identity

Obligatory reading:

Michael Gill. How can I study who
you are? Comparing grounded
theory and phenomenology as
methodological approaches to
identity work research. The Oxford
Handbook on Identities in
Organizations. 2020. Pages 295 -
310

13

Final Seminar: group-led
discussion on the topic of
the course.

Home task:

Conduct the in-depth interview on the topic of
Identity

A group of young women are sitting on the floor in a circle, engaged in a group exercise. They are looking at their phones and talking. The background is a blurred indoor setting with other people.

Identity Formation

GROUP EXERCISE

Objective of the exercise: To form an understanding of social identities, their importance for a person, their functions, and hierarchy. Learn to accept personal differences in identity systems.

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Conclusion

For the next class

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