

Benedict College
Social Work Department
School of Education, Health, and Human Services
SW 331-01 HBSE II

Chapter 2 Terms

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Beliefs: an acceptance that a statement is true or that something exists.

Conflict Theory: a theory, developed by Karl Marx, that society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for limited resources.

Ethnographer: an individual who studies and interprets culture, its universalities, and its variations through the ethnographic study based on fieldwork.

Exchange Theory: Social **exchange theory** proposes that social behavior is the result of an **exchange** process. The purpose of this **exchange** is to maximize benefits and minimize costs. According to this **theory**, developed by sociologist George Homans, people weigh the potential benefits and risks of social relationships.

Feminism: the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.

Functionalism: theory based on the premise that all aspects of a society—institutions, roles, norms, etc.—serve a purpose and that all are indispensable for the long-term survival of the society.

Macrosociology: Large-scale sociological analysis of long-term social processes such as institutions, structures, systems, and whole societies.

Microsociology: Small-scale sociological analysis that studies the behavior of people in face-to-face social interactions and small groups to understand what they do, say, and think.

Native Anthropologist: a person who is already a member of a specific culture and their account of the culture its meaning, values, and beliefs

Norms: rules or expectations, prescriptive or proscriptive, that are socially enforced.

Practices: the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it.

Qualitative data: Qualitative data is defined as the data that approximates and characterizes. Qualitative data can be observed and recorded. This data type is non-numerical in nature. This type of data is collected through methods of observations, one-to-one interviews, conducting focus groups, and similar methods.

Quantitative data: Quantitative data is defined as the value of data in the form of counts or numbers where each data-set has a unique numerical value associated with it. This data is any quantifiable information that can be used for mathematical calculations and statistical analysis, such that real-life decisions can be made based on these mathematical derivations. Quantitative data is used to answer questions such as “How many?”, “How often?”, “How much?”. This data can be verified and can also be conveniently evaluated using mathematical techniques.

Social imagination: The use of imaginative thought to understand the connections between the forces of society and the personal lives of individuals; when history meets biography.

Symbolic Interactionism: Symbolic interactionism is a micro-level theory that focuses on the relationships among individuals within a society. Communication—the exchange of meaning through language and symbols—is believed to be the way in which people make sense of their social worlds.

Symbols: any image or thing that stands for something else.

Theoretical paradigms: a statement how and why specific facts are related. It refers to an organized body of ideas as to the truth of something - Usually derived from study of facts related to it - Sometimes, results from exercising speculative imagination, the branch of a science or art consisting of its explanatory statements, accepted principles, and methods of analysis.

Values: a person's principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life.