



İSTANBUL
GELİŞİM
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

WEEK 6

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FAMILY

- **Family** is a social institution found in all societies that unites people in cooperative groups to care for one another, including any children. (Macdonis, p.418)
- Family ties are also called **kinship**.
- **Kinship**: a social bond based on common ancestry, marriage, or adoption. All societies contain families, but exactly who people call their kin has varied through history and varies today from one culture to another. From the point of view of any individual, families change as we grow up, leaving the family into which we were born to form a family of our own.
- Families sometimes are formed around marriage, a legal relationship, usually involving economic cooperation, affection, and childbearing but not it is the only condition for the family.



NUCLEAR FAMILY-EXTENDED FAMILY

- **Nuclear Family**
- The nuclear family consists of a married couple and their unmarried children living together.

- **Extended Family**
- An *extended family* is a family in which relatives such as grandparents, aunts, or uncles live in the same home as parents and their children.
- Extended families provide greater emotional and financial support.



TYPES OF MARRIAGE

- **Monogamy** is a form of marriage where one woman and one man are married only to each other.
- **Polygamy** is a situation where you are allowed to have more than one husband or wife.
- **Polygamy** takes two forms:
 - **Polygyny** is when a man marries more than one woman at the same time
 - **Polyandry** is when a woman marries more than one man at the same time.



AUTHORITY PATTERNS

- **Patriarchy**
 - When males are expected to dominate in all family decision making, that society is a patriarchy
- **Matriarchy**
 - When women have greater authority than men, that society is a matriarchy.
- **Egalitarian family**
 - A family in which spouses are regarded as equals
 - Studying the Family



STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH

The family serves the below functions for society:

- Reproduction
 - Protection/Emotional Security
 - Socialization
 - Regulation of sexual behavior
 - Affection
 - Providing of social status
- According to the structural-functional approach, the family performs many vital tasks as the “backbone of society.”



STRUCTURAL FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH

- Macionis:
- “Structural-functional analysis explains why society, at least as we know it, is built on families. But this approach glosses over the diversity of U.S. family life and ignores how other social institutions (such as government) could meet some of the same human needs. Finally, structural-functionalism overlooks negative aspects of family life, including patriarchy and family violence.”



CONFLICT APPROACH

- The conflict view believes that family reflects the inequality in wealth and power found within society.
 - The conflict view recognizes that historically, husbands exercised power and authority within the family.
 - The conflict view sees the family as an economic unit contributing to social injustice.
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- Families identify heirs so that they could transfer property to their sons.
 - Families thus concentrate wealth and reproduce the class structure in each new generation.



FEMINIST ANALYSIS

- Feminists link the family to patriarchy.
- To know their heirs, men must control the sexuality of women. Families therefore transform women into the sexual and economic property of men. Not much ago most wives' earnings belonged to their husbands. Today, women still bear most of the responsibility for child rearing and housework.
- Reproduction of population
- Reproduction of child and elderly care
- Reproduction of free time
- Reproduction of domestic services



SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONALIST APPROACH

- The interactionist view focuses on the micro level of family and other intimate relationships.
- The interactionist view is interested in how individuals interact with each other,
 - cohabiting partners or
 - long-term married couples.



- **Social-exchange analysis** depicts courtship and marriage as forms of negotiation.
- Studying the Family
- **Courtship and Mate Selection**
- Marriage is still the dominating partnership type in our society.
- Many societies have explicit or unstated rules which define potential mates as acceptable or unacceptable

Macionis: “Micro-level analysis balances structural-functional and social-conflict visions of the family as an institutional system. Both the interaction and exchange viewpoints focus on the individual experience of family life. However, micro-level analysis misses the bigger picture: Family life is similar for people in the same social and economic categories.



COURTSHIP AND MATE SELECTION

- **Aspects of Mate Selection**

- **Endogamy:** Endogamy specifies the groups within which a spouse must be found and prohibits marriage with members of other groups.
- **Exogamy:** Exogamy requires mate selection outside certain groups, usually one's own family or certain kin
- Marriage between Blacks and whites have increased more than six fold in recent decades. Twenty percent of all married Hispanics have a non-Hispanic spouse.

- **Courtship and Mate Selection**

- **- The Love Relationship**
- Modern culture celebrates romantic love – affection for another person – as the basis for marriage
- Industrialization erodes the importance of extended families, weakens traditions, and enhances personal choice in courtship.



Modern Life

- Dual-Income Families appear
- Majority of married people require a dual-wage due to economic need.
- Nation's declining birthrate, the increase in the proportion of women with college education contribute to this pattern.



DIVORCE

• *Factors Associated with Divorce*

- Greater social acceptance
- Relaxing of negative attitudes by religious denominations
- States adopting more liberal divorce laws (no fault).
- Marriage at an early age.
- A short acquaintanceship before marriage
- Disapproval of marriage by relatives and friends
- Limited economic resources and low wages.
- A high school education or less.
- Living in a big city as opposed to rural settings.
- Risk of divorce is higher during the early years of marriage.