

Sociology 3308: Sociology of Emotions

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Overheads Class 7-8: Social Models of Emotion 1:

* The sociological view of emotion covers such topics as:

- Emotional foundation of solidarity in social groups
- Determination of emotions by outcomes of social interaction
- Normative regulation of emotional expression/management of emotional deviance
- Socialization of emotions
- Linkage of emotion to socially derived conceptions of identity and the self
- Variation in emotional experience according to structural variations
- Role of emotions in large-scale societal stability and change

* Individual factors are seen as largely dependent on the social, including: motives, personality, identity, self, self-esteem, mind, & emotion

* Containment of the individual in the social matrix determines *which emotions are likely to be expressed when and where, on what grounds and for what reasons, by what modes of expression, and by whom.*

Social Relations and Emotions:

*Theodore Kemper: power, status and emotions:

- Power: relational condition where one compels another
- Status: relational condition of voluntary compliance: one accords status through acts of recognition of the other=s value

* ATheoretically optimum dimensions@ supported empirically

* Kemper proposes that *a very large class of human emotions results from real, anticipated, imagined, or recollected outcomes of social relations.*

- Any interaction may increase, decrease or maintain the individual=s power/status relative to the other, & vice-versa
- 12 possible outcomes, only 4 of which will occur.
- Emotions will ensue depending on the particular power/status outcomes, & the attribution as to who is responsible (self, other, or a third party).

Research illustrates:

1. *Own power:* -power increase leads to feelings of security
-power decrease leads to feelings of fear/anxiety
2. *Other=s power:*
 - increase in the other=s power creates fear and anxiety
 - its decrease pumps up one=s own sense of security.
3. *Own status:*
 - Deserved status increase = satisfaction (pride)

if

agent/gratitude if 3rd party)

- Increase beyond what was expected =joy
- Accept more status than deserved=

shame/embarrassment.

- Decrease in status=anger, shame or depression (depends on agent)

4. *Other=s status:*

- Emotions depend on one=s liking for the other.
 - If one likes the other, their status increase=

satisfaction.

-If one dislikes the other, this leads to envy or jealousy.

-If one likes the other, their status decreases =guilt, shame,

or sorrow (depending on agency)

- If one dislikes the other, this results in satisfaction

* Kemper=s anticipatory emotions: 3 elements:

- Past power/status experience
- Optimism/pessimism
- Confidence/lack of confidence

* Give rise to 4 feelings:

(1) Optimism + confidence = serene confidence or happiness/contentment

(2) Optimism + lack of confidence = guarded optimism or anxiety

(3) Pessimism + confidence = grudging optimism or anxiety

(4) Pessimism + lack of confidence = hopelessness or

depression.

* Kemper=s socialization paradigm for guilt, shame, anxiety and depression:

Punishment types + coping responses:

(i) Power oriented; (ii) Proportionality; & (iii) Affection-oriented.

* Kemper on love relations:

- Confer extremely high status on another
- Various types varying by who confers and power positions
- Distinguished from liking (adequate status/little power differential)

* Empirical tests promising

Interaction-Ritual Chains: Making Social Class:

* Social cohesion and Emotion:

- Not simply coercion or self interest
- Durkheim: shared emotion in ritual
- Goffmann: self as ritual object

* Randall Collins: Interaction ritual chains and emotional energy link micro-macro levels.

* Three elements required:

1. Common object of ritual interest
2. A common emotion is engendered by activities
3. A feeling of solidarity with other members.

* Optimum interactions: all members gain emotional energy

* More frequently, some people come away with surplus emotional energy, while others experience a deficit.
Differentiated by power & status

* Power rituals: order givers & order takers/gain vs. loss in emotional energy adds up to stratification

* Status Rituals: center vs. periphery: gain vs. loss of emotional energy

* Power & status constitute a grid of social relations that underlie all interactions, providing the individual with greater or lesser amounts of emotional resources of a relatively stable nature

Shame and Social Order:

* Charles Horton Cooley: looking glass self, pride and shame

* Thomas Scheff: emotional theory of social control: focus on pride & shame

* Overt vs. bypassed shame (former noticeable/latter obsessive).

* Shame spirals problematic

* Practical consequences in education and psychotherapy

* Michael Lewis: (1) AWe-self@ (traditional societies/individual subsumed in roles= guilt)
(2) AI-self@ (modern societies/ distinct individuals= shame)

* Scheff : shame operates to support the social bond

* Lewis the absence of the social bond is foundation for shame.

Emotion Work and Emotion Management:

* Structural vs. cultural approaches to emotion (power/status vs. values)

* Cultural approach: Hochschild, Gordon, and Thoits.

* Hochschild:

- Emotion has A signal function@
- Appraisal of situation key
- Feeling rules and expression rules govern/require emotion management
- Emotion work: surface acting vs. deep acting (work and relationships)
- Gender is key

* Thoits:

- Focus on emotional deviance (multiple roles, subcultural marginality, role transition, ceremonial rules)

-Typology of coping strategies:

(1) Behavioral & cognitive

(2) Applied to situation, physiology, expression or label

* Emotional deviance may be precursor to label of mental illness (see DSM).

Emotions, Selves and Roles:

*George Herbert Mead: Theory of self :

- Emerges from role-taking/self as object
- Enables control of conduct/planning
- Language/symbols important
- A Symbolic interactionist perspective is rooted here.

* Rosenberg:

- Ability to act back on oneself involved in emotional identification, emotional display, and emotional experience.
- We interpret ambiguous emotional states by attending to:
 - (1) Cause & effect logic in a given culture;
 - (2) Recognition of social consensus about meaning in the responses of others; and
 - (3) Cultural scenarios providing information about emotions.

* Reflexivity also operates in:

- Decisions of appropriate emotional display.
- Moderating or inhibiting one's response to the initial stimulus.

* Shott: Areflexive@ vs. Aempathic@ role-taking emotions.

Affect Control Theory:

* Attempt to bridge structural cultural divide/ incorporate S.I. identity maintenance.

* Smith-Lovin & Heise: EPA profiles and emotions:

E=evaluation or goodness;

P= potency or power

A=activity or arousal.

* Mathematical representations of linguistic dimensions/situations/emotions.

* Basic motive = preservation of identity: predictions of emotions in relation to initial vs. transient emotions in situation.

* Empirical support (e.g. sentencing of remorseful offenders; low-self-esteem subjects acting to maintain).

Emotions and Macroprocesses:

* Jack Barbalet: avoids social psychological in favor of emotional effects on macro social organization

* Working class in different industries (ascendant vs. declining). Different emotions/ not monolithic alienated entity.

* Emotions & business decisions: bridge rationality gap in knowledge

* Government policy & business response: acceptance vs. slights.

Expectations and Sanctions:

* Robert Thamm: theory of emotions based on Parson=s theory of action.

* Social actors are linked in reciprocal forms of action and response: expectations and sanctions.

* Four questions:

1. Is the self meeting expectations?
2. Is the self receiving rewards?
3. Is the other meeting expectations?
4. Is the other receiving rewards?

* A series of permutations represents the many possible states of the expectations-sanctions system & emotion.

* Research is statistically promising.

Other Models:

* In addition to above there are:

- Sociobiological models attempting to explain social stratification in terms of the need for emotional gratification (Hammond);
- Phenomenological analyses of emotion as lived experience (Denzin);
- A sociology of knowledge approach (McCarthy);
- A model of the social construction of emotion via socialization into emotional culture (Gordon); and
- An examination of how emotions and sympathy are employed as political strategies in microinteractions determining social rank (Clark).

* In the next class we will:

- Dissect many of the approaches introduced today in terms of thematic elements of overlap/difference.
- Become more aware of some of the debates that divide the sociological approach to emotions.