

CHAPTER 4



SOCIALIZATION

Key Topics



- 4-1 Socialization: Its Purpose and Importance
- 4-2 Nature and Nurture
- 4-3 Sociological Explanations of Socialization
- 4-4 Primary Socialization Agents
- 4-5 Socialization Throughout Life
- 4-6 Resocialization



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1 Define and illustrate socialization and explain its importance
- 2 Describe the nature versus nurture debate
- 3 Compare social learning and symbolic interaction theories of socialization
- 4 Describe and illustrate five socialization agents
- 5 Explain how socialization changes throughout life
- 6 Explain when and how resocialization occurs

Socialization: Its Purpose and Importance



Socialization



Socialization: the lifelong process of social interaction in which the individual acquires a social identity and ways of thinking, feeling, and acting that are essential for effective participation in a society

- Lifelong process that enables people to:
 - Learn culture
 - Become functioning members of society

Socialization



Socialization:

- Establishes our social identity
- Teaches us role taking
- Controls our behavior
 - **Internalization:** process of learning cultural behaviors and expectations so deeply we accept them without question
- Transmits culture to the next generation

Socialization

Isolated or institutionalized children do not develop the characteristics considered “normal” or “human.”

Discussion: What are some of the characteristics that make us human?

Nature and Nurture



For more on the Harlow experiment, go to [Sociology CourseMate](#) at [CengageBrain.com](#).



Harlow/TimeLife Pictures/Getty Images

EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT

Harlow Studies

In the early 1960s, psychologists Margaret and Harry Harlow (1962) conducted several studies on infant monkeys. In one group, a "mother" made of terry cloth provided no food, while a "mother" made of wire did so through an attached baby bottle containing milk. In another group, the cloth mother provided food but the wire mother didn't. Regardless of which mother provided milk, when both groups of monkeys were frightened, they clung to the cloth mother.

The Harlows concluded that physical contact and comfort were more important to the infant monkeys than nourishment. Since then, some sociologists have cited the Harlow studies to argue that emotional attachment may be even more critical than food for human infants. Do you see any problems with sociologists' generalizing the results of animal studies to humans?

Nature and Nurture



- Biologists focus on the role of heredity, emphasizing the role of **nature**.
- Social scientists focus on the role of learning, socialization, and culture, emphasizing the role of **nurture**.

Nature and Nurture



TABLE 4.1

The Nature-Nurture Debate

NATURE

Human development is . . .

Innate
Biological, physiological
Due largely to heredity
Fairly fixed

NURTURE

Human development is . . .

Learned
Psychological, social, cultural
Due largely to environment
Fairly changeable

Nature and Nurture



- **Sociobiology:** a theoretical approach that applies biological principles to explain the behavior of animals, including human beings
- Sociobiology argues that nature determines who we are including:
 - Gender identity
 - Levels of aggression

Mental Health: Nature or Nurture



Blood Test Spots Adult Depression: Study

It's as accurate as current methods, but can also confirm recovery, researchers contend

By Tara Haelle
HealthDay Reporter

TUESDAY, Sept. 16, 2014 (HealthDay News) -- A new blood test is the first objective scientific way to diagnose [major depression](#) in adults, a new study claims.

The test measures the levels of nine genetic indicators (known as "RNA markers") in the blood. The blood test could also determine who will respond to cognitive behavioral therapy, one of the most common and effective treatments for depression, and could show whether the therapy worked, Northwestern University researchers report.

www.webmd.com/depression/news/20140916/blood-test-spots-adult-depression-study

Nature and Nurture



- **Cross-cultural data show very different conditions for children.**
- **Research suggests that the environment can influence biology.**
 - Alcohol abuse can cause genetic damage.
 - Childhood trauma influences the developing brain.

Nature-Nurture Debate

- Biologists tend to focus on the role of heredity in human development—emphasizing the role of **nature**.
- Social scientists focus on the role of learning, socialization, and culture, emphasizing the role of **nurture**.

Coming of Age in Samoa

Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies



"Among the Arapesh, both men and women were peaceful in temperament and neither men nor women made war.

"Among the Mundugumor, the opposite was true: both men and women were warlike in temperament.

"And the Tchambuli were different from both. The men 'primped' and spent their time decorating themselves while the women worked and were the practical ones — the opposite of how it seemed in early 20th century America."[\[citation needed\]](#)

Nature and Nurture



Nature and Nurture



We can conclude that nature and nurture interact in the socialization process and both are important to development.

Sociological Explanations of Socialization

- Functionalism
- Conflict
- Symbolic Interaction
- Feminism

Sociological Explanations of Socialization Functionalism

- For functionalists, socialization encourages conformity and maintains a society's stability by controlling disruptive behavior.
- Socialization is a one-way process in which people adapt to culture.

Explanations

Social Learning Theory:

- People learn new attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors through social interaction.
- **Direct socialization:** learning through reward and punishment
- **Indirect socialization:** learning through modeling and imitation

Discussion: How were you rewarded or punished as a child? What did you learn from rewards and punishments? Whom did you imitate? What behaviors did you imitate?

Explanations



Symbolic Interaction Theories:

- Social interaction shapes socialization.
- Social interaction develops the **self**: an awareness of one's social identity.

Age and Social Learning



Research has shown that human emotions develop in a specific order. Knowing this can help parents gain realistic expectations about their children's behavior.

Source: Daniel Goleman, "Order Found in Development of Emotions," *The New York Times*, June 19, 1984, p. C1. Copyright © by The New York Times Company. Reprinted by permission.

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T-19 Emotional Development: A Sequential Process

*Average Age at Which
Emotion Is Present*

Emotion

Birth

Pleasure
Surprise
Disgust
Distress

6-8 weeks

Joy

3-4 months

Anger

8-9 months

Sadness

Fear

12-18 months

Tender affection

18 months

Shame

2 years

Pride

3-4 years

Guilt

5-6 years

Social emotions:

insecurity

humility

confidence

envy

Adolescence

Romantic passion

Philosophical brooding

T-20 A Comparison of the Stage Theories of Mead, Freud, Erikson and Piaget

		Mead	Freud	Erikson	Piaget
Old age	18	Game stage (ability to take the role of the generalized other)	Genital stage	Integrity vs. Despair	Formal operational stage
	17			Generativity vs. Self-Absorption	
16	Intimacy vs. Isolation				
15	Identity vs. Role Confusion				
14	Industry vs. Inferiority			Concrete operational stage	
13					
Middle age	12		Latency stage	Initiative vs. Guilt	Preoperational stage
	11				
	10				
Early adulthood	9		Phallic stage	Autonomy vs. Doubt	Sensorimotor stage
	8				
	7			Trust vs. Mistrust	
	6				
	5			Play stage	
	4				
3	Anal stage				
2					
1	Imitative stage		Oral stage		

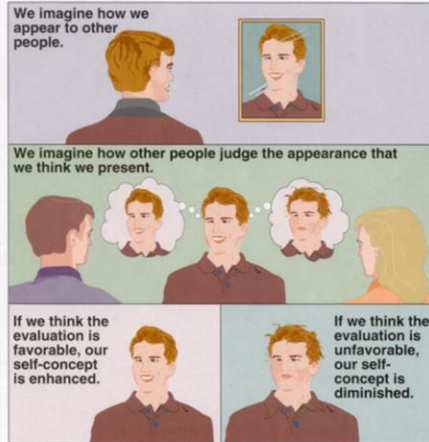
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Explanations

Charles Horton Cooley

Looking-Glass Self

- Concept introduced by Charles Horton Cooley
- A self-image based on how we think others see us



How the Looking-Glass Self Works

Explanations



Looking-glass self develops in phases:

- *Perception*: We imagine how we appear to others and how they perceive us
- *Interpretation*: We imagine how others judge us.
- *Response*: We experience self-feelings based on what we think others think.

Explanations

According to George Herbert Mead

- Self is composed of the “I” and the “Me.”
 - **I**: creative, impulsive, imaginative, spontaneous
 - **Me**: internalized social roles

Development of the “me” depends on the ability to role take.

Explanations

- **Role taking:**

learning to take the perspective of others

- Children acquire the ability to role take through a series of stages.

Explanations

Mead's Three Stages in Developing a Sense of Self



Explanations



- **Reference groups** shape an individual's self-image, behavior, values, and attitudes.
- We may already belong to a reference group (family) or we may hope to belong (active participants in future occupation).

Socialization Agents



Agents of socialization are the persons, groups, or institutions that teach us what we need to know to participate effectively in society.



Socialization Agents

Family:

- Parents teach children social roles and rules.
- Parenting occurs through reinforcement and managing the environment.

Discussion: How do parents set up the environment to encourage femininity or masculinity?

Socialization Agents



Parenting Styles

- **Authoritarian** parents use their power to control a child's behavior.
- **Authoritative** parents set reasonable limits but are warm and responsive.
- **Permissive** parents set few rules but are usually warm and responsive.
- **Uninvolved** parents are indifferent and focus on their own needs.

Socialization Agents—Application

Is it authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, or uninvolved?

- Allowing the child to do whatever he/she wants
- Getting angry when child does not do as instructed
- An alcoholic parent ignoring children
- Withdrawing a privilege after a child fails to follow guidelines

Allowing: permissive

Getting angry: authoritarian

Ignoring: uninvolved

Withdrawing: authoritative

Socialization Agents

- **Siblings** can be supportive or bully and abuse younger brothers and sisters.
- **Grandparents** often pass on family rituals and provide support and encouragement.
- A **peer group** refers to people who are similar in age, social status, and interests.

Peers are especially influential until our mid-20s.

Socialization Agents



Peers:

- Reinforce desirable behavior or skills
- Serve as positive role models
- Teach new skills
- Encourage high-risk behaviors

Socialization Agents



- **School:**
 - Enhances cognitive development
 - Transmits knowledge
 - Teaches us to think in different ways
- **Teachers may create a self-fulfilling prophecy. Students perform according to what is expected of them.**

Socialization Agents



Popular Culture and the Media

- Children ages 6-18 spend 7.5 hours per day using electronic devices.
- 68% of children under 2 view 2 to 3 hours of TV daily.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics advises parents to avoid TV for children younger than 2.

Socialization Agents

TABLE 4.4

How Do Electronic Media Affect Children?

AMONG ALL 8- TO 18-YEAR-OLDS, PERCENTAGE WHO SAID THAT THEY ARE. . .

	HEAVY USERS (MORE THAN 16 HOURS/DAY)	MODERATE USERS (3-16 HOURS/DAY)	LIGHT USERS (LESS THAN 3 HOURS/DAY)
Get good grades (A's and B's)	51	65	66
Get fair/poor grades (C's or lower)	47	31	23
Have been happy at school this year	72	81	82
Are often bored	60	53	48
Get into trouble a lot	33	21	16
Are often sad or unhappy	32	23	22

Socialization Agents

- No research evidence shows that television *causes* violence.
- A correlation has been found between playing violent electronic games and behavior problems.
- Advertisers are increasingly targeting young children.
- Girls as young as 6 are using cosmetic products.

Discussion: What should be done about violence in the media?

Socialization Throughout Life



Socialization Throughout Life



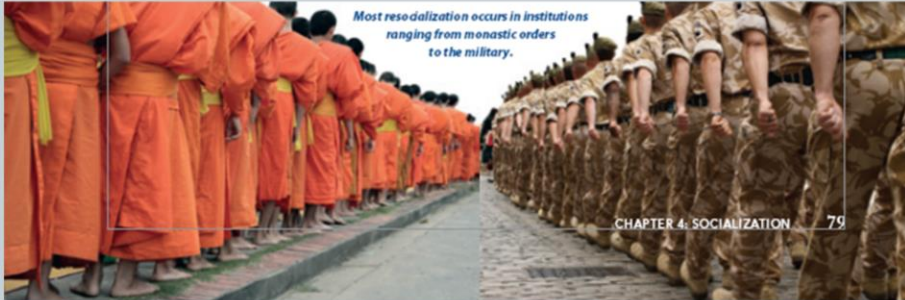
- Socialization is a never-ending process, continuing from infancy throughout adulthood.
- Infants need constant care in order to develop physically, intellectually, and socially.
- Recognition of childhood as a distinct stage of development is relatively recent.
- Parents are finding it difficult to monitor adolescents without micromanaging.
- Parental expectations are important in adolescence.

Socialization Throughout Life



- Socialization continues into adulthood as individuals adapt to a series of new roles including work and parenting.
- **Boomerang children:** young adults moving back into their parents' home
- We are likely to spend 20% of our lives in retirement.
- Aging requires adapting to another series of new roles.

Resocialization



Most resocialization occurs in institutions ranging from monastic orders to the military.

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Resocialization



Resocialization:

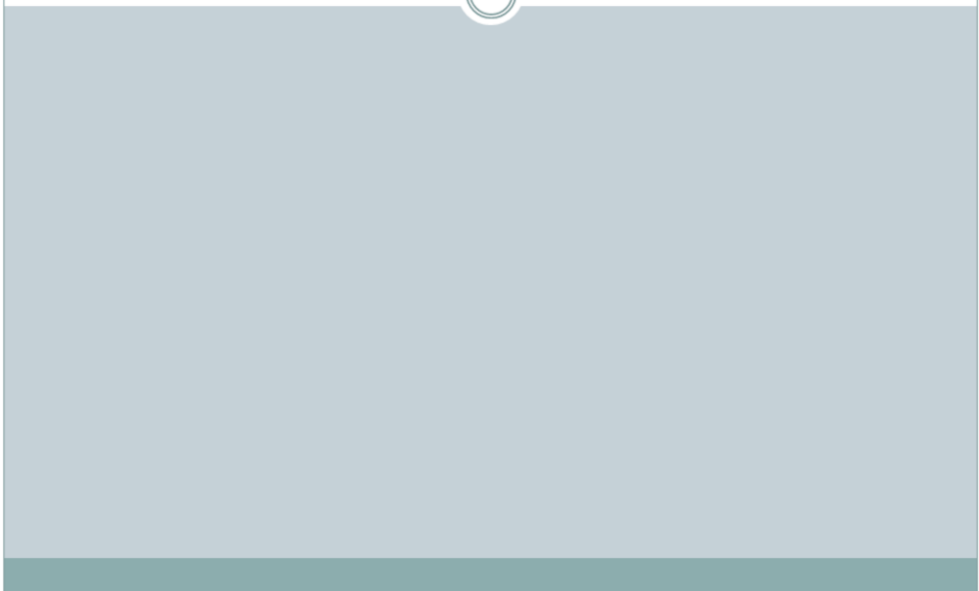
- Process of unlearning old ways of doing things and adopting new attitudes, values, norms, and behaviors
- Voluntary or involuntary
- **Total institutions:** places where people are isolated and required to learn new roles

Chapter Review



1. What is socialization?
2. What is the nature-nurture debate?
3. Discuss the different sociological explanations of socialization.
4. What are agents of socialization?
5. How does socialization continue as well as change throughout life?
6. What is resocialization?

Optional



Explanations

- **Preparatory Stage (Birth – 2 years)**
 - “I” is dominant.
 - Children mimic behaviors of others.

Explanations

- **Play Stage (2 – 6 years)**
 - Children begin to understand language and symbols.
 - **Significant others:** the people who are important in one's life and greatly impact socialization
 - Child acts out imagined roles.
 - **Anticipatory socialization:** the process of learning how to perform a role they don't occupy

Significant others include parents, primary caregivers, siblings, and grandparents.

Explanations

- **Game Stage (6 and older)**
 - Involves the ability to understand the connections between roles.
 - In a game a child learns to understand and anticipate the actions of others.
 - **Generalized other:** people who don't have close ties to the child but who influence her or his internalization of norms and values

An example of the generalized other: What would "people" think?

Discussion: What different roles does one need to take into account when playing baseball or soccer? What does a child need to understand in order to play these games?

Socialization Agents



Play:

- Promotes cognitive development
- Keeps children out of trouble and enhances their social development
- Strengthens peer relationships

Discussion: What did you play as children? What did you learn from playing?