Sociology - Research Movements and Social Change - Key terms

Key Term	Definition
acting crowds	crowds of people who are focused on a specific action or goal
activity theory	theory which suggests that for individuals to enjoy old age and feel satisfied, they must maintain activities and find a replacement for the statuses and associated roles they have left behind as they aged
age stratification theory	theory which states that members of society are stratified by age, just as they are stratified by race, class, and gender
ageism	discrimination based on age
alternative movements	social movements that limit themselves to self-improvement changes in individuals
assembling perspective	a theory that credits individuals in crowds as behaving as rational thinkers and views crowds as engaging in purposeful behaviour and collective action
baby boomers	Americans born between approximately 1946 and 1964
case study	in-depth analysis of a single event, situation, or individual
casual crowds	people who share close proximity without really interacting
centenarians	people 100 years old or older
code of ethics	a set of guidelines that the American Sociological Association has established to foster ethical research and professionally responsible scholarship in sociology
cohort	a group of people who share a statistical or demographic trait
collective behavior	a non-institutionalised activity in which several people voluntarily engage
content analysis	applying a systematic approach to record and value information gleaned from secondary data as it relates to the study at hand
continuity theory	theory which states that the elderly make specific choices to maintain consistency in internal (personality structure, beliefs) and external structures (relationships), remaining active and involved throughout their elder years
control group	an experimental group that is not exposed to the independent variable
control theory	theory that states social control is directly affected by the strength of social bonds and that deviance results from a feeling of disconnection from society
conventional crowds	people who come together for a regularly scheduled event
corporate crime	crime committed by white-collar workers in a business environment
corrections system	the system tasked with supervising individuals who have been arrested for, convicted of, or sentenced for criminal offenses
correlation	when a change in one variable coincides with a change in another variable, but does not necessarily indicate causation
court	a system that has the authority to make decisions based on law
crime	a behaviour that violates official law and is punishable through formal sanctions
criminal justice system	an organization that exists to enforce a legal code
crowd	when a fairly large number of people share close proximity
cultural deviance theory	theory that suggests conformity to the prevailing cultural norms of lower-class society causes crime
cyberfeminism	application to and promotion of feminism online
dependency ratio	the number of productive working citizens to non-productive (young, disabled, or elderly)
dependent variables	changed by other variables
design patents	patents that are granted when someone has invented a new and original design for a manufactured product
deviance	a violation of contextual, cultural, or social norms
diagnostic framing	when the social problem is stated in a clear, easily understood manner

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differential association theory	theory that states individuals learn deviant behaviour from those close to them who provide models of and opportunities for deviance
digital divide	the uneven access to technology around race, class, and geographic lines
disengagement theory	theory which suggests that withdrawing from society and social relationships is a natural part of growing old
elder abuse	when a caretaker intentionally deprives an older person of care or harms the person in their charge
emergent norm theory	a perspective that emphasises the importance of social norms in crowd behaviour
empirical evidence	evidence corroborated by direct experience and/or observation.
e-readiness	the ability to sort through, interpret, and process digital knowledge
ethnography	observing a complete social setting and all that it entails
evolutionary model of technological change	a breakthrough in one form of technology that leads to a number of variations, from which a prototype emerges, followed by a period of slight adjustments to the technology, interrupted by a breakthrough
exchange theory	theory which suggests that we experience an increased dependence as we age and must increasingly submit to the will of others, because we have fewer ways of compelling others to submit to us
experiment	the testing of a hypothesis under controlled conditions
expressive crowds	crowds who share opportunities to express emotions
field research	gathering data from a natural environment without doing a lab experiment or a survey
filial piety	deference and respect to one's parents and ancestors in all things
flash mob	a large group of people who gather together in a spontaneous activity that lasts a limited amount of time
formal sanctions	sanctions that are officially recognised and enforced
frame alignment process	using bridging, amplification, extension, and transformation as an ongoing and intentional means of recruiting participants to a movement
gatekeeping	the sorting process by which thousands of possible messages are shaped into a mass media-appropriate form and reduced to a manageable amount
geriatrics	a medical specialty focusing on the elderly
gerontocracy	a type of social structure wherein the power is held by a society's oldest members
gerontology	a field of science that seeks to understand the process of aging and the challenges encountered as seniors grow older
gerotranscendence	the idea that as people age, they transcend limited views of life they held in earlier times
grief	a psychological, emotional, and social response to the feelings of loss that accompanies death or a similar event
hate crimes	attacks based on a person's race, religion, or other characteristics
Hawthorne effect	when study subjects behave in a certain manner due to their awareness of being observed by a researcher
hospice	health care that treats terminally ill people by providing comfort during the dying process
hypothesis	an educated guess with predicted outcomes about the relationship between two or more variables
independent variables	cause changes in dependent variables
informal sanctions	sanctions that occur in face-to-face interactions
interpretive framework	a sociological research approach that seeks in-depth understanding of a topic or subject through observation or interaction; this approach is not based on hypothesis

	testing
interview	a one-on-one conversation between the researcher and the subject
knowledge gap	the gap in information that builds as groups grow up without access to technology
labeling theory	the ascribing of a deviant behaviour to another person by members of society
legal codes	codes that maintain formal social control through laws
life course	the period from birth to death, including a sequence of predictable life events
life expectancy	the number of years a new-born is expected to live
literature review	a scholarly research step that entails identifying and studying all existing studies on a topic to create a basis for new research
mass	a relatively large group with a common interest, even if they may not be in close proximity
master status	a label that describes the chief characteristic of an individual
media	all print, digital, and electronic means of communication
media globalization	the worldwide integration of media through the cross-cultural exchange of ideas
modernization	the process that increases the amount of specialization and differentiation of structure in societies
modernization theory	theory which suggests that the primary cause of the elderly losing power and influence in society are the parallel forces of industrialization and modernization
motivational framing	a call to action
negative sanctions	punishments for violating norms
neo-Luddites	those who see technology as a symbol of the coldness of modern life
new media	all interactive forms of information exchange
new social movement theory	theory that attempts to explain the proliferation of post-industrial and postmodern movements that are difficult to understand using traditional social movement theories
nonreactive research	using secondary data, does not include direct contact with subjects and will not alter or influence people's behaviours
nonviolent crimes	crimes that involve the destruction or theft of property, but do not use force or the threat of force
operational definitions	specific explanations of abstract concepts that a researcher plans to study
panoptic surveillance	a form of constant monitoring in which the observation posts are decentralised and the observed is never communicated with directly
participant observation	when a researcher immerses herself in a group or social setting in order to make observations from an "insider" perspective
physician-assisted suicide	the voluntary use of lethal medication provided by a medical doctor to end one's life
planned obsolescence	when a technology company plans for a product to be obsolete or unable from the time it's created
plant patents	patents that recognise the discovery of new plant types that can be asexually reproduced
police	a civil force in charge of regulating laws and public order at a federal, state, or community level
population	a defined group serving as the subject of a study
positive sanctions	rewards given for conforming to norms
power elite	a small group of wealthy and influential people at the top of society who hold the power and resources
primary aging	biological factors such as molecular and cellular changes

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primary data	data that are collected directly from first-hand experience
primary deviance	a violation of norms that does not result in any long-term effects on the individual's self-image or interactions with others
prognostic framing	when social movements state a clear solution and a means of implementation
public	an unorganised, relatively diffuse group of people who share ideas
qualitative data	comprise information that is subjective and often based on what is seen in a natural setting
quantitative data	represent research collected in numerical form that can be counted
random sample	a study's participants being randomly selected to serve as a representation of a larger population
reform movements	movements that seek to change something specific about the social structure
reliability	a measure of a study's consistency that considers how likely results are to be replicated if a study is reproduced
religious/redemptive movements	movements that work to promote inner change or spiritual growth in individuals
research design	a detailed, systematic method for conducting research and obtaining data
resistance movements	those who seek to prevent or undo change to the social structure
resource mobilization theory	theory that explains social movements' success in terms of their ability to acquire resources and mobilise individuals
revolutionary movements	movements that seek to completely change every aspect of society
samples	small, manageable number of subjects that represent the population
sanctions	the means of enforcing rules
scientific method	an established scholarly research method that involves asking a question, researching existing sources, forming a hypothesis, designing and conducting a study, and drawing conclusions
secondary aging	aging that occurs due to controllable factors like exercise and diet
secondary data analysis	using data collected by others but applying new interpretations
secondary deviance	occurs when a person's self-concept and behaviour begin to change after his or her actions are labelled as deviant by members of society
selective optimization with compensation theory	based on the idea that successful personal development throughout the life course and subsequent mastery of the challenges associated with everyday life are based on the components of selection, optimization, and compensation
self-report study	collection of data acquired using voluntary response methods, such as questionnaires or telephone interviews
senescence	the aging process, including biological, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual changes
social change	the change in a society created through social movements as well as through external factors like environmental shifts or technological innovations
social control	the regulation and enforcement of norms
social disorganization theory	theory that asserts crime occurs in communities with weak social ties and the absence of social control
social gerontology	a specialised field of gerontology that examines the social (and sociological) aspects of aging
social movement	a purposeful organised group hoping to work toward a common social goal
social movement industry	the collection of the social movement organizations that are striving toward similar goals

social movement organization	a single social movement group
social movement sector	the multiple social movement industries in a society, even if they have widely varying constituents and goals
social order	an arrangement of practices and behaviours on which society's members base their daily lives
strain theory	theory that addresses the relationship between having socially acceptable goals and having socially acceptable means to reach those goals
street crime	crime committed by average people against other people or organizations, usually in public spaces
subculture of aging theory	theory that focuses on the shared community created by the elderly when they are excluded (due to age), voluntarily or involuntarily, from participating in other groups
surveys	collect data from subjects who respond to a series of questions about behaviours and opinions, often in the form of a questionnaire
technological diffusion	the spread of technology across borders
technological globalization	the cross-cultural development and exchange of technology
technology	the application of science to solve problems in daily life
technophiles	those who see technology as symbolizing the potential for a brighter future
thanatology	the systematic study of death and dying
utility patents	patents that are granted for the invention or discovery of any new and useful process, product, or machine
validity	the degree to which a sociological measure accurately reflects the topic of study
value neutrality	a practice of remaining impartial, without bias or judgment during the course of a study and in publishing results
value-added theory	a functionalist perspective theory that posits that several preconditions must be in place for collective behaviour to occur
victimless crime	activities against the law, but that do not result in injury to any individual other than the person who engages in them
violent crimes	crimes based on the use of force or the threat of force