Classical Sociologists

Émile Durkheim
(1858–1917)

Durkheim's Works

The Division of Labor in Society (1893)

The Rules of the Sociological Method (1895)

Suicide (1897)

The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life (1912)

Durkheim's Interests:

What is it that bonds people to each other as social actors?

How can we study these attachments and thereby construct a meaningful understanding of society?

Durkheim: Basic Concepts

Social Facts (aka "Emergent Properties")

"…a category of facts with very distinctive characteristics: it consists of acting, thinking, and feeling, external to the individual, and endowed with a power of coercion, by reason of which they control him."

"…it is to them exclusively that the term 'social' ought to be applied."

From: *The Rules of Sociological Method*

Durkheim: Basic Concepts

Mechanical Solidarity:

- Cohesion based on similarity
- Common rituals and routines
- Normative and repressive social controls
- Collective Consciousness
- Rudimentary Division of Labor (e.g. by gender)

Organic Solidarity:

- Cohesion based on mutual interdependence
- Specialization creates need for interdependence
- Co-operative legal social controls
- Individual Consciousness
- Complex Division of Labor

Max Weber
(1864 – 1920)

Weber's Works

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (1904 – 1905)

The Methodology of the Social Sciences (1903 – 1917)

The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilizations (1909)

Economy and Society (1914)

General Economic History (1923)

Weber's Interests:

Rationality –

- Rational social action (goal orientation vs. value orientation)
- Rationalization of social groups, into bureaucratic organizations

Weber: Basic Concepts

Verstehen = subjective meaning that rational actors attach to their actions, in a particular social context

Weber: Basic Concepts

Ideal Types:

A model of social action, an exaggeration of a particular social form that captures its essence, and an explanation of its existence.

Not "ideal" in a moral sense of right or wrong.

Basis of comparative study.

Karl Marx
(1818 – 1883)

Marx's Works

The Communist Manifesto (1848)

The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (1852)

The Grundrisse (1857)

A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy (1859)

Capital (1867)

Marx's Interests:

History of Economic Organization, in particular, <u>Production</u>

Marx: Basic Concepts

Social Class:

- Bourgeoisie (Owners)
- Proletariat (Workers)

Marx: Basic Concepts

It is the job of the social scientist not just to study society, but also to change society