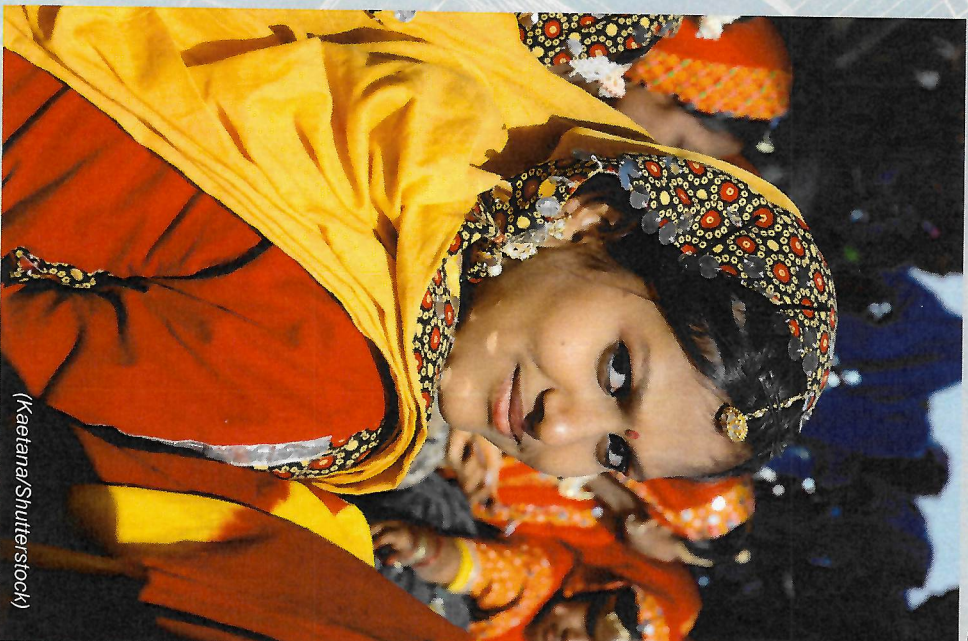


Chapter 1: The Nature and Uses of Sociology



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Learning Objectives

- Define sociology.
- Describe the sociological imagination.
- Use a sociological perspective to uncover the reality behind popular wisdom.
- Contrast sociology with the other social sciences.



1.1 What is Sociology?

- Sociology is the scientific study of...
- Sociologists consider the following types of questions...
- Sociologists study inequality and social institutions.



1.1 Crash Course in Sociology

<http://bvtlab.com/uXc88>

(~10 minutes)

Nicole Sweeney gives a short introduction to Sociology and how it relates to real world questions.

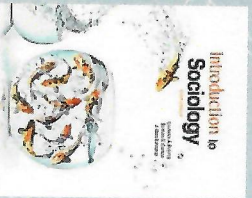


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1.1a The Sociological

Imagination

- Coined by C. Wright Mills in 1959
- Connects the influence of history and biography on our interactive processes
- Informs a sociological perspective



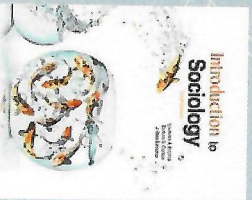
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1.1a Sociological Perspective

(Slide 1 of 2)

A sociological perspective...

- Questions the obvious
- Seeks patterns
- Looks beyond the individual



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1.1a Sociological Perspective

(Slide 2 of 2)

The sociological perspective operates at two levels...

- Macrosociology
- Microsociology



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1.1a **Critical Thinking**

Explain what Mills meant by the sociological imagination and the connection between history and biography. Apply the sociological imagination to a social problem with which you are familiar.



1.1a **Critical Thinking**

Contrast how a sociologist, using a macrosociological and a microsociological perspective, would examine a social problem not discussed in your text.



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1.1b **Sociology and Popular Wisdom**

Sociological research demonstrates that some of our ideas about how the world works are not accurate.



1.1b Five “Obviously True”

Statements (Slide 1 of 5)

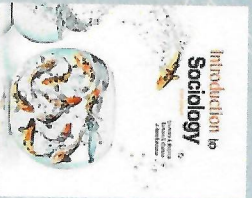
1. People who commit rampage shootings are obviously mentally ill and suddenly snapped before the incident.
- What does research say about this statement?



1.1b Five “Obviously True”

Statements (slide 2 of 5)

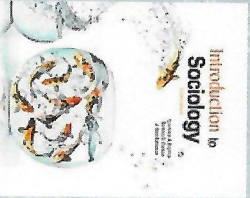
2. Because poor racial and ethnic minorities are more likely to live in larger cities, poverty is more an urban problem than a rural one.
- What does research say about this statement?



1.1b Five “Obviously True”

Statements (Slide 3 of 5)

3. Because capital punishment leads to give serious thought to the consequences before committing crimes, crime rates are much lower in states that have capital punishment than in those that do not.
- What does research say about this statement?



1.1b Five “Obviously True”

Statements (Slide 4 of 5)

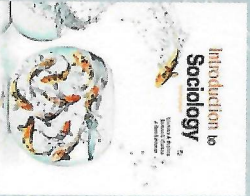
4. Because males are more prone to violence than females, suicide rates are lower for girls than for boys.
- What does research say about this statement?



1.1b Five “Obviously True”

Statements (Slide 5 of 5)

5. Because we all know that death is approaching as we grow older, fear of dying increases with age.
- What does research say about this statement?



1.1b The Urban Poverty Myth is Perpetuated by Media

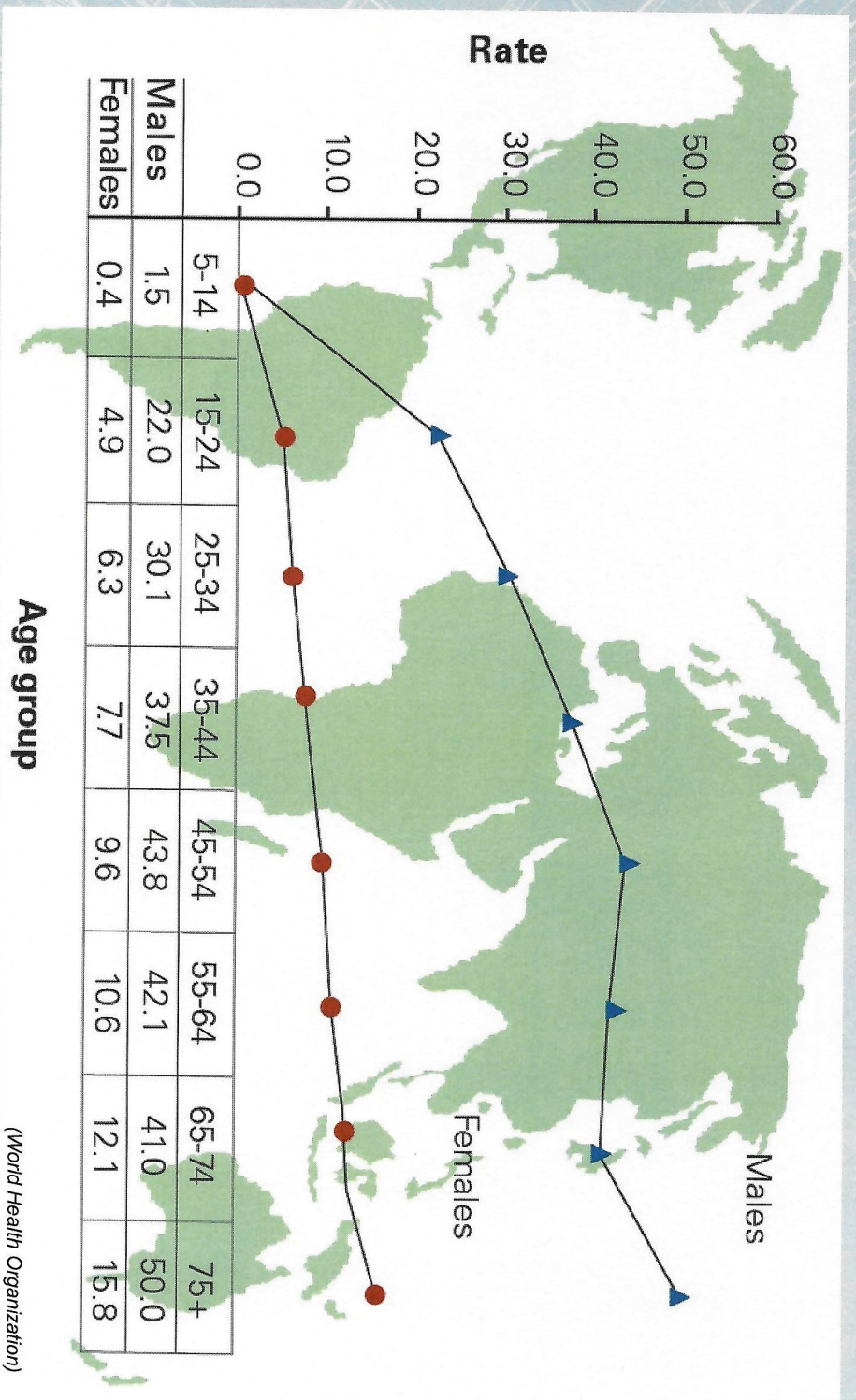


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1.1b Distribution of Suicide Rates by Gender and Age



1.1c **Sociology and the Other**

Social Sciences (slide 1 of 3)

Science is divided into two categories:

- The natural sciences (biological and physical)
- The social sciences



1.1c **Sociology and the Other Social Sciences** (slide 2 of 3)

The social sciences include:

- Economics
- Political science
- Anthropology
- Psychology
- History
- Geography



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1.1c **Sociology and the Other**

Social Sciences (slide 3 of 3)

Social work applies the principles of the social sciences (especially sociology) to actual social problems:

- Applied sciences
- Pure sciences



1.1c **Critical Thinking**

Why is sociology necessary? What does sociology do that the other social sciences do not?



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Chapter Summary (slide 1 of 2)

- Sociology is the study of society and the causes and consequences of human social behavior.
- The sociological imagination is the ability to see the world from a sociological point of view. This can be applied to both interpersonal and small-group processes (microsociology) and large-scale problems (macrosociology).



Chapter Summary (slide 2 of 2)

- A sociological perspective helps us disprove popular conceptions and provide surprising insights.
- Sociology is a social science that tries to understand social life and predict how various influences will affect it.

