

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)



- Solidarity is what holds societies together
- Simple societies need only mechanical solidarity
- Complex societies need organic solidarity

The Realm of the Social

- The social cannot be reduced to biology
- The social cannot be reduced to individual psychology
- The social is a distinct realm
- “The social fact” is both inside and outside people

Society & Culture

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- Roles
- Positions
- Relationships
- e.g. simple and complex societies

CULTURE

- Norms
- Values
- Beliefs
- Meanings
- e.g. cultures with more or less acceptance of violence

SUICIDE

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

- Low – Egoistic suicide
- High – Altruistic suicide

MORAL INTEGRATION

- Low – anomic suicide
- High – fatalistic suicide

BASIC FEATURES OF SOCIOLOGY

- Structure
- History
- Individual

– From C. Wright Mills' *The Sociological Imagination*

BASIC FEATURES (contd.)

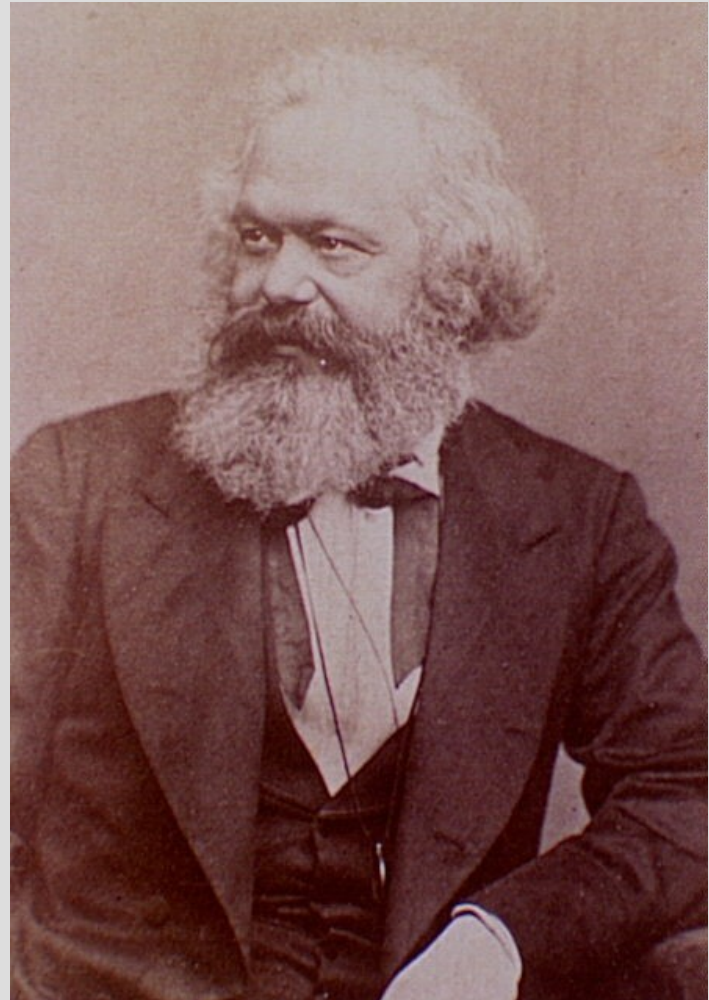
- Based on reason
- Based on evidence
- Assumes that human beings are same everywhere
- Non-intuitive and emancipatory

METHODS

- Critical review
- Surveys
- Case studies
- Participant observation
- Life-histories, etc.
- Problem of subjectivity

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Classes and
Contradictions in
Society



Transition from feudalism to capitalism

- Emergence of the bourgeoisie
- Mode of production
- Means of production
- Forces of production
- Relations of production
- Interplay between production and rest of society

Contradictions in Capitalism

- Alienation
- Exploitation of Surplus Value
 - Sale Price = (Cost of Labour & Parts) + Profit
- Gradual polarization between bourgeoisie and the proletariat