# A Brief Introduction to Social Work Theory



David Howe

# **Social Theory An Introduction**

**Thomas Griffiths** 

### **Social Theory An Introduction:**

Sociological Theory Walter L. Wallace, Annotation In this fundamental contribution to the study and application of sociological theory Wallace examines a wide range of theories within a framework that clarifies their interrelationships and illustrates their implications for empirical research Wallace is able to point out the symbiotic relationships among these theories which at first may appear to be in direct opposition or at least discord Sociological Theory begins with an original essay by the editor that introduces the reader to eleven general theoretical viewpoints He calls these ecologism demographism materialism psychologism technologism functional structuralism exchange structuralism conflict structuralism symbolic interactionism social actionism and functional imperativism To do this Wallace assembles selected readings by major theorists that provide detailed examples of each of the theoretical viewpoints discussed The selections are keyed to the framework developed in the Introduction so as to enable the reader to work back and forth between the general and the particular statements Offering far more than a mere survey or an abstract critical analysis In this way Sociological Theory provides a learning matrix that facilitates comprehension and enables the reader systematically to expand his knowledge of sociological theory In developing his analytical framework Wallace points out how these different types of theory complement rather than conflict with one another Through this approach he is able to show the distinctive level and scope of analysis of each theory to demonstrate why the sociologist must draw upon and integrate several viewpoints for interpreting research results and formulating hypotheses A useful guide and reference work for researchers and teachers the book is an excellent basic or supplementary text for all theory courses As Robert K Merton noted at the time of the original publication Sociological Theory is a beautiful piece of work **Contemporary Social Theory** Anthony Elliott, 2014-02-10 In this comprehensive stylish and accessible introduction to contemporary social theory Anthony Elliott examines the major social theoretical traditions. The first edition set new standards for introductory textbooks such was the far reaching sweep of social theorists discussed including Theodor Adorno Herbert Marcuse Michel Foucault Jacques Lacan Jacques Derrida Anthony Giddens Pierre Bourdieu Julia Kristeva Jurgen Habermas Judith Butler Slavoj Zizek Manuel Castells Ulrich Beck Zygmunt Bauman Giorgio Agamben and Manuel De Landa From the Frankfurt School to globalization from feminism to the network society this new edition has been fully revised and updated taking into account the most recent developments in social theory. The second edition also contains a completely new chapter on classical social theory allowing students to contextualise the modern debates Like its predecessor the second edition of Contemporary Social Theory combines stylish exposition with reflective social critique and original insights This new edition will prove a superb textbook with which to navigate the twists and turns of contemporary social theory as taught in the disciplines of sociology politics history cultural studies and many more Modern Social Theory Austin Harrington, 2005 This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the core topics theories and debates in modern social theory Fourteen chapters have been written by leading specialists in

the field providing up to date guidance on the full sweep of the modern sociological imagination from the legacies of the classical figures of Marx Durkheim Weber Simmel and Parsons to the work of cutting edge contemporary theorists Separate chapters discuss functionalism and its critics interpretive and interactionist theory historical social theory western Marxism psychoanalytic social theory structuralism and post structuralism structure and agency theory feminist social theory postmodernism and its critics and theories about globalization All chapters are supplied with questions for discussion study boxes guidance on further reading and useful website addresses It is ideal for students of sociology and cultural studies pursuing foundational courses in the history and theory of social analysis and is also accessible for the general reader

Introduction to Sociological Theory Michele Dillon,2009-09-22 Combining carefully chosen primary quotes with extensive discussion and everyday illustrative examples this book provides an in depth introduction to classical and contemporary theory Uses a wide range of newspaper examples to illustrate the relevance to sociological theory Contains excerpts from theorists primary texts Includes chapter specific glossaries of all theoretical concepts discussed in the book Short biographies and historical timelines of significant events provide context to various theorists ideas Incorporates a range of pedagogical features Supporting website includes multiple choice and essay questions PowerPoint slides a quotation bank and other background materials Visit www wiley com go dillon for additional student and instructor resources

Social Theory Mark Murphy, 2021-08-22 This textbook delivers a new thematic introduction to social theory that explores theoretical issues in their contemporary social contexts Each chapter is devoted to a specific thematic area including the state governance the economy civil society culture language knowledge the self emotions the body and social justice Each chapter details the key issues for debate and the relevant theories while linking those debates and theories to everyday life Distributed throughout the chapters are focused sections on key concepts and their research applications alongside helpful additional detail including a glossary further suggested readings chapter summaries and questions for discussion The book also provides useful information on key theoretical movements such as feminism Marxism and post structuralism as well as biographies of key theorists As such it reflects the breadth of social theory and its interdisciplinary nature by drawing on thinkers not just from sociology but also from philosophy history literature geography cultural and gender studies The book s logical structure and clear pedagogical features make it an appealing and accessible introductory text for students new to social theory The chapters demonstrate the relevance of social theory to everyday life such that readers can understand and actively engage with key concepts Social Theory Jonathan Joseph, 2004-03-01 This introduction to social theory addresses key issues in sociological political and cultural analysis through the unifying theme of social conflict cohesion and consent Structured around the major theorists in the field Joseph examines such thinkers as Marx and Engels Gramsci Durkheim Parsons Weber The Frankfurt School and Foucault Through their ideas core social concepts and key features of modern society are introduced including structure and agency ideology discourse and legitimation the state the economy and civil

society Dealing with both contemporary social debates and established theoretical approaches Social Theory serves as a uniquely useful introduction for both politics and sociology students Social Theory Berch Berberoglu, 2017-01-06 Social Theory provides a sophisticated yet highly accessible introduction to classical and contemporary social theories The author s concise presentation allows students and instructors to focus on central themes The text lets theorists speak for themselves presenting key passages from each theorist's corpus bringing theory to life The approach allows instructors the opportunity to help students learn to unpack sometimes complex prose just as it offers inroads to class discussion Chapters on Addams and early feminism on Habermas and the Frankfurt School on Foucault and on globalization and social movements round out contemporary coverage The book presents and explains key theories just as it provides an introduction to central debates Sociological Theory Walter L. Wallace, 1969 **Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory** Anthony Elliott, Charles Lemert, 2022-04-24 In this comprehensive and clear introduction to contemporary social theory Anthony Elliott and Charles Lemert explore the major theoretical traditions from the Frankfurt School to the digital revolution and beyond Fully revised and updated this second edition has been expanded to consider the most recent developments in social theory including a new chapter on the digital revolution and the increasingly significant impact of technological developments such as artificial intelligence machine learning and robotics on society culture and politics Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory provides the reader with a superb overview of key developments in social theory including the Frankfurt School American pragmatism structuralism post structuralism feminism globalization and world systems theory In doing so the textbook explores the ideas of a wide range of social theorists including Theodor Adorno Herbert Marcuse Talcott Parsons Erving Goffman Harold Garfinkel Michel Foucault Jacques Lacan Jacques Derrida C Wright Mills Anthony Giddens Pierre Bourdieu Julia Kristeva J rgen Habermas Judith Butler Slavoj i ek Manuel Castells Cornel West Immanuel Wallerstein and Zygmunt Bauman This textbook provides stylish exposition with powerful social critique and original insights It will be indispensable to students and academics alike **Modern Sociological Theory** M. Francis Abraham, 1982 This book is a comprehensive overview of several major schools of sociological theory Looking at various approaches from different cultural contexts Abraham first explains conflicting views about the meaning of sociological theory itself then analyzes the basic sociological concepts of system structure function and conflict and the methodology of sociological theory Designed to familiarize students with contemporary schools of theory including the most recent trends the book clearly defines structural functionalism conflict theory symbolic interactionism and phenomenological sociology **Social Theory** Alex Callinicos, 2007-04-09 The second edition of this remarkably lucid text provides a wide ranging historical introduction to social theory The new edition preserves and further enhances the book s striking qualities its clarity reliability comprehensiveness and scholarship The theorists treated include Montesquieu Adam Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment Hegel Marx Tocqueville Maistre Gobineau Darwin Spencer Kautsky Nietzsche Durkheim Weber Simmel Freud Lukacs

Gramsci Heidegger Keynes Hayek Parsons the Frankfurt School Levi Strauss Althusser Foucault Habermas Bourdieu Beck and Giddens Callinicos examines the ways in which social theory grew out of the eighteenth century Enlightenment a time when societies emerging in the West ceased to invoke the authority of tradition to validate themselves instead looking to scientific knowledge to justify their mastery of the world He traces social theory s connections with central themes in modern philosophy with the development of political economy and with the impact of evolutionary biology on social thought The book has been carefully updated to ensure that it engages with the most up to date debates in social theory and concludes with a substantial new chapter Here Callinicos assesses the significance of contemporary debates about globalization including the recent re emergence of critiques of capitalism and imperialism in the work of Michael Hardt Toni Negri Luc Boltanski Eve Chiapello David Harvey Robert Brenner Giovanni Arrighi and Slavoj Zizek This updated version of a widely praised text will be essential reading for students of politics sociology and social and political thought Sociological Theory; an Introduction. Walter L. Wallace, Editor Walter L. comp Wallace, 1969 An Invitation to Social Theory David Inglis, Christopher Thorpe, 2012-02-27 A comprehensive introduction to social theory covering areas such as Marxism structuralism post structuralism phenomenology symbolic interactionism and feminism Classical Social Theory Ian Craib,1997 This is an excellent textbook on classical social theory concentrating on the founding thinkers of sociology Marx Weber Durkheim and Simmel and written in an accessible and engaging style It has become a key text allowing students to assess the enduring significance of these writers in our epoch of major social change and will be essential reading on classical social theory sociological theory and introduction to sociology courses Philosophy and Social Theory Valery **Scoping the Social** Anthony Woodiwiss, 2005-11-01 Social theory is central to the disciplines of sociology Deyev, 1987 cultural studies criminology and media studies Many students however find it difficult to relate theory to their other courses projects dissertations and theses let alone imagine themselves producing theory In contrast to conventional social theory textbooks that restrict themselves to the description and analysis of theories and what other professionals have said about them this innovative book shows students how to use criticise and contribute to the development of theory Treating theory as a variety of visual work that is intimately connected with the process of empirical investigation and with the help of clear diagrams and carefully chosen quotations Part 1 provides an exceptionally clear introduction to the different ways of practicing social theory Part 2 provides a practical example of how to theorise by producing and demonstrating the effectiveness of a new concept of reflexivity in the course of an outline of the history of the development of social theory since 1945 This is important reading for students and researchers in sociology and related fields A Critical Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory Piotr Sztompka, 2025 Examining the core sociological theories that have emerged in the first two decades of the current century A Critical Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory outlines their attempts to answer the most fundamental questions of the discipline from the nature of social order to the mechanisms of social change Through

a careful exploration of the history of modern social theory Piotr Sztompka lays the critical groundwork for investigating the development of contemporary social theory from its founding fathers in the 19th century through the rich contributions of the 20th century known as the golden age of theory up to the most recent developments and illuminates how it is both anchored in and a critique of previous attempts to theorize foundational questions to social being and action Contemporary theory the book argues is now moving toward analysis of action interpersonal relations social and epistemological realism and multivalent mechanisms at the root of social phenomenon Major social theoretical thinkers like Anthony Giddens Pierre Bourdieu Jeffrey Alexander Randall Collins Jonathan Turner Hans Joas Ulrich Beck Erving Goffman and others are presented and evaluated as significant contributors to contemporary social theory while pointing toward future possibilities for social theory in the current century This will be a key resource for undergraduate and graduate students in sociology social theory and contemporary cultural studies Making Sense of Social Theory Charles H. Powers, 2004 This compact introductory text offers a coherent overview of sociological theory Explaining sociology's seminal discoveries with an elegant simplicity that not only makes them easily understood Charles H Powers also conveys sociology s intellectual coherence as a discipline He introduces sociology s most revealing insights in a way that makes it abundantly clear that sociology has real value as an explanatory science This book takes sociology s most difficult and arcane subject matter and makes it understandable utilitarian and interesting Students will become genuinely engaged with sociological theory as they find it arms them with meaningful insights that can be used in daily life An Introduction to Classical and Contemporary Social Theory Berch Berberoglu, 2005 This book provides a critical analysis of classical and contemporary social theory from a class perspective It is concise lucid and well written Classical Social Theory. An Introduction to the Thought of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, and Simmel ,1997

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