

## **George Murdock**

### Functions of the Family

Fold

#### **Description**

Families perform 4 basic functions

1. Sexual: Stabilize and control sexual relationships
2. Reproductive: Makes the babies
3. Economic: Provide resources for each other
4. Educational: Teach norms and values

## **George Murdock**

### Universality of the Nuclear Family

Fold

#### **Description**

After studying 250 societies.

Murdock concluded that some form of the nuclear family exists in all cultures.

## **Talcott Parson's**

### Functions of the Family

Fold

#### **Description**

Families serve two irreducible functions

1. Primary Socialization: Teach the children the norms and values of society
2. Stabilizes Adult Personalities: Emotional support and security

## **Talcott Parson's**

### Sexual Division of Labor

Fold

#### **Description**

In modern industrial societies, where economic productivity takes place outside of the home, families are socialized to divide labor based on gender roles.

1. Women: Expressive or nurturing role
2. Men: Instrumental or task oriented role

## **Talcott Parson's** Functions of the Family

Fold

### **Description**

Because the lives of women are so diverse, including diverse patterns of marriage and family, there is no one overarching explanation for women's status

## **Friedrich Engels** Marxist Theory of the Family

Fold

### **Description**

The family serves the economic function of keeping wealth within the Bourgeoisie by passing it on to the next generation.

## **Eli Zaretsky** Marxist Theory of Family and Gender

Fold

### **Description**

1. Family is the one place where the male worker can assert power, which relieves some of his frustrations as a powerless worker.
2. The Housewife provides a free service to capitalists by keeping male workers healthy and cared for.
3. Capitalists profit by the family as a unit of consumption (buying goods)

## **Louis Althusser** Marxist Theory of Family and Ideology

Fold

### **Description**

The family serves capitalism as an Ideological State Apparatus. The family reproduces a false consciousness by teaching children the norms and values that serve the interests and legitimate the exploitation of capitalism

**Anthony Giddens**  
Inclusive Model of the  
Family

Fold

**Description**

The family is a social arrangement of kinship relationships based on biology, affinity and/or law.

**Anne-Marie Ambert**  
Inclusive and Exclusive  
Model of the Family

Fold

**Description**

Families involve two or more people bound by ties of mutual consent who assume responsibility for the following:

1. Care of group members
2. Procreation or adoption
3. Socialization of children
4. Childcare
5. Economic production and consumption

**Charles Murray**  
Welfare and the Fall of  
the Traditional Family

Fold

**Description**

Welfare benefits are too high, creating a culture of dependency.

**Talcott Parsons**  
Fit Thesis

Fold

**Description**

The Nuclear Family has becoming dominant in industrial societies because it fits the needs of the society better.

1. Labor mobility
2. Labor flexibility

## **Willmott and Young**

### Historical Stages of Family Development

Fold

#### **Description**

Families have developed in three stages:

1. Pre-Industrial: Work and home are combined.
2. Early Industrial: Extended family breaks down as men leave home for work.
3. Privatized Nuclear: Family based on consumption. Family based on personal relationships. Symmetrical roles for husbands and wives

## **Peter Willmott**

### Partially Isolated Nuclear Families

Fold

#### **Description**

Extended family ties remain important, but are held in reserve for times of crisis.

## **Rapoport and Rapoport**

### Five Types of Family Diversity

Fold

#### **Description**

- Organizational: Differences in how families are structured
- Cultural: Difference in norms and values
- Class: Differences in socio-economic status
- Life-Course: Differences in life stages reached
- Cohort: Difference in age

## **Eversley and Bonnerjea**

Fold

#### **Description**

In research conducted in 1982 they found that Nuclear Families were more common in middle class areas of the UK while Lone-Parent households were more prevalent in working-class areas

## **Macionis & Plummer**

Effects of technology on  
family structure

Fold

### **Description**

Found that new technologies are creating family structures that never before existed. For example, surrogate mother hosting a fertilized egg from her daughter gives birth to her grandchild. Mind blown!

## **Robert Chester**

Nuclear Family  
Dominance

Fold

### **Description**

The aging population in the UK is making it appear that the nuclear family is not as prevalent as it is (older people are less likely to be in a nuclear family structure)

Nuclear families are becoming less traditional and more symmetrical (equal)

## **Robert Chester**

Negotiated Family

Fold

### **Description**

The norms and values guiding family life are negotiated based on the needs of the people in the family.

These families are more equal, but less stable.

## **Jeffery Weeks**

Personal Choice in  
Morality

Fold

### **Description**

Morality is based more on individual choice than on cultural influences such as religion or social values.

Because of this, diversity in the family is irreversible.

**Elizabeth Bott**  
Conjugal Roles in UK

Fold

**Description**

1957 study identified two kinds of roles in families

1. Segregated roles: Roles that are unique between husband and wife
2. Joint roles: Shared between husband and wife

**Ann Oakley**  
Social Construction of the  
Housewife

Fold

**Description**

The role of the “housewife” is a social construct of the Industrial Revolution when the household stopped being the site of economic activity and people started leaving the home to “go to work.”

**Diane Bell**  
Economy of Emotion

Fold

**Description**

All families have an economy of emotion (emotion is a limited resource) it is largely the woman’s job to manage this economy

**Duncombe &  
Marsden**  
The Triple Shift

Fold

**Description**

Women in most households are responsible for what amounts to three shifts of work.

1. Housework and childcare
2. Paid employment
3. Emotional work

## **Gillian Dunne**

Study of roles in Lesbian  
Households

Fold

### **Description**

Distribution of responsibilities in lesbian households tended to be more equal than in heterosexual households. Speculated that this is because lesbian households are less bound by traditional ideas of masculinity and femininity.

## **Dobash and Dobash**

Studies on Abused Women

Fold

### **Description**

Women in abusive relationships not only must face the abuse, but the stigma and shame associated with it.

Prejudice on the part of police

Blaming the victim (she has only herself to blame)

Financial dependence and psychological conditioning

## **Jane Pilcher**

Separateness of Childhood

Fold

### **Description**

Childhood is treated as a special life phase different from all others

Different rights and duties

Regulated and protected by special laws.

## **Philippe Ariès**

Social Construction of  
Childhood

Fold

### **Description**

Childhood as a distinct life stage is a social construct emerging from the industrial revolution over the last 300 years.

## **Diana Gittins**

### Age Patriarchy

Fold

#### **Description**

Age patriarchy is maintained by adults who maintain authority over children by enforced dependency.

## **Hockey and James**

### Resistance to Childhood

Fold

#### **Description**

Most children see childhood as something to escape from and resist.

## **Neil Postman**

### Disappearance of Childhood

Fold

#### **Description**

Childhood as we know it is disappearing.  
Increased “adultlike” responsibilities on children  
Modern media and internet increases children’s experiences with adult themes

## **Nick Lee**

### Ambiguity of Childhood

Fold

#### **Description**

Childhood is becoming more ambiguous. Children are increasing their levels of independence earlier, but remain dependent on their parents longer.

## **Annette Lareau**

Class differences in parenting styles

Fold

### **Description**

Class differences in parenting perpetuate class inequalities.

Middle Class “Deliberate Parenting” Develops children’s talents and skills

Working Class “Natural Growth” Children allowed to develop individually

## **Liam Foster**

Family and Life Stages

Fold

### **Description**

People have different family experiences at different life stages.

1. Pre-Family: Young people living independently from their parents
2. Family: Individuals form families and start raising children
3. Post-Family: Children leave the home

## **Pierre Bourdieu**

Cultural Capital

Fold

### **Description**

Families impart cultural capital (non-currency advantages that can translate into economic benefits) to their children that gives them a head start in the political economy

## **Don Swenson**

Interchangeable Conjugal Roles

Fold

### **Description**

Parents impart knowledge of both expressive (emotional) and instrumental (task oriented) relationships to their children. It does not matter if it is the mother, father or some combination or variation thereof that imparts this knowledge.

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