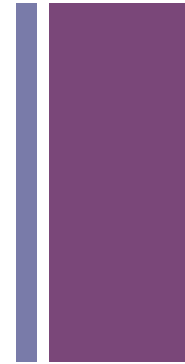


Social Stratification

Origins, Systems & Theories
The Class System in Canada

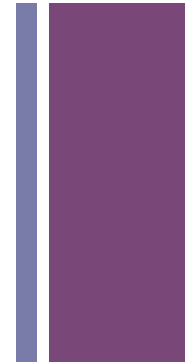
+ Minds On Matching Game

- \$315,462
- \$27,097
- \$18,962
- 69% of Canada's \$
- 60% of minimum wage earners in Canada
- 9.6% of Canadians
- Ranked 9th
- 16.2% of Canadians
- OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development places Canada compared to the World RE: Social Justice
- Women
- Richest 20% Canadians
- Prime Minister of Canada salary 2011
- Belong to racialized groups in 2006
- Median income for Canadians in 2006
- Median income for Aboriginal Canadians in 2006
- Live in poverty



+ Matching Game Solution

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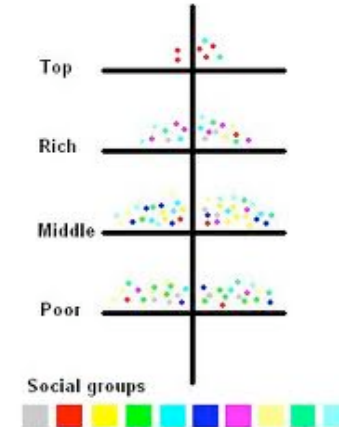


Is inequality inevitable or is it socially constructed?



Has it existed throughout history?

What or who determines the hierarchy?



What do you think?



+ Social Stratification

Origins

- Most societies have systems of **social stratification**
 - Social stratification is a system of inequality that ranks people on a hierarchy
 - These could be based on race, class, gender, ethnicity, age, religion and so on
 - Stratified societies are not equitable – people's experiences and opportunities are defined by the social categories they belong to

- Origins of **social stratification**

- 10 000 years ago - hunter gatherers - very little stratification
 - ~7 000 years ago the emergence of horticultural & pastoral societies, some families do better than others and stratification begins to appear
 - 1760s to 1840s - Industrial Age sees an increasing stratification - middle class emerges
 - Today in the Post Industrial era changes to the middle class have occurred – need more education to stay in the middle class now (DeCoeur, Rawes & Warecki, 2012)



+ Social Stratification

Systems

■ Closed systems

- Boundaries are rigid, very little change to social position – people have set or ascribed status
 - Examples caste system in India or slavery

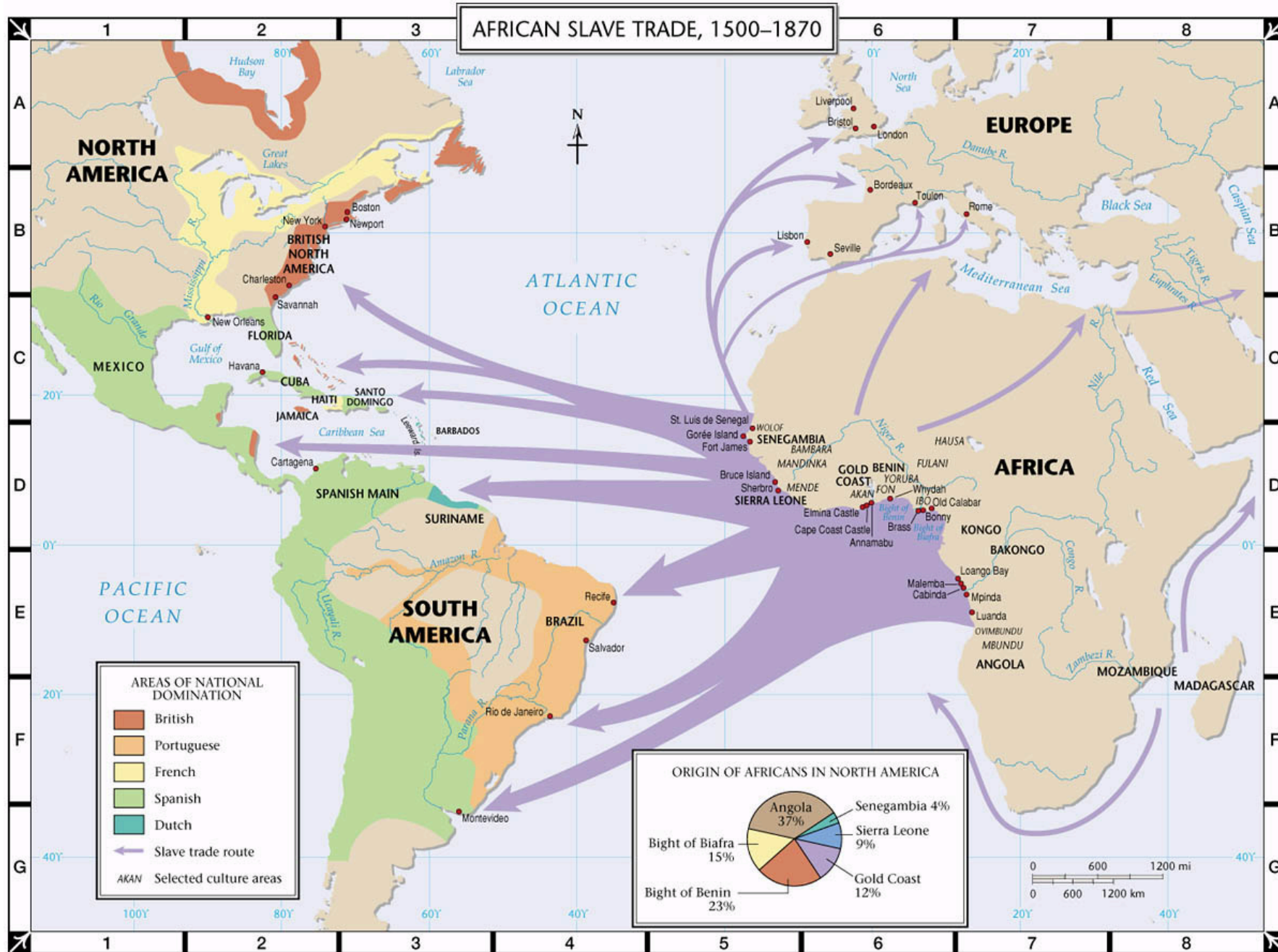
■ Open systems

- More flexible and people may move based on achieved status
- Social mobility (movement) can occur either inter or intra generationally – inter meaning by family members of the next generation or intra - in ones own lifetime
 - Example class system in Canada (DeCoeur, Rawes & Warecki, 2012) ~

+ Slavery

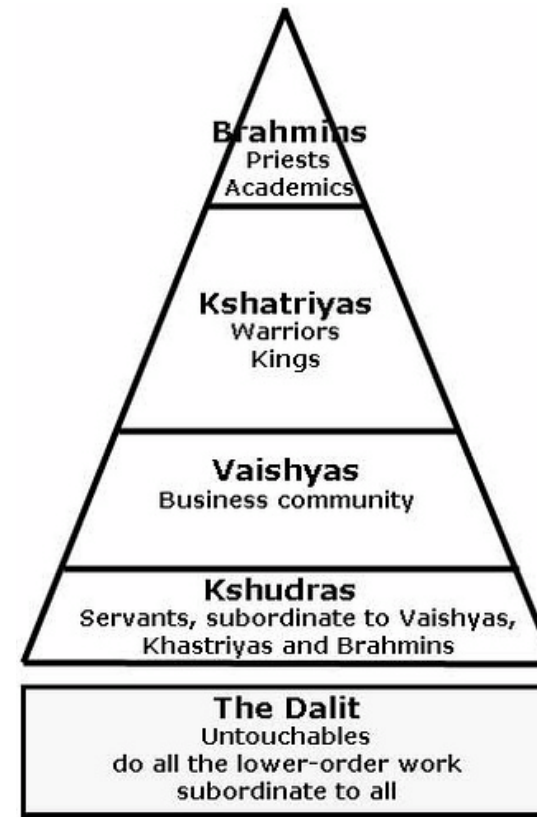
- Originated with the onset of the agricultural era
 - Specialization of tasks increases divisions and inequalities between labourers and employees
 - Dates back to 2100 BCE and has been identified all over the world
- People were or are enslaved... to pay off debts, as punishment for a crime, as prisoners of war, born into slavery, or stolen during the slave trade map is on the next slide
- During the Atlantic slave trade, Africans were captured and sold to European traders and then shipped to North and South America – forced to labour in mines, on plantations, in rice and sugar fields or as house servants.
 - Became based on race with black people being subservient to whites
 - Slavery ends in the US in 1865 but the legacy continues to impact relationships between whites and blacks in North America – Why do you think that is?
- Slavery exists today, known as human trafficking, bonded labour, or sex trafficking and it is present world wide with an estimated 12 to 27 million people affected despite laws prohibiting it
 - Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of these are women and $\frac{1}{2}$ are children
 - Most are poverty stricken and misled; some are kidnapped
 - In a global economy based on trade, even people are considered a commodity for sale

go on to caste system



+ Caste system

- This closed system is based on stratification that a person is born into
 - Stratifications affect a person's work, marriage, social life, and belief systems
- Caste systems exist(ed) in **India** and **South Africa** (Apartheid- racial segregation practiced in South Africa), and while both of these are working on breaking these systems, they still impact these cultures and people
 - People are generally required to marry within their caste
 - People are often segregated in different neighbourhoods based on caste – contact with a lower caste could pollute you
 - caste dictated job type as well ~



+ Class system

- In a class system the stratification is based on ownership and control of resources and type of work a person does
- Boundaries are more vaguely defined
- People can move up or down based on education, skills and achievements
 - **Horizontal mobility** is when you get a promotion or demotion but it essentially doesn't change what class you are in
 - **Vertical mobility** is when people you move up or down the class structure (DeCoeur, Rawes & Warecki, 2012) continue to what's up with that slide 12



Canadian ex on next slide

Class System in Canada

- **The Upper Class** Perhaps 3-5% of Canadians fall into this class. Much of their wealth is inherited. Their children go to private schools and they exercise great power in occupational positions. Although this group has historically been primarily of British origin, it is now more widely distributed.

Upper-Upper Class One percent belongs to an upper-upper class distinguished primarily by "old money."

Lower-Upper Class The remaining 2-4% fall into the lower-upper class and depend more on earnings than inherited wealth. They are, for the most part, the "nouveau riche."

- **The Middle Class** Roughly 40-50% of the Canadian population falls into this category. Because of its size, it has tremendous influence on patterns of Canadian culture. There is considerable racial and ethnic diversity in this class and it is not characterized by exclusiveness and familiarity.

Upper Middle The top half of this category with family incomes of \$50,000 to \$100,000 earned from upper managerial or professional fields.

Average Middle The rest of the middle class typically works in less prestigious white-collar occupations or highly skilled blue-collar jobs.

- **The Working Class** This class comprises about 30% of the population and has lower incomes than the middle class and virtually no accumulated wealth. Their jobs are typically blue collar jobs or manual labour.

The Lower Class The remaining 15 to 20% of our population is identified as the lower class. Many are supported entirely by welfare payments, while others are among the "working poor" whose incomes are insufficient to cover necessities like food, shelter, and clothing (Macionis & Gerber, 2007).

+ What's up with that?

Social Inequality Theories

- Marx and Weber
- Functionalist Perspective
- Symbolic Interactionist Perspective



+ Marx & Weber Conflict Theory



- **Conflict Theory** holds that inequality is bad, avoidable and unnecessary

- A struggle for resources or a share of the pie causes conflict between social groups

- **Marx...** Capitalism is an economic system which favours the rich class who exploit the poor class

illustration on next slide

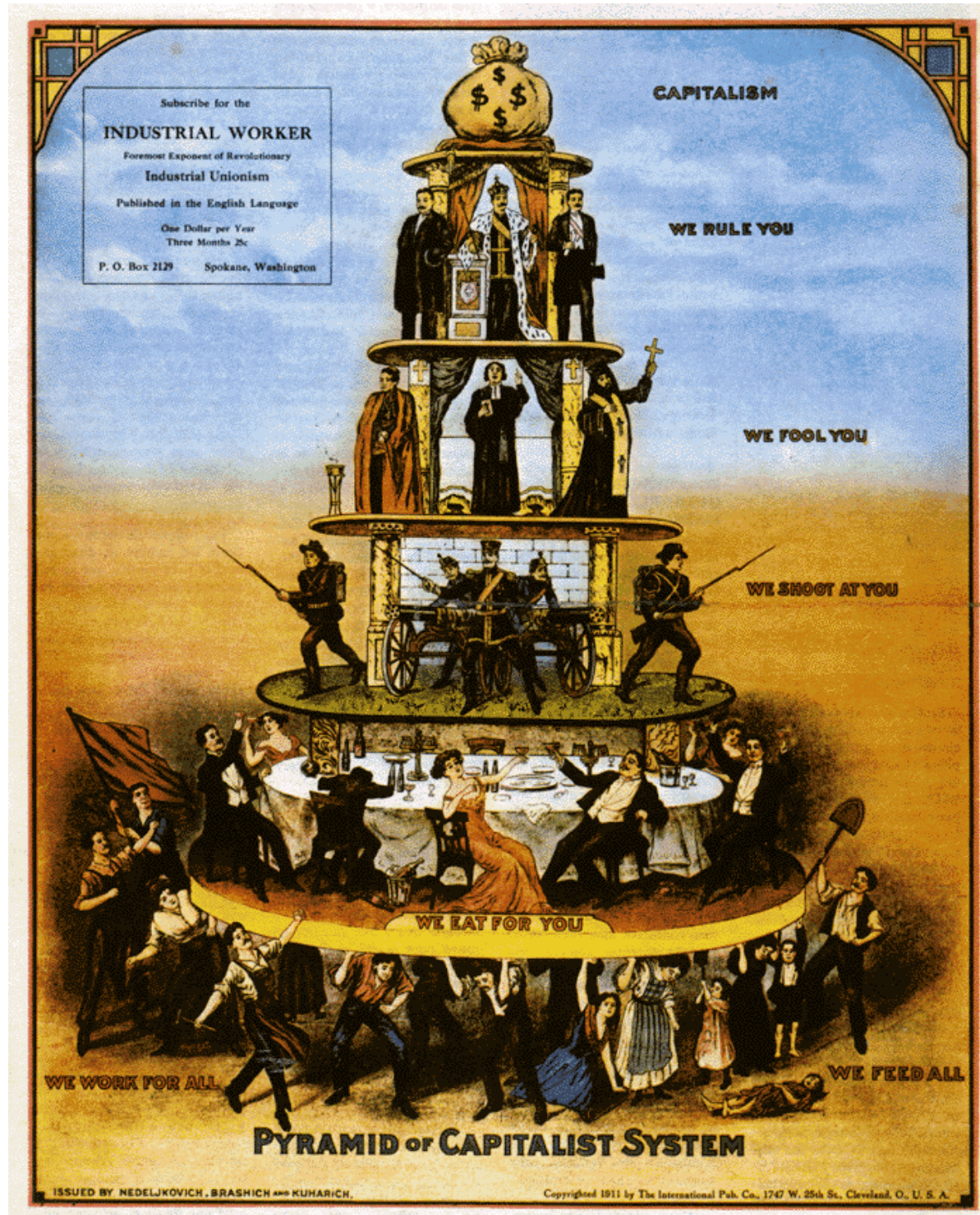
- **Weber...** In addition to class – he adds status and power to the mix and essentially states that class, status and power create inequalities

- Class refers to money
- Status refers to prestige or lifestyle (level of education)
 - Some jobs are highly revered but not necessarily highly paid such as firefighters or nurses
- Power refers to the ability to exercise one's will over others

[continue](#)

next theory is Functionalist

previous slide [back](#)



+ Functionalist Theory

- **Inequality is inevitable, necessary & even positive**
 - We are all part of a bigger picture and we all play a role in it
 - All societies have important tasks that must be accomplished
 - Some positions are more important than others for our survival and should be filled by the most qualified people
 - The most talented, trained individuals should be the most rewarded
 - The most highly rewarded positions should be those many rely on for expertise
- So essentially in order to make sure society functions and all needs are met, it is important to reward people appropriately to keep the whole thing running smoothly



+ Symbolic Interactionist Theory

- More of a micro theory than the other 2 which are macro or look at the bigger picture, this one looks more at the individual
- People make their own interpretations or meanings based on their experiences and interactions with others
- We understand things based on what our interactions have taught us (process of socialization where we come to understand what is expected of us so that we will succeed)
 - People are socialized to accept a stratified structured society and see power as something that is relative and can be negotiated between different people
 - They understand that they are part of a system and accept their role or expectations that others have for or from them

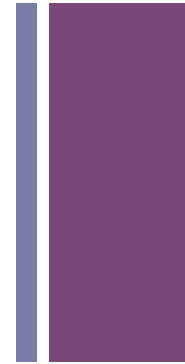


illustration on
slide 18

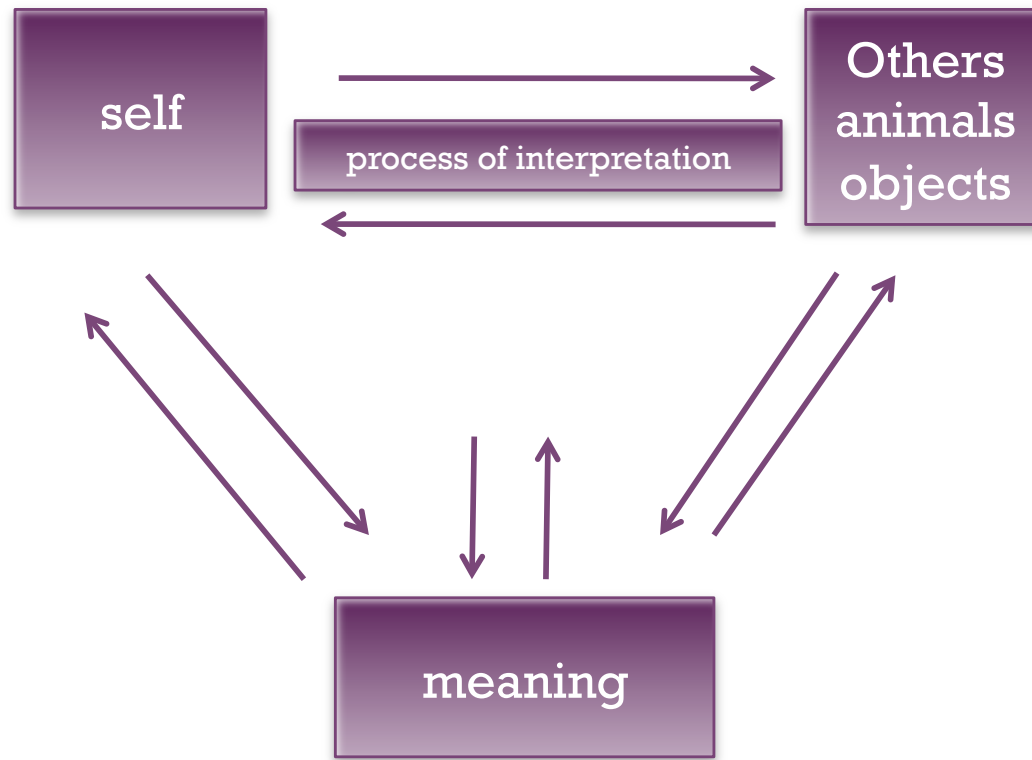
Cooley next slide

[go to consolidation](#) slide 19

[back](#) one slide to continue



*"I am not who I think I am,
I am who I think you think I am."
Charles Horton Cooley*



how my mom & dad see me how my girlfriend sees me how my older brother sees me how my ex girlfriend sees me



[back](#) two slides to continue



+ Consolidation *in pairs or small groups of 3 discuss & jot notes*

We will take these up together and hand them in as you are leaving

- Out of the 3 theories here, which do you think makes the most sense?
 - Do you agree with it as well, or just “get it”? Why or why not?
- Which do you think is the most confusing? Why?
- What is the difference between macro and micro?
- Charles Horton Cooley’s idea about the looking glass self is...
_____ *why or why not?*

very right sort of right not right clueless

- What do you think about slavery, the caste system and the class system? How similar and different are they to each other?
- How do you feel about the class system in Canada?

