

UniCamillus press series hosts all books written by the faculty of the Saint Camillus International University of Health and Medical Sciences and intended as textbooks for the degree courses.

The book series is based on the same fundamental values of the university – importance of research, continuous debate with the international community, scientific support for less developed countries – and the volumes represent the natural continuation of both faculty's and students' work.



UNICAMILLUS press series

International Medical University in Rome



UGO GIORGIO PACIFICI NOJA

Elements of Sociology

for Students of Health Disciplines

preface by Gianni Profita

afterword by Alessandro Boccanelli

UNICAMILLUS PRESS SERIES

tab edizioni

© 2020 Gruppo editoriale Tab s.r.l.
viale Manzoni 24/c
00185 Roma
www.tabedizioni.it

Prima edizione novembre 2020
ISBN 978-88-9295-086-3

È vietata la riproduzione, anche parziale,
con qualsiasi mezzo effettuata, compresa la
fotocopia, senza l'autorizzazione dell'editore.
Tutti i diritti sono riservati.

Table of Contents

p. 13 Preface by Gianni Profita

Introduction to sociology: the basic concepts

Part 1

17 Chapter 1

What is Sociology Today?

1.1. The Birth of Sociology, 18

1.2. Is Sociology a single discipline?, 19

23 Chapter 2

Some Basic Sociological Concepts

2.1. Society, 23

2.2. Social Groups, 24

2.3. Interaction, 24

2.4. Social Status, 24

2.5. Social Role, 25

2.6. Social Behaviour, 26

2.7. Sociological Imagination, 26

2.8. Social Influence, 27

2.9. Social Position, 27

2.1.0 Relationships Between Groups, 27

2.1.1. Social Relationship, 27

2.1.2. Social System, 27

- p. 29 Chapter 3
Method in Sociology
3.1. Can a sociologist express an opinion?, 29
3.2. Qualitative Methods, 31
3.3. Quantitative Methods, 32
- 33 Chapter 4
The Path of Sociology through some Authors
4.1. Émile Durkheim, 33
4.2. Maximilian Weber, 34
4.3. Pitirim Sorokin, 35
4.4. Georges Gurvitch, 36
4.5. Talcott Parsons, 37
4.6. Ithiel De Sola Pool, 38
4.7. Zygmunt Bauman, 39
4.8. Pierre Bourdieu, 40
4.9. Alain Touraine, 41
- 43 Chapter 5
The Different Perspectives of Sociology
5.1. Social Order, 43
5.2. Social Conflict, 44
5.3. Social Structure, 44
5.4. Social Action, 45
- 47 Chapter 6
Social Groups, Social Classes and Social Areas
6.1. Social Groups, 47
6.2. Primary Group, 49
6.3. Secondary Group, 50
6.4. Aggregate Group, 50
6.5. Virtual Group, 51

- p. 53 Chapter 7
Social Classes from ancient times to Max Weber
7.1. The Social Classes in Max Weber's View, 57
7.2. The Social Classes and their relationship with the establishment, 58
7.3. The intellectuals and their relationship with the establishment, 59
7.4. The real country and the legal country, 60
- 63 Chapter 8
Social Classes in the Different Historical Periods
8.1. Social Classes in Sylos-Labini's View, 68
- 73 Chapter 9
Does it still make sense to speak of social classes?
9.1. The Transformation of Social Classes into Social Areas, 74
9.2. Social Areas, 75
9.3. Affluent Area, 75
9.4. The Guaranteed Area, 76
9.5. Creativity Area, 77
9.6. The Area of Uncertainty, 78
9.7. The Area of Distress, 80
- 81 Chapter 10
The Structure of Society
10.1. The Bureaucracy, 81
10.2. Associations, 85
10.3. Organisations, 86
- Health in a society in evolution*
Part 2
- 97 Chapter 1
A Few Brief Historical Notes

- p. 101 Chapter 2
The Relationship between Sociology and Medicine
- 103 Chapter 3
The Three Phases of the Sociology of Medicine in Italy. From Medical Sociology to the Sociology of Health
- 105 Chapter 4
Some Aspects of Health Sociology Today
4.1. The Determinants of Health, 105
4.2. Medicine with the Patient and in the Health Services. Prevention, 113
- 117 Chapter 5
The Research Method in the Sociology of Health
5.1. The qualitative methods in the practice of social-health research include life stories or oral histories, 120
- 125 Chapter 6
Information Technology and Medicine. The Sociological Perspective
- 129 Chapter 7
When the Sociology of Healthcare Intersects with the Sociology of Work
7.1. Employment and Unemployment, 131
7.2. Part-Time Work, 132
7.3. New Training Requirements, 132
7.4. Major Roles in Healthcare from the Sociological Point of View, 135
- 141 Chapter 8
The Doctor's Dominant Position
8.1. The Figure of the Doctor in Society, 142

- 8.2. The Proletarianization of Doctors, 143
- 8.3. The Responsibility of Healthcare Professionals and Professional Errors in an Ethical and Socio-judicial Perspective, 143
- 8.4. Medical Error, 145

- p. 149 Chapter 9
Hospitals over the Centuries

- 153 Chapter 10
The New Healthcare Professions

- 159 Chapter 11
The Sociology of Nursing
 - 11.1 History, 159
 - 11.2. Some Figures Regarding the Profession, 160
 - 11.3. Professional Nurses Subdivided According to Age Groups, 161
 - 11.4. Transcultural Nursing, 163
 - 11.5. Transcultural Nursing: The Italian Case, 164

- 165 Chapter 12
A New Profession that Comes from Far Back in Time
 - 12.1. A Distinguishing Feature of the Obstetrician's Code of Ethics, 167

- 169 Chapter 13
Un'ipotesi di co-living per giovani e anziani nel borgo ripensato

- 173 Chapter 14
The Italian Society in the Time of Covid-19. Psychological and Social Problems Raised by the Medical Emergency
 - 14.1. What Happened During the Lockdown, 173
 - 14.2. The Italian Regions Most Hit by Covid-19, 175
 - 14.3. Infections in the Health Professions, 178
 - 14.4. Forced Confinement and How Italians Responded to it, 179
 - 14.5. What Happened After the End of Lockdown, 183

p. 187	Conclusions
191	Afterword by Alessandro Boccanelli
199	Thanks and acknowledgements

Preface

All of those who have participated in the construction project of “Unicamillus” University know that our University is based on some cornerstones.

First of all, the purpose to offer to young people not only a solid scientific background, but at the same time the challenge to give them an ethical framework where to put academic and future professional activities as well.

The university cannot limit itself to distribute knowledge and must not be either an “examination factory”. In fact, students must be able “to live” the subjects which are part of their study path. This experience escapes measurement through examinations.

This does not mean, anyway, that it is less important.

The nurse, the midwife, the MD and all those who practice the dozens of health professions provided by the (italian) health system must be a part of the society and they must know it and they have to be ready to interact with it. It is in this sense that the proposal to structure a “humanistic” examination divided into a plurality of subjects including not only general and health sociology, but anthropology, psychology, history of medicine as well, has found the academic bodies and the board of professors united in accepting this vision. Despite their different visions, great masters of sociology like Talcott Parsons and Robert King Merton have pointed out throughout their work the need for sociological knowledge for the advancement of health sciences.

The book by Ugo Giorgio Pacifici Noja, professor of general sociology and sociology of health at the University UniCamillus, fits in the wake of this conception to which our University has been linked since its creation.

Professor Pacifici Noja, whom our academic community has learned to deeply appreciate not only for his scientific contribution but for his “didactic empathy” with students as well, draws the students’ attention in putting in connection data and problems examined during the lessons with all the aspects of everyday life. Problems which are set out not only by media and newspapers, but by the encounter with “the others” too. Those “others” who have been qualified by sociologists like Giuseppe De Rita as the definition of “people” *tout court*. The Pacifici Noja’s book is therefore not only a compendium of the brilliant lessons held in the lecture halls of our university. This book is also a useful tool for understanding general sociology and health sociology, representing the demonstration too of a new concept of making university, making culture, making scientific activity. A conception that shows students a holistic path in which “to be a scientist” does not mean at all to ignore the sociological dimension of being a member of professional community and, ultimately, human community.

Gianni Profita

UniCamillus Rector Magnificus

Introduction to sociology: the basic concepts

part one

Chapter 1

What is Sociology Today?

Today we can define **sociology as the discipline that studies society¹ and social groups**.

Sociology's task today is to explain those aspects of **human behaviour** which are included in the concepts of **culture** and **society**. Others define sociology as the «scientific study of society, its institutions and social relationships»².

As a world-famous sociologist said, sociology «aims to make human behaviour less predictable by activating sources of internal, motivational decisions [...] – providing human beings with a wider knowledge of their situation, and thus of widening the sphere of their freedom of action»³.

In other words, sociology develops different analyses of society and its categories which are useful tools to understand **complex behaviours, social norms** and **the choices society makes**⁴.

1. Christophe Guilluy, sees the end of society as such as a result of the disappearance of the middle class. This point of view can be compared with the late British political leader Margaret Thatcher's stance, which she had already expressed in *La società non esiste*, Luiss, 2019.

2. Alessandro Orsini, ed., *Course of General Sociology* (Corso di Sociologia Generale), il Mulino, 2019, p. 5.

3. Quoted in Carmen Leccardi, *Zygmunt Bauman: Critical Sociology and Ethical Commitment in the Era of Globalization* (Zygmunt Bauman: sociologia critica e impegno etico nell'epoca della globalizzazione), in *Sociologies of our Times* (Sociologie contemporanee), Maurizio Ghisleni e Walter Privitera, ed., Utet, 2009, p. 4.

4. Maurizio Ambrosini, Loredana Sciolla, *Sociology* (Sociologia), Mondadori, 2019, pp. 6-7.

1.1. The Birth of Sociology

In 1813 the French philosopher **Henri-Claude de Saint-Simon**⁵ had the insight to create a new “**science of man**” that seeks to study how society is structured⁶.

This was an insight that ceased to be such, insofar as Saint-Simon never developed it nor did he provide scientific proof for it⁷.

A few years later, **Auguste Comte**⁸, who is generally credited with being the founder of modern sociology, stated in his course of **Positive philosophy** that it was necessary to create a **new science** (that would deal with society), which later came to be called **sociology**⁹.

Addressing in 1824 his personal friend **Jacques-Pierre Valat**¹⁰, a professor of mathematics and former rector of the **Academy of Aveyron**, Comte mentioned in a letter the need to create a discipline that would deal with society. In another letter, dated 27 February, 1827 (accompanying a *paquet* of articles authored by Comte), addressed to the biologist **Henri de Blainville**, Comte asked him for an opinion on how to re-organise the study of society he proposed. For the first time the term *sociology* – comprising etymologically two words, **societas** (Latin for **society**) and **logia** (λογία) (Greek for **study**) – had already been used by the Abbé Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès around 1780¹¹. But Comte used the term *sociologie* in Tome IV of his course of *Philosophie Positive* to dispute

5. Claude-Henri de Rouvroy de Saint-Simon, better known as Henri Saint-Simon (Paris, 17 October 1780 – Paris, 19 May 1825), is known also for having taken in part in the American War of Independence under the French general Gilbert du Motier de La Fayette, better known as La Fayette (Chavaniac, 6 September 1757 – Paris, 20 May 1834).

6. Claude Henri de Saint – Simon, *Memoir on the Science of Man* (Mémoire sur la science de l’homme), Frères Van Meenen et Cie, Imprimeurs, Bruxelles, 1839.

7. Henri de Lubac, *The Drama of Atheistic Humanism* (Il dramma dell’umanesimo ateo), Jaca Book 1992, p. 120; Giulio Bruni Rocchia, *Political Science in a Changing Society* (La scienza politica nella società in trasformazione), volume 1, Giuffrè, 1970, p. 116.

8. Auguste Comte (Montpellier, 19 January 1798 – Paris, 5 September 1857).

9. Cfr. Auguste Comte, *A Course in Positive Philosophy* (Cours de philosophie positive), Bachelier, Paris, 1839, p. 525.

10. https://data.bnf.fr/fr/10647276/jacques_pierre_valat/.

11. V. Archives Nationales de France, coll. 284AP.

the term *Social Physics* used by Adolphe Quételet¹². **Sociology is thus the study of society**. However, sociology only managed to free itself from philosophy – its parent – towards the end of the 19th century. At least two distinct phenomena can be traced back to the base of sociology in the proper sense of the term. On the one hand many experience a break following a number of events that marked a cut-off point with the 18th century. On the other, some acknowledge the intellectual heritage handed down by such thinkers as Hobbes and Montesquieu and Louis de Jaucourt.

1.2. Is Sociology a single discipline?¹³

In general, we can say that rather than being a single science, sociology must be regarded as a “cluster” of different disciplines which are grounded in common principles and methodologies, but which single authors approach from different perspectives. Indeed, the single sociological disciplines, though starting from the principles peculiar to general sociology, refer to different issues linked to society – from sport¹⁴ to culture¹⁵, religion¹⁶, the army¹⁷, industry¹⁸,

12. Compare with Uliano Conti, *Organicism* (Organicismo), in Rosanna Memoli, ed., *Intersections across Disciplines. Developing Concepts for Social Research* (Intersezioni tra discipline. Elaborare concetti per la ricerca sociale), FrancoAngeli, 2014, p. 34.

13. Franco Ferrarotti, *An Alternative Sociology. From Sociology as a Technique of Conformism to Critical Sociology* (Una sociologia alternativa. Dalla sociologia come tecnica del conformismo alla sociologia critica), De Donato, Bari, 1972.

14. Irene Strazzeri, *An Introduction to the Sociology of Sport* (Introduzione alla Sociologia dello Sport), Lampi di Stampa, 2018.

15. Sergio Belardinelli e Leonardo Allodi, *Sociology of Culture* (Sociologia della Cultura), FrancoAngeli, 2006.

16. See for ex., John Milton Yinger, *Sociologia della Religione*, Boringhieri, 1961, Franco Ferrarotti, Roberto Cipriani, *Sociology of the Religious Phenomenon* (Sociologia del fenomeno religioso), Bulzoni, 1974.

17. Fabrizio Battistelli, Teresa Ammendola, Lorenzo Greco, *Manual of Military Sociology: Including Elements of Social Psychology* (Manuale di sociologia militare: con elementi di psicologia sociale), FrancoAngeli, 2008.

18. See for ex., Ralf Dahrendorf, *Sociologia dell'industria e dell'azienda*, Jaca Book, 1967.

law¹⁹, politics²⁰, literature²¹ – all the while using different research tools.

Amongst the different perspectives used by sociologists, let us here mention the distinction between **microsociology** and **macrosociology**.

Microsociology is the sociology that deals with the interactions of single units – both individuals or groups – (for example between a commercial trader and his clients) and their behaviour (for example the behaviour of individual owners within a condominium).

Macrosociology is the sociology that deals with the backbone of society (institutions, for ex. political and administrative ones), economic systems (for ex. the capitalist and socialist systems), organisations (for ex. cultural foundations and associations), and educational institutions (for ex. universities and vocational training institutions).

Sociologists in the field of macrosociology crucially deal with processes of change, i.e., the transformations which take place. Macrosociology also deals with the relationships that occur between these different types of entities.

Box 1

Microsociological Theories

The Exchange Theory was developed by George Homans, and is based on the relationship between costs and benefits. According to this theory, people repeat behavioural patterns for which they have been rewarded. Inversely, they avoid behaviour that has caused them to be punished.

The Ethnomethodological Theory was developed by Harold Garfinkel. It studies people's understanding of the practical reasoning on which everyday relationships are based.

The Dramaturgical Model Theory was developed by Erving Goffman. It uses the theatre as a metaphor to describe the interaction between people.

The Symbolic Interactionism Theory was developed by Herbert Blumer following an insight by George Herbert Mead. People respond to the symbols conveyed by individual actions (for ex. hand gestures to communicate that the food is tasty or that an action needs to be interrupted).

19. See for ex., Georges Gurvitch, *Sociology of Law* (Sociologia del diritto), Edizioni di Comunità, 1957.

20. See for ex., Jean-Pierre Cot, Jean-Pierre Mounier, *Notes for a Political Sociology* (Per una sociologia politica), Garzanti, 1976.

21. See for ex., Arnaldo Zambardi, *Notes for a Sociology of Literature* (Per una sociologia della letteratura), Bulzoni, 1973.

Box 2**Macrosociological Theories**

The Functionalism Theory: was started by Bronislaw Malinowski and developed by Talcott Parsons and later by Robert King Merton. For Malinowski a function is the usefulness which a phenomenon represents for order in a society as well as its survival. Talcott Parsons holds that every system needs to accomplish four functions in order to continue to exist in time: a) adaptation to the external environment; b) attainment of goals; c) integration; d) latency or system maintenance. Merton holds that it is necessary to subsist between manifest functions (intentionally pursued goals) and latent functions (functions that are either not recognized or are even unwanted by the individuals involved).

The Theory of Structuralism²²: was first started in the 19th century by the linguist Ferdinand de Saussure, and then developed from the 1960s onwards by the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss. According to Lévi-Strauss, a structure is a theoretical model which the researcher develops in order to explain the functioning of a phenomenon he is analysing. In Michel Foucault's research, the power structure is at the centre of the doctor-patient relationship, both in the case of illness and in the case of madness²³.

The Theory of Critical Sociology²⁴: is a doctrine which, in the framework of the tasks of sociology, attributes central importance to sociology's contribution to the improvement of society or, as has been said differently, «critical sociology is the science that studies the structure of society from the point of view of the rising class with the aim of transforming it rationally»²⁵.

The Theory of Dynamic Sociology²⁶: Dynamic sociology is a doctrine which allows us to observe social phenomena from the point of view of their evolution.

22. Cfr. Jean Piaget, *Structuralism* (Lo strutturalismo), Il Saggiatore, 1994.

23. «La folie est offerte à la connaissance dans une structure qui est, d'entrée de jeu, aliénante», Michel Foucault, *Histoire de la folie à l'âge classique*, Gallimard, 1972, p. 479.

24. «Une sociologie critique a pour univers de référence non des faits, mais des mondes possibles dont le réel ne constitue qu'un segment. La sociologie critique soutient donc qu'une science qui se prétend réflexive ne peut faire l'impasse sur les jugements de valeur secrétés par son explication du monde», Jean De Munck, «*Les trois dimensions de la sociologie critique*», *SociologieS* [Online], Research experiments, *Régimes d'explication en sociologie*, Online since 06 July 2011, connection on 03 May 2020, url: <http://journals.openedition.org/sociologies/3576>.

25. Franco Ferrarotti, *An Alternative Sociology. From Sociology as a Technique of Conformism to Critical Sociology* (Una sociologia alternativa. Dalla sociologia come tecnica del conformismo alla sociologia critica), De Donato, 1972, p. 7.

26. Dynamic sociology is the result of the synthesis of contributions from different authors which are important for the progress of sociological thought and the definition of some of the discipline's key concepts, such as for ex. Lester Frank Ward *Dynamics Sociology*, Appleton & Company, 1883, who can surely be considered a forerunner; on this point see also Claude Rivière, *Dynamic analysis in sociology* (L'analyse dynamique en sociologie), PUF, 1978.