

School of Social, Political and Global Studies Sociology

Some activities to get you (re-)started with Sociology from the Sociology team at Keele University

Start here: <http://www.discoversociology.co.uk/>

What is sociology?

Start here <https://youtu.be/BG46lwVfSu8> The narrator talks about (social) psychology here, but the 'applied' version of EMPATHY (understanding others) is fundamental to what sociology is about, but it is done at the 'social' level (not just in individual/small groups).

Some themes you might be interested in:

EDUCATION:

Watch: Watch this episode of Educating Essex:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/educating-essex/on-demand/49967-003>

Watch this episode of an old documentary on Eton:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxG8DiLU_tA

Think: Some questions for you:

Would Vinni have got on better at Eton? Or worse? Google what he is doing now. Would the Eton boys have got on well at Vinni's school?

What are the things IN school, and OUT OF school that help different kinds of kids get on well, or not? What are the things IN school that pupils have to do to help them 'get on' that are NOT schoolwork – think about this at Vinni's school, Eton and your school/college.

Read: Then have a look at this article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/nov/21/english-class-system-shaped-in-schools>

CRIME & DEVIANCE

Watch any American 'HEIST' or 'CAPER' movie on eg Netflix. Some good examples might be *Ocean's 11* or *Logan Lucky*

Think about the following things:

To what extent is crime '*just like work*' for the people in the film? What do you think the idea of the '*American Dream*' means? Do you think the characters in the film have legal ways of succeeding at the '*American Dream*'? Why/why not?

Watch this for a bit more of the 'sociology' behind these questions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCuGJB1f8gQ>

CULTURE, IDENTITY (& Religion)

Watch the film *THE MISSION* [1986]

Think about the following things [note: there are no right answers in sociology...! ;D]:

Which historical period is this set in and what kinds of global 'trading' is going on in this period? Which group is coloniser and which is indigenous? What different religions/identities/cultural practices are shown in the film? What role does music play (both in the film, and for the audience watching it)

Think about the concept of Empathy set out in the first little video above. How do colonisers RELATE to the colonised? How do missionaries RELATE to their 'subjects'? Do any of the characters in the film develop new empathy?

How are race and religion depicted in the film? Have things changed since this historical period, do you think?

'RESEARCH METHODS'

In sociology (another big idea, but you can think of this in relation to *The Mission* as well)

Another big question sociology (and particularly anthropology) thinks about is **how** do we develop knowledge of other groups/societies? Do we go 'in' with OUR values/ideas and decide whether other people should live like us? Or do we do in 'gently' and find out how their values/ideas are different to ours? In some ways the film mirrors some of that challenge – a scientific one of how we should go about collecting 'data'.

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Watch some early episodes of the TV show *Modern Family*. In what ways is The Family/the families in this show 'modern'? In what ways are they 'not modern at all'?

To do: Have you got a family history document/website for both sides of your family? How has the number of children in family units changed over time? Can you ring your oldest relatives and ask them who they grew up with in their household as children? And as young adults? Compare the size and make-up of households across the generations. Do some historical research on some of the reasons family size, household size and the definition of the 'child' has changed over time.

How do attitudes about what children 'are' change over time, and space? Have a look at this infographic on child marriage: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Child-marriage-and-Human-Rights-Infographic-1200px.jpg> Can you find similar infographics (from credible organisations) on child labour and child soldiering?

While you're at it, have a look at 'You Should've Asked' by graphic artist Emma (scroll down for the cartoon story): <https://english.emmaclit.com/2017/05/20/you-shouldve-asked/>

Think about **why** having children changes women's experience of home and work, but doesn't seem to change men's as much. How do you think this will help you understand this data:

<https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infographic/changingworldofwork/en/index.html>