Chapter 4

SOCIALIZATION
Section 1

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIALIZATION
**SOCIALIZATION & PERSONALITY**

- **Socialization** ➔ the process of learning to participate in a group
- How do we know socialization is important?
- How do monkeys react to social isolation?
  + Harry Harlow
- Can we generalize from monkeys to humans?
HARLOW EXPERIMENT
Case Studies on Isolated Children: Anna & Isabelle

- Anna & Isabelle were socially and emotionally abused
- Traumatic childhoods
THE FUNCTIONALIST & CONFLICT PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIALIZATION

- How does the functionalist perspective explain socialization?
  - Stresses the ways in which groups work together to create a stable society

- How does the conflict perspective explain socialization?
  - Views socialization as perpetuating the status quo
SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM & SOCIALIZATION

How does symbolic interactionism help us understand socialization?

+ **The self-concept** (an image of yourself as having an identity separate from other people)
+ **The looking-glass self** (an image of yourself based on what you believe others think of you)
+ **Significant others** (those people whose reactions are most important to you)
+ **Role taking** (assuming the viewpoint of another person and using that viewpoint to shape the self concept)
  - **Imitation stage** → Mead’s first stage in the development of role taking, children begin to imitate behaviors without understanding why
  - **Play stage** → Mead’s second stage in the development of role taking, children act in ways they imagine other people would
  - **Game stage** → Mead’s third stage in the development of role taking, children anticipate the actions of others based on social rules
+ **The generalized other** (integrated conception of the norms, values, and beliefs of one’s community or society)
“me” is the part of the self formed through socialization
“I” is the part of the self that accounts for unlearned, spontaneous acts
# Focus on Theoretical Perspectives

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theoretical Perspective</th>
<th>View of Socialization</th>
<th>How the Media Influence Socialization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Functionalism</td>
<td>Stresses how socialization contributes to a stable society.</td>
<td>Network television programs encourage social integration by exposing the entire society to shared beliefs, values and norms.</td>
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<td>Conflict Theory</td>
<td>View socialization as a way for the powerful to keep things the same.</td>
<td>Newspaper owners and editors exercise power by setting the political agenda for a community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symbolic Interactionism</td>
<td>Holds that socialization is the major determinant of human nature</td>
<td>Through words and pictures, children’s books expose the young to the meaning of love, manners, and motherhood.</td>
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Section 3

AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION
THE FAMILY & SOCIALIZATION

- Within the family the child learns to:
  1. Think & speak
  2. Internalize norms, beliefs, and values
  3. Form some basic attitudes
  4. Develop a capacity for intimate and personal relationships
  5. Acquire a self-image
How do schools socialize students?

- **Hidden curriculum** (the informal and official aspects of culture that children are taught in school)
- John Holt
How do peer groups contribute to socialization?

- Peer groups (set of individuals of roughly the same age and interests)

Do friends or family have more influence on young people? → Judith Harris
What role do the mass media play to socialization?

What about violence in the mass media (means of communication designed to reach the general population)?
Section 4

PROCESSES OF SOCIALIZATION
DESOCIALIZATION & RESOCIALIZATION

- How does desocialization prepare people for new learning?
  - **Total institutions** → places in which people are separated from the rest of society & controlled by officials in charge
  - **Desocialization** → the process of giving up old norms, values, attitudes & behaviors

- How does resocialization help?
  - **Resocialization** → the process of adopting new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors
ANTICIPATORY SOCIALIZATION

- **Anticipatory socialization** ➔ the voluntary process of preparing to accept new norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors

- **Reference group** ➔ group whose norms and values are used to guide behavior, group with whom you identify