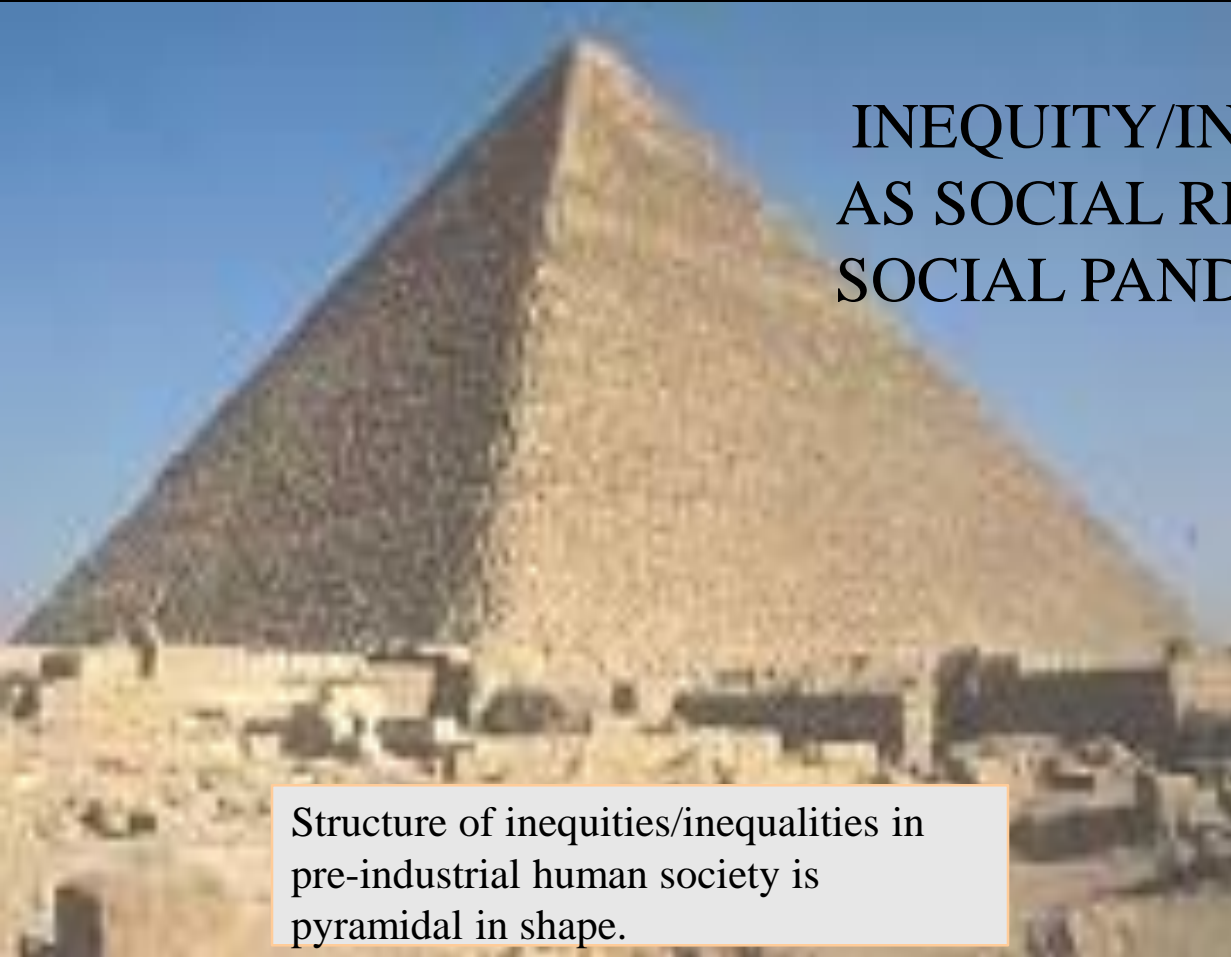# SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
LIVING AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE HIERARCHY OF ELITE DOMINANT SOCIETY

INEQUITY/INEQUALITY ARE AS SOCIAL REGULARITY IS A SOCIAL PANDEMIC

Structure of inequities/inequalities in pre-industrial human society is pyramidal in shape.

Structure of inequity/inequality in industrial and post-industrial capitalist societies is diamond in shape.

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Presentation Contents

MOTIVATE:

– **Relevancy: Why we should be concerned about systems of social hierarchy [inequities/inequalities] in human societies and the strategies to address them:**

- **The Narrative of Social Stratification**
- **The Story of Social Stratification**
- **Strategies to Address Social Stratification**
- **Sociology 100 Journey Part 2**

◆ **The world is not flat, yet.**

– It is a place of a systemic social pandemic of intersected vertical mosaic with terrible impacts.

– The impacts can be eliminated by the application of the science of society.

◆ THE NARRATIVE

◆ The Elite own and rule the world:

– A significant social regularity of stratified human societies is that there is a bias in favor of the social elite. That is, a small percentage of the population have so much more of valued resources than others. COVID-19 pandemic has clearly revealed and increased this social pandemic.

◆ **THE SOCIOLOGICAL NARRATIVE OF STRATIFICATION**

♦ **The point is that inequitable access to resources and unequal relations are social constructs that are real, systemic, global, and damaging to the world and the greater majority of people in human society.**

♦ **Are you crazy enough to think you can change the inequitable access and unequal social relationships to facilitate upward social mobility for all?**

THE MAJOR CONCEPT & KEY CONCEPTS IN THE MAIN ARGUMENT IN THIS LECTURE: These Key Concepts provide the language to explore and unpack what the Major Concept of Social Stratification is and what it is not.

- ◆ **Social Stratification**
- ◆ **Social <u>Inequity</u> and Social <u>Inequality</u>**
  - – **Wealth and Poverty: Material Capital, Social Capital, Cultural Capital**
  - – **Poverty Line: LICO, MBM, LIM**
  - – **Homelessness/Houselessness**
- ◆ **Complexity of the Social Structure: Gini Index or Coefficient, Lorenz Curve, and Kuznets Curve**
  - – **Closed Society: Caste Systems**
  - – **Semi-Closed Society: Slave System**
  - – **Semi-Open Society: Clan System and Feudal System**
  - – **Open Society: Class System**
  - – **Capitalist Society**
  - – **Intersectionality**
- ◆ **<u>Social Mobility</u>:**
  - – **Horizontal**
  - – **Vertical**
  - – **Structural**
  - – **Intra-generational and Inter-generational**
- ◆ **Sociological Paradigms/Theories**

◆ If you are interested in the definitions, illustrations, applications of the key concepts of Social Stratification, and opportunities to engage in changemaking, continue to review the rest of the presentation.

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
1. INEQUITY/INEQUALITY

◆ '…at the core of a great deal of sociological work lies the study of social inequalities. Many sociologists, both in the past and today, have been preoccupied with how and why some people, communities, and groups find themselves 'ahead' of others. Many have wondered about and studied why, all too often, a privileged few hold more status, power, and prestige than the vast majority of those around them" (Albanese, 2023, p. 83)

◆ "Success" is not simply about individual qualities, skills, or vices. Instead, our societies, social groups, and communities have built in structural barriers and inequities that disadvantage some individuals and groups and privilege others" (Ibid.).
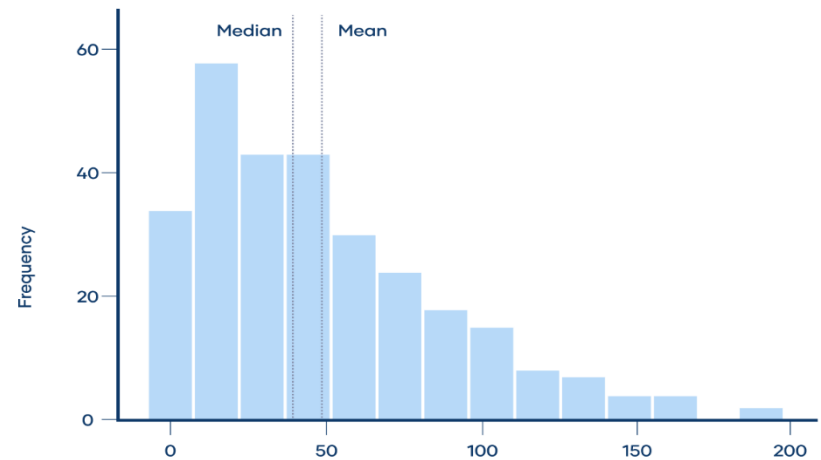
DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME/WEALTH

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
1. INEQUITY/INEQUALITY

ELITE: THE ARISTOCRATS

SLAVES, LOWER CASTES, SERFS, COMMONERS

ELITE: THE UPPER CLASS

SOCIAL REGULARITY: A small percentage of the population have so much more of valued resources than others. COVID-19 has made the gap wider.

THE MASSES

◆ Inequities/inequalities in pre-industrial human society are pyramidal in shape. That is, the greater majority of the population occupy the base of the inequity/inequality structure and experience poverty. The diamond-shaped inequity/inequality structure emerged in industrial capitalist society. In this society many people emerge from poverty and become middle class. However, with the emergence and growth of the middle class comes the lower class (the hidden or working poor) and the underclass (the perennially poor) occupying the bottom of the diamond-shaped inequity/inequality system. The irony is that in the post-industrial capitalist society the middle class shrinks.
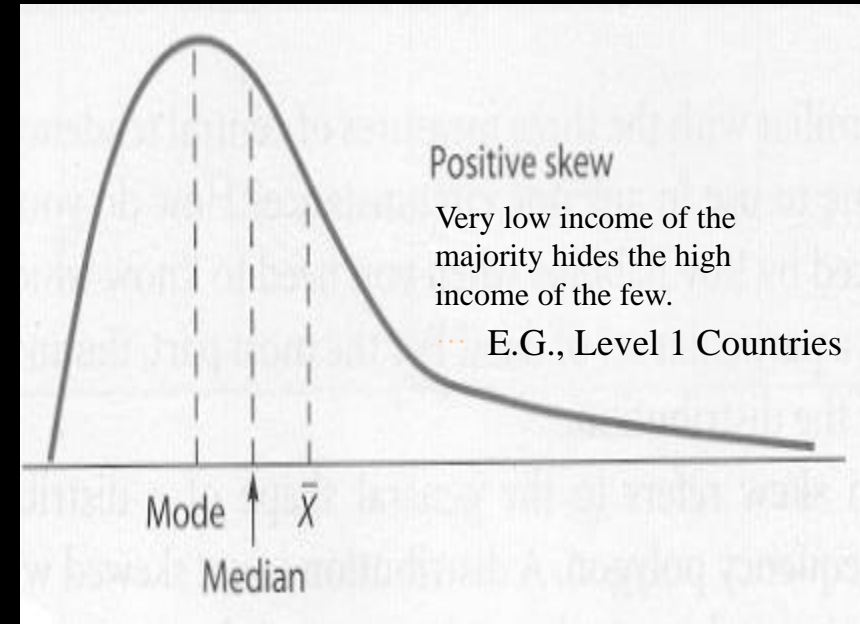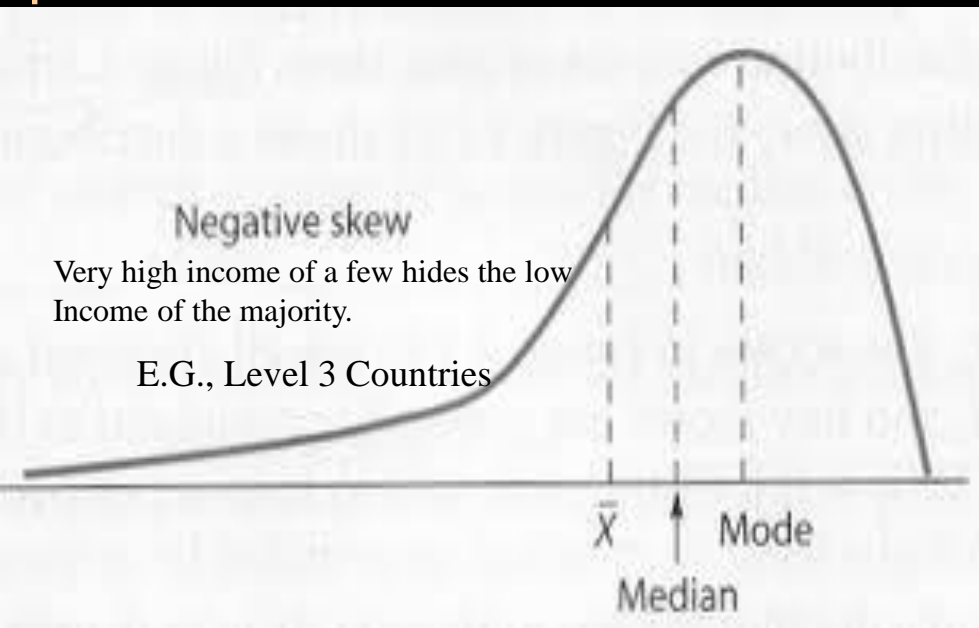
  – In modern industrial capitalist societies, the political, economic, and legal systems are all biased in favour of the economic and social elite (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 141)

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
2. SKEWED CURVE OR ASYMMETRICAL DISTRIBUTION?

Negative skew

Very high income of a few hides the low Income of the majority.

E.G., Level 3 Countries

$\bar{X}$ Mode

Median

Positive skew

Very low income of the majority hides the high income of the few.

E.G., Level 1 Countries

Mode $\bar{X}$

Median

THE CASE OF USA: In this expansionist economic tide there were winners and losers. The winners are the super-wealthy plutocrats. In 1965, an average CEO salary was forty times as much as the average wage; today that number is more than 300 times as much. Today, the top 5 per cent of households possess nearly 75 per cent of the nation's wealth, while the bottom 60 per cent of American households have lost wealth (The Bullet, February 7, 2021).

'The level of inequality is a strong predictor of health and social problems in the countries of the Global North. Canada appears in the middle and the USA is almost "off the chart" (see Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 138)

Majority of population have
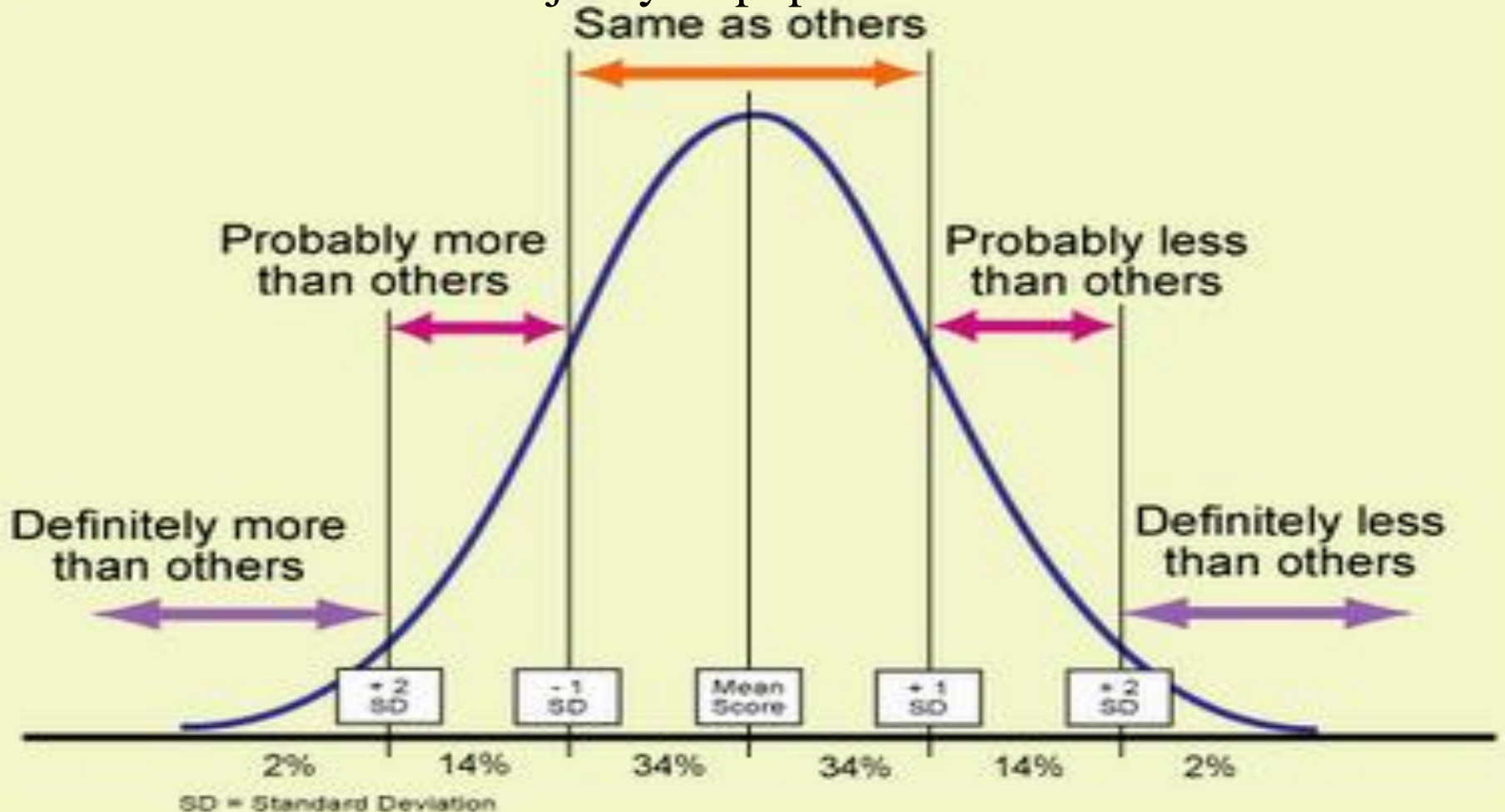
Gini Coefficient

Gini coefficient = A/(A+B)

$$= \frac{\text{(area between 45-degree line and Lorenz curve)}}{\text{(area under 45-degree line)}}$$

0=Everyone has the same wealth
100=One person has all the wealth
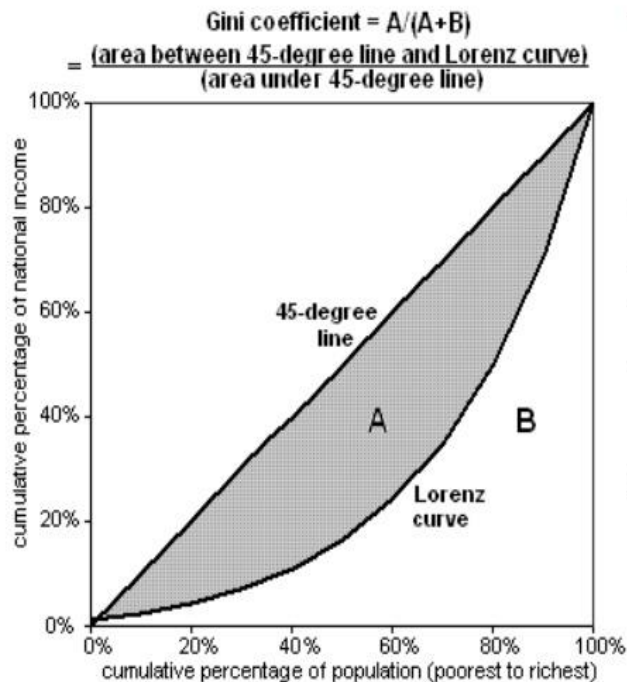
◆ The US Census Bureau has collected data on inequality since 1967. America's Gini coefficient has risen by 22% since then. If we focus on the top 10%, or even worse, the top 1%, the gap has grown even more sharply. These groups have seen their share of national income rise almost everywhere in the world—but among the developed nations, nowhere has it spiked more than in America. In 1970, the top 1% of income earners captured less than 10% of the national income. In 2019, the number passed 20%. By contrast, the bottom 50% of earners have seen their share of income go in the opposite direction, from 22% in 1970 to 15% today. And finally, when you calculate inequality by wealth , rather than by income, the results are almost unimaginable. The top 10% of America owns almost 70% of the total wealth of the country—from houses and cars to stocks and bonds—while the bottom 50% own just 1.5% of assets (Zakaria, Fareed, 2020, p. 160)
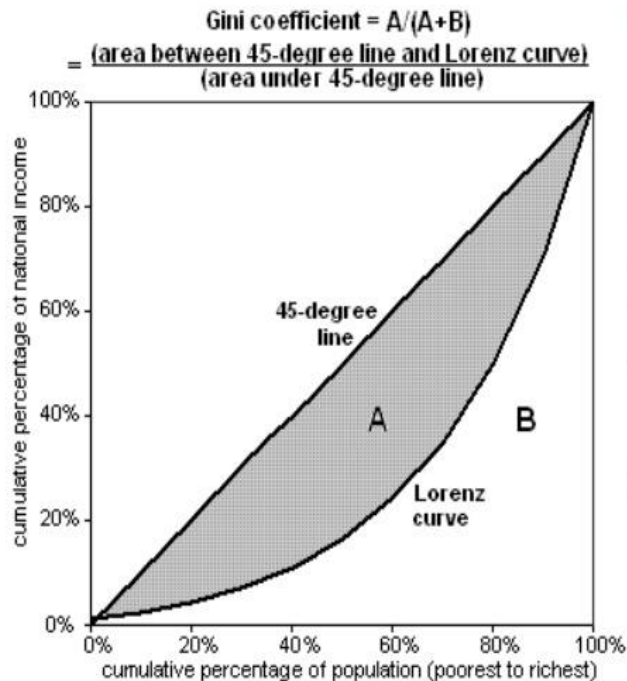
Gini Coefficient

Gini coefficient = A/(A+B)

= $\frac{\text{(area between 45-degree line and Lorenz curve)}}{\text{(area under 45-degree line)}}$

[Graph showing cumulative percentage of national income on y-axis (0% to 100%) versus cumulative percentage of population (poorest to richest) on x-axis (0% to 100%). The graph shows the 45-degree line, with area A between the 45-degree line and the Lorenz curve, and area B below the Lorenz curve.]

2

0=Everyone has the same wealth
100=One person has all the wealth

◆ A small number of Canadians are extremely wealthy and powerful. In 2015, the wealthiest 1 per cent of Canadian tax filers held 11.2 per cent of the national total income—up considerably from the 7 per cent they held in the early 1980s (Statistics Canada, 2017a). To have a better understanding of what this wealth means, consider Linda McQuaig and Neil Brook's illustration: if the Thomson Family, one of Canada's wealthiest families, started to count their wealth at $1.00 per second and counted non-stop day and night, they would have it all counted up in approximately 700 years (2010). This is wealth beyond most of our wildest imaginations (Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 115-116)

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
5. KUZNETS CURVE OF THE EVOLUTION OF SOCIAL INEQUITIES IN HUMAN SOCIETIES
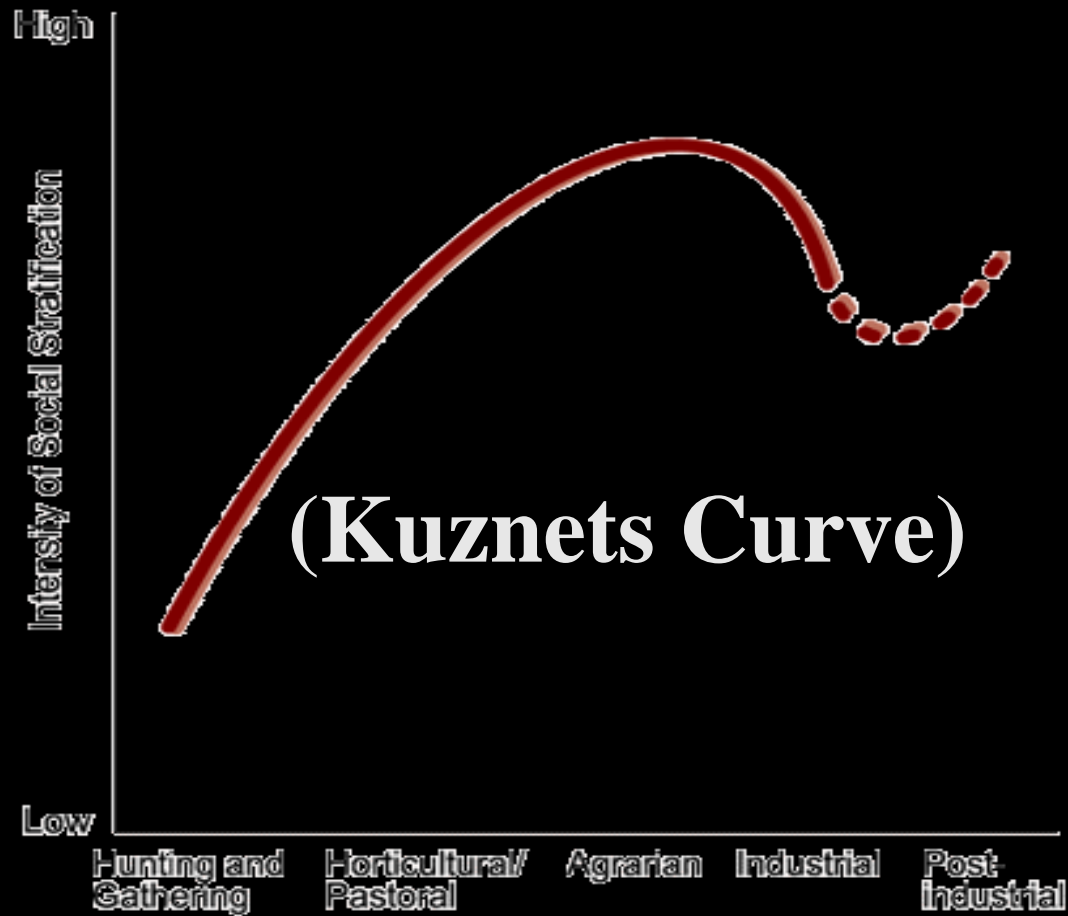
(Kuznets Curve)

INVERSE CORRELATION BETWEEN EQUALITY AND MOBILITY

◆ Kuznets Curve of Inequality, Gini Index or Coefficient & Lorenz Curve (Ravelli & Webber 2014, pp. 189, 197-199) are measurements that express social change from closed society through semi-closed and semi-open society to open society and back to closed society. That is, from egalitarian (more equity/equality), through less equity/equality, to more inequity/inequality :

– That is, society changes from more economic equity/equality and less social mobility in hunting-gathering societies through less economic equity/equality and more social mobility in industrial Societies to the postindustrial capitalist societies where economic inequity/inequality declines a bit and begins to rise again.

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
6. SYSTEMIC UNEQUAL RELATIONS AND INEQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Stratified [layered] Rock-faces I photographed in CROATIA

Croatia

◆**"Inequality is an inevitable fact of social life. In all societies, people are evaluated on the basis of some characteristic (or set of characteristics) and placed into higher- or lower-ranking groups. People in the higher ranking groups tend to receive disproportionately larger shares of valued social stuff (such as wealth, power and respect). People in lower-ranking groups tend to receive correspondingly smaller shares of these social rewards"** (McIntyre 2006, p. 183).

THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:
6. SYSTEMIC UNEQUAL RELATIONS AND INEQUITABLE ACCESS TO RESOURCES

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IS SYSTEMIC:

◆ "Social stratification affects almost every aspect of our lives—from the clothes we wear, to the location of our homes, to the level of education we obtain, to the method we use to commute to work or school everyday. Even our health and well-being are influenced by our location in the social hierarchy" (Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 107).
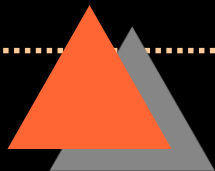
6. SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IS BEYOND THE MICRO

◆ SOCIAL STRATIFICATION focuses on "the ways groups are layered in society into hierarchies rather than on individual circumstances" (Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 107).

– **That is, the prevalence of classed, gendered and racialized inequalities in Canadian society cannot be explained by reference to individual acts of discrimination. Classism, sexism, and racism have less to do with consciously classist, sexist and racist attitudes and more to do with the organization of collective social relationships (Creese 2011, p. 110)**

HOMELESSNESS

◆ See pp. 155-157 of Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021)

♦ In recent decades, Canadian cities have experienced a housing crisis in line with exponential increases in real estate prices. This crisis has further intensified the lack of affordable housing in cities, creating an increase in open homelessness and "hidden homelessness"—people without homes who temporarily stay with friends or family rather than in shelters or public spaces (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 155).

◆POVERTY

♦ **Watch the Ted Talk clip:**

- **https://www.ted.com/talks/jacqueline_novogratz_on_an_escape_from_poverty**

Two Types of Poverty:
1. ABSOLUTE POVERTY:
Living below the minimum level of subsistence
2. RELATIVE POVERTY:
Living below the standard or average subsistence of one's society.

"Canada faces many challenges today nationally and internationally, but one of the greatest is the absolute and relative poverty, on average, of Indigenous peoples in this country" (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 152).

The best definition of what constitutes poverty is found in the United Nations (1998) definition: poverty is not only a lack of the income needed to fulfill basic needs (for example water, food, and clothing); it is also about deprivation of choice and lack of access to important resources like health care, education, and political representation. Thus, poverty goes well beyond basic needs and also focuses on human dignity (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 149).

SOCIOLOGICAL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

◆ 1. Public Engagement and Connecting with other Disciplines to construct:

- ♦ "Sociology for People" (Dorothy Smith, 2005)
- ♦ "Sociology for Changing the World" (C. G. Frampton *et al,* 2006)
- ♦ "Sociology for Decolonization of the Lifeworld" (G. Scambler, 1996, p. 579)
- ♦ Transdisciplinary Sociology connecting with transdisciplinary realities [social worlds] (William K. Carol, 2013. UVic: "Discipline, Field, Nexus: Re-visioning Sociology", *Canadian Journal of Sociology).*

SOCIOLOGICAL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

◆ 2. Practical application of sociological concepts and paradigms to:

◆ a) connecting knowledge and practice through dialogue and brainstorming from multiple perspectives or view points

◆ b) empower students to acquire the capacity to inquire, to create, to innovate, and to challenge (Noam Chomsky, 2014)

  – **It's not a matter of accumulating some fixed array of facts which then you can write down on a test and forget about [them] tomorrow. Rather you're expected to tell when I am wrong, to come up with new ideas, to challenge existing knowledge/practices, to pursue some direction that hadn't been thought of before. That's what real education is at every level, and that's what ought to be encouraged. That ought to be the purpose of education. It's not to pour information into somebody's head which will then leak out, but to enable them to become creative independent people (Noam Chomsky, 2014)**.
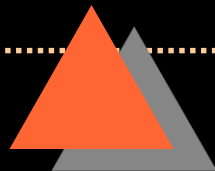
◆**3.** Join the "New Radicals [factivists—Bono 2013], people who find ways to put skills acquired in their careers [and their education] to work on the world's greatest challenges" (Julia Moulden, 2010) http://www.huffingtonpost.com/julia-moulden/

SOCIOLOGICAL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

◆ 4. BILL GATES' IDEA

◆ "…please ask yourself, should our best minds be dedicated to solving our biggest problems? Should Harvard encourage its faculty [and students] to take on the worlds worst inequities? Should Harvard students know about the depth of global poverty, the prevalence of world hunger, the scarcity of clean water, the girls kept out of school, the children who die from diseases we can cure? Should the world's most privileged learn about the lives of the world's least privileged?...When you consider what those of us here have been given in talent, privilege and opportunity, there is almost no limit to what the world has a right to expect from us…Take on big inequities…For a few hours every week you can use the growing power of the internet to get informed, find others with the same interests, see the barriers and find ways to cut through them. Don't let complexity stop you... You have awareness of global inequity which we did not have. And with that awareness, you likely also have an informed conscience that will torment you if you abandon these people whose lives you could change with modest effort...I hope you will not judge yourselves based on your professional accomplishments alone but also on how well you have addressed the world's deepest inequities (Bill Gates: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPx5N6Lh3sw)

ACADEMIC READING & WRITING

◆ <u>Main Theme:</u>

  ◆ Inequitable access and unequal relations.

◆ <u>Central Question:</u>

◆ What are the sources of social stratification—the intersected systemic inequitable access and unequal societal locations (class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.), their effects (on the human body, the brain, the environment) and the lifeworlds, and how do these impacts change over time, with growing societal complexities?

◆ <u>Main Thesis:</u>

◆ Social relationships and social practice in social stratification systems are human social constructs that impact social realities, the human body, the brain, the physical environment, and the lifeworlds. Human social constructs could be deconstructed and reconstructed to change their impacts on social realities, the body, the brain, the environment, and the lifeworlds.

SOCIOLOGY 100 JOURNEY PART 2:

◆ <u>Main Argument:</u>

◆ The prevalence of social stratification in the form of intersected systemic social relationships and practices (classed, gendered and racialized, etc., inequities and inequalities) in human society usually damages the body and the brain of people in subordinate locations, raises their propensity to get involved in crime (petty criminality and criminal innovation); increases their rate of emotional burnout, becoming teen moms, dropping out of school, living in poverty and experiencing violence. It may also increase their risks of mental illness (including depression and anxiety) and physical illness; may lower their quality of life; may shorten their life span (Tepperman 2015, pp. 306-309); and produces environmental sexism and environmental racism.

◆ Hope lies in the opportunities for social mobility these life-chance issues make possible through changes in the social stratification systems over time, with growing complexity of the social structure and interaction from the hunting gathering society through slave society, caste society, clan society, feudal society to class society, and beyond. Sociological research and theories make visible the factors/predictors of social stratification and its impacts as well as solutions.

ACADEMIC READING & WRITING:

◆ MAIN ARGUMENT CONTINUED:

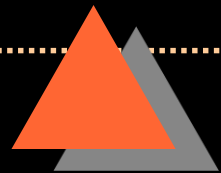◆ Social Stratification is a major predictor of

- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Addictions
- Violence
- Crime
- Mental health
- Physical health
- Longevity
- Hopelessness
- Conflicts
- Environmental sexism and environmental racism

◆ **EXPLORE:**

◆ **To know, understand, and apply the key concepts of social stratification in the main argument.**

THE MAJOR CONCEPT & KEY CONCEPTS IN THE MAIN ARGUMENT IN THIS LECTURE:
These Key Concepts provide the language to explore and unpack what the Major Concept of Social Stratification is and what it is not.

- ◆ **Social Stratification**
- ◆ **Social <u>Inequity</u> and Social <u>Inequality</u>**
  - – **Wealth and Poverty: Material Capital, Social Capital, Cultural Capital**
  - – **Poverty Line: LICO, MBM, LIM**
  - – **Homelessness/Houselessness**
- ◆ **Complexity of the Social Structure: Gini Index or Coefficient, Lorenz Curve, and Kuznets Curve**
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  - – **Open Society: Class System**
  - – **Capitalist Society**
  - – **Intersectionality**
- ◆ **<u>Social Mobility</u>:**
  - – **Horizontal**
  - – **Vertical**
  - – **Structural**
  - – **Intra-generational and Inter-generational**
- ◆ **Sociological Paradigms/Theories**

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

| FUNCTIONALISM	SOCIAL CONFLICT	INTERACTIONISM	FEMINISM	POSTMODERNISM
Social stratification exists because it is essential and <u>functional</u>: the social structure, particularly culture, needs stratification to maintain social stability or homeostasis. Stratification is necessary and inevitable. **<u>Davis – Moore Thesis:</u>** **In order to ensure that most qualified people fill the statuses and effectively play the corresponding roles in the social structure that are most essential for its proper functioning (homeostasis), these positions/roles must be rewarded better than the rest** (see Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p.139)	**Social Stratification is not essential, but it exists because the <u>ideology of scarcity of resources</u> generates <u>competition in the political economies and social closures</u> for valued resources, particularly social power and material wealth, leading to exploitation, alienation, inequitable access and unequal relations, especially social class struggles between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat (see Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 140-141).**	**Focuses on how peoples' subjective interpretation and construction of their responses to social stratification, using their <u>human agency</u> through the <u>looking-glass self</u> process, impact their everyday lives. It does not address the issue of why social stratification [inequity/inequality] exists.** Rather it focuses on how people give meaning to social hierarchies and express stratification through conspicuous consumption, and appearance props to denote social class status (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021; pp. 142-143).	**Social stratification is not essential, but it exists because there is <u>patriarchal ideology of sexism</u>. This ideology produces intersectionality of gender, social class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc., to produce and reproduce competition and <u>unequal opportunity structures</u> that create gender wage gap and block girls'/women's equitable access and equal relations to societal resources, oppress girls/women, and produce gender conflict** (see Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, pp. 141-142)	**Social Stratification is not essential, but it exists because <u>experts and technologies of power use politics of culture to create a culture industry embodying hyperreal cultural/ideological hegemony</u> in human society that produces/reproduces centered power, homogeneity, and universalism that prevent the majority from accessing valued resources to facilitate their social mobility.**

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES: solutions to the social pandemic of social stratification

FUNCTIONALISM	SOCIAL CONFLICT	INTERACTIONISM	FEMINISM	POSTMODERNISM
Social stratification is functional, so don't get rid of it; If you eliminate it you kill society; you can't even eliminate it. **Accept this reality and apply the Davis – Moore Thesis.**	**Social Stratification is not necessary and inevitable, so get rid of it to eliminate social class struggles between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat by establishing communism through socialism.**	**Why social stratification [inequity/inequality] exists doesn't matter. Therefore focus on how people give meaning to social hierarchies and express stratification to conform to, resist, and/or retreat from the stratification system.**	**Social stratification is not necessary and/or inevitable. Therefore get rid of it by eliminating patriarchy and reconstructing society to create equitable access and equal relations to societal resources for girls/women, racialized people, the poor, and other people made vulnerable.**	Social Stratification is not necessary and/or inevitable. Therefore get rid of vertical mosaic (cultural hierarchies) and reconstruct society into a horizontal mosaic (egalitarian pluralism) through multiculturalism policy.

HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL SOCIAL MOBILITY

UPWARD MOBILITY:
The type of vertical mobility in which people move to a higher position in the stratification hierarchy (Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, p. 145).
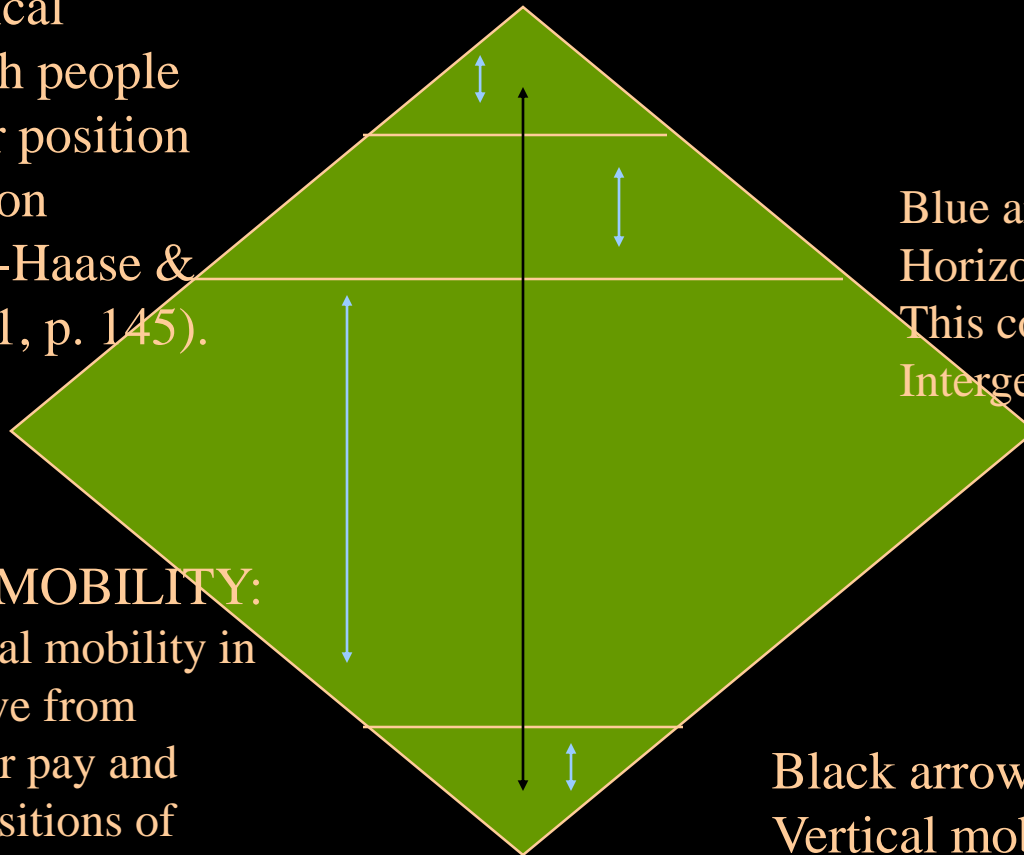
Blue arrows represent Horizontal mobility:
This could be intragenerational, Intergenerational or structural

DOWNWARD MOBILITY:
The type of vertical mobility in which people move from positions of higher pay and social status to positions of lower pay and lower status in the stratification hierarchy (Ibid., p. 149).

Black arrow represents Vertical mobility: This could be intra-generational, Intergenerational or structural

SOCIAL MOBILITY

◆ The idea that the American (or in this case Canadian) Dream is attainable by all who work hard and put in the effort required to change their life circumstances is in fact a bit problematic. A complex relationship exists between our ascribed and our achieved statuses that is extremely difficult to escape. For example, arguably the chance to improve your life circumstances through attending school , getting the appropriate credentials, and obtaining a good job are equally available to everyone living in Canada. Yet, research shows us that the best indicator of university entrance is family income (Mueller, 2008; Frenette, 2017) and that those most likely to attend university are those whose parents also attend (Finnie & Mueller, 2008; Statistics Canada, 2016b). Furthermore, if Canada were truly a meritocracy, we would expect to see a high degree of social mobility—the ability to move between social classes—yet research shows that most people stay within the social class they were born into (Greenstone, Looney, Patashnik, & Yu, 2013 cited in Sara Cumming, 2020, pp. 107-108)
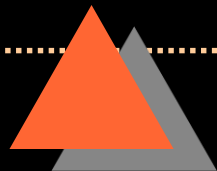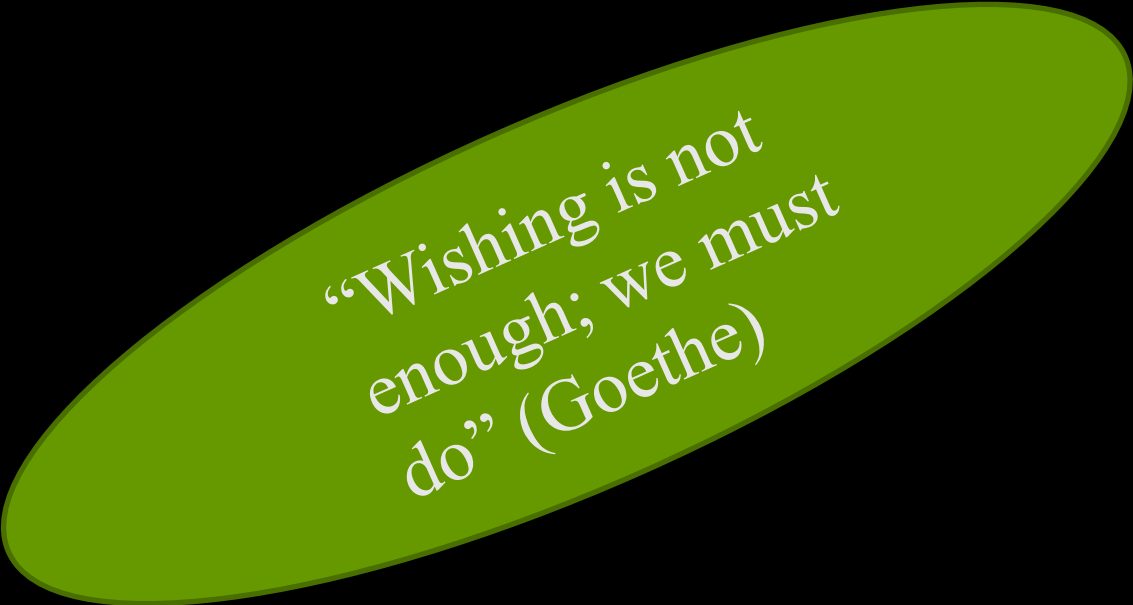
APPLY:
Reality Check

◆ **What is the story of social mobility in your family? To what extent have there been shifts both across and within generations? What factors such as family connections or historical and structural events contributed to the social mobility that occurred? What strategies can you use to change the rate and direction of social mobility in your family?**
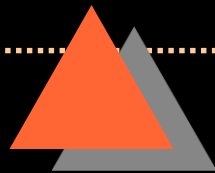
◆CREATE:

"Wishing is not enough; we must do" (Goethe)

Therefore, Be a Changemaker; be a Gamechanger!

CREATE

◆ Post-disciplinary Sociology goes beyond knowledge creation and explanation to critical explication (Bhaskar 1989, p. 175). That is, explanatory critique that informs action "directed to transforming, dissolving or disconnecting the [inequitable] structures and [unequal] relations" (ibid.) that generate and sustain social and ecological ills that damage the human body, the brain, and the lifeworlds.

CREATE

◆ CHANGING PEOPLE/LIVES; CHANGING THE WORLD; DECOLONIZING THE LIFEWORLDS; GREENING THE ECOLOGY:

◆ The focus/agenda of part 2 of your Sociology 100 journey is to go beyond hope or the mere interpretation and explanation of the social world, toward using transdisciplinary sociology <u>and your creative ideas and innovative designs</u> to produce new social scripts or to edit existing social scripts in ways that contribute to positively changing people/lives, changing the world, decolonizing the lifeworlds, and greening the ecology.

– In other words, we would go beyond the non-judgemental standpoint of the Functionalist and Interactionist paradigms toward the <u>judgemental (stratified societies are not user-friendly) and praxis (networks of human agency can dialogue to apply the science of society to eliminate stratification</u>) stance of Social Conflict, Feminist and Postmodernist theories that have visions of sustainably healing the cultural, social, political, economic, educational, and ecological ills/crises of the world.

CREATE

◆ CHANGE PLANNING
– This is the focus of the Creativity & Innovation Exercises:
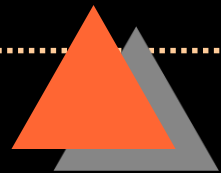♦ Because of COVID-19 we will focus on Theoretical or Hypothetical Action.

◆ CHANGE MAKING
– This is the focus of Service-Learning Projects:
♦ Because of COVID-19 we cannot engage in Practical or Real Action in the community.

CREATE

◆ CHANGE PLANNING: Creativity & Innovation Exercises:

   ♦ **"The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do" (STEVE JOBS)**

CREATIVITY & INNOVATION EXERCISE #1 (6%):

◆ Use your understanding of the key concepts and paradigms/theories of social stratification in Chapter 6 of textbook and Lecture 7 to produce a short report. In this report,

◆ a) State <u>one creative idea and propose one related innovative design to implement your creative idea</u> to provide a product or service to: i) move people from homelessness/houselessness to homes/houses or ii) move people from poverty to prosperity or iii) move people from horizontal social mobility to vertical social mobility or iv) minimize the damage that social stratification does to the environment or bodies and minds of people (particularly those occupying the lower layers of the stratification system).

◆ b) <u>Provide a brief description of your design and a diagram of your design</u>. The diagram of your design may be a flow chart or a pyramid chart or an image or a venn diagram or a concept map or a table showing coordinated processes/steps, tasks, people, and relevant resources that can be used to implement your creative idea.

◆ c) <u>Use your innovative design to assess </u>(state one strength and one weakness of) any one of the macro sociological theories (functionalism, social conflict, and feminism).

◆ Upload a report of your individual creative idea and innovative design unto D2L Individual C&I #1 Assignments Folder. Join your group to discuss the reports of your group members, select the best and post on D2L Team/Group C&I #1 Assignments Folder. You may create a new report if none of your individual reports meets the assignment requirements.

CONCLUSION:

HOPE FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY: SUCCEEDING FROM THE MARGINS OF A STRATIFIED SOCIETY

◆ Since many women and racial/ethnic minorities in Canada have succeeded in business, education, politics, and the professions, the Canadian social structure is not crack-free. There are cracks in inequitable/unequal societies that many minorities have utilized as escape routes to facilitate their upward social mobility. The wedges these minorities use to widen the cracks for their upward mobility include strategic resources such as appropriate knowledge, relevant skills, abilities, facilities, strategic planning and decisions, mentoring, sponsoring, networking opportunities, and family and community support systems and protests (Adu-Febiri and Ofori 2009, p. Vii).

A rock face I photographed in View Royal, Victoria, BC

◆ If you are interested in the definitions, illustrations, and applications of the key concepts of Social Stratification, continue to review the rest of the presentation.
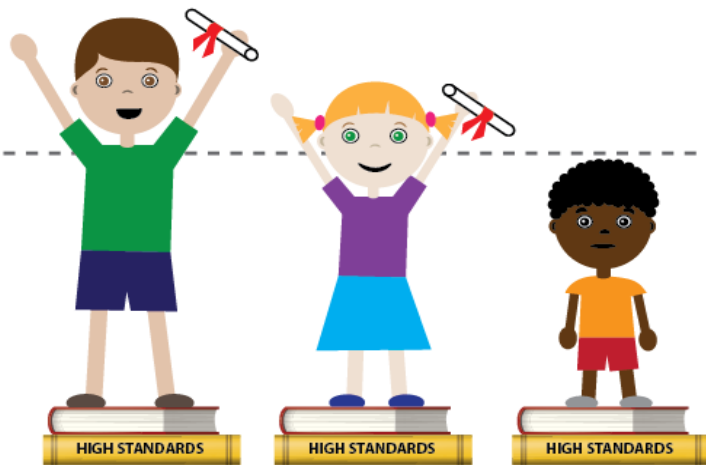
WHAT IS SOCIAL STRATIFICATION?

◆ Unequal and inequitable distribution of scarce valued resources among people in society (Gerhard Lenski 1924)

◆ It is a dimension of Social Relationships that uses classism, sexism, racism, ageism, ableism, linguism, homophobia, etc., as weapons to police the inequity/inequality that social relationships produce and reproduce.

# DYNAMICS OF MACRO AND MICRO STRATIFICATION: Inequality & Inequity

◆ Unlike monopoly and most games, real life is filled with initial DIFFERENCES in <u>wealth and other resources a society values</u>. Sociologists refer to rankings [INEQUALITIES and INEQUITIES] based on these differences as SOCIAL STRATIFICATION (Steven Barkan 2012, p. 146).

– <u>Inequality</u> = Collective and Individual differences in distribution of outcomes of unequal relations—income, wealth, credentials, prestige, privilege, and other dimensions of well-being

– <u>Inequity</u> = Collective and Individual differences in distribution of opportunities reflecting inequitable access—economic, social, cultural and political opportunity structures

– Inequity is the main cause of inequality.

DYNAMICS OF MACRO AND MICRO STRATIFICATION: Equality & Equity
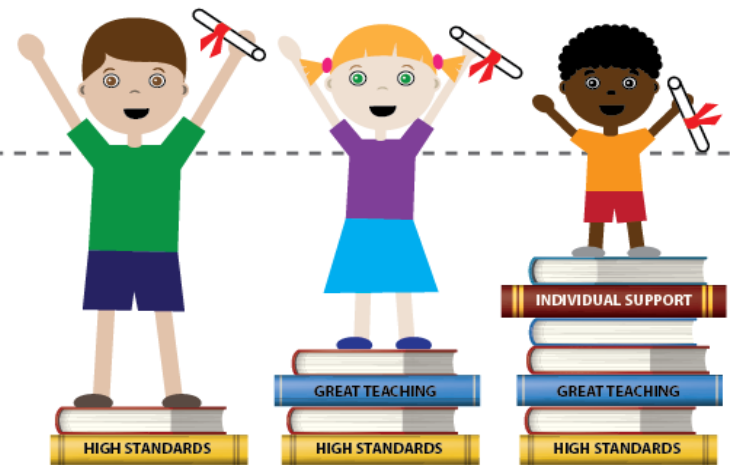
Source: Intellectualtakeout.org

WHAT IS SOCIAL STRATIFICATION?

◆ **Social Stratification is Socio-Economic Status (SES) inequities and inequalities that are built into the structure of society:**

    – **Structured ranking of entire groups of people that determine their access to valued resources (Ravelli 2014).**

◆ **SES reflects collective unequal access to OPPORTUNITY STRUCTURES, particularly valued resources such as Material Capital, Social Capital, and Cultural Capital.**

SOCIAL STRATICICATION AND ACCESS TO VALUED RESOURCES:

◆ **1. <u>Material Capital/Resources (WEALTH:</u> Financial Assets—Money, Land, Property, and Technology): Major Theorist is Karl Marx.**

◆ **Access to material capital is determined by economic and political opportunities**

SOCIAL STRATICICATION AND ACCESS TO VALUED RESOURCES

◆ **2. <u>Social Capital/Resources</u> (Prestige, Privilege, and Connections based on social networks): Major Theorist is Max Weber.**

◆ **Access to social capital is determined by social networking opportunities**

SOCIAL STRATICICATION AND ACCESS TO VALUED RESOURCES

◆ **3. <u>Cultural Capital/Resources</u> (Tastes, knowledge, attitudes, language, and ways of thinking): Major Theorist is Pierre Bourdieu.**
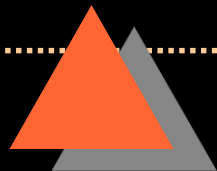
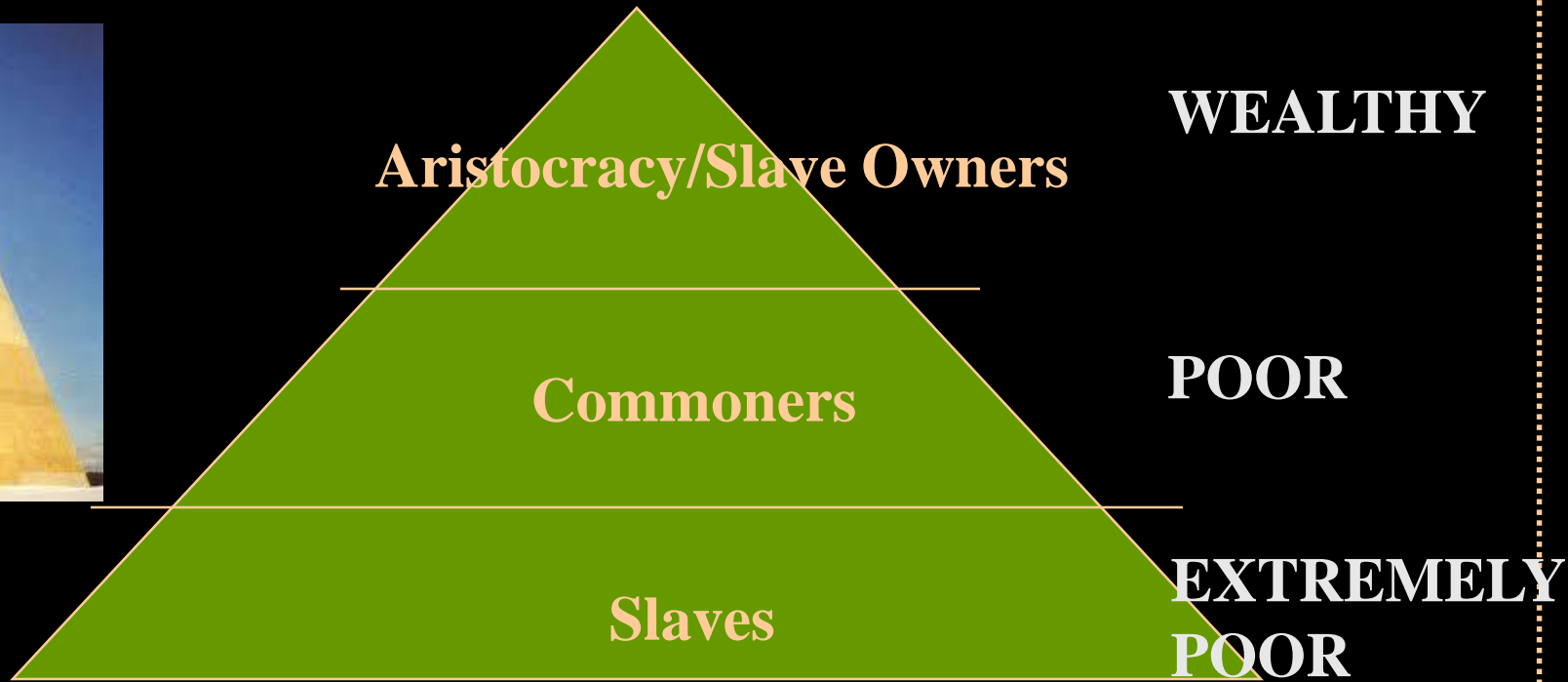◆ **Access to cultural capital is determined by material and non-material cultural opportunities**

TYPOLOGIES OF STRATIFIED SOCIETIES

1. Slave
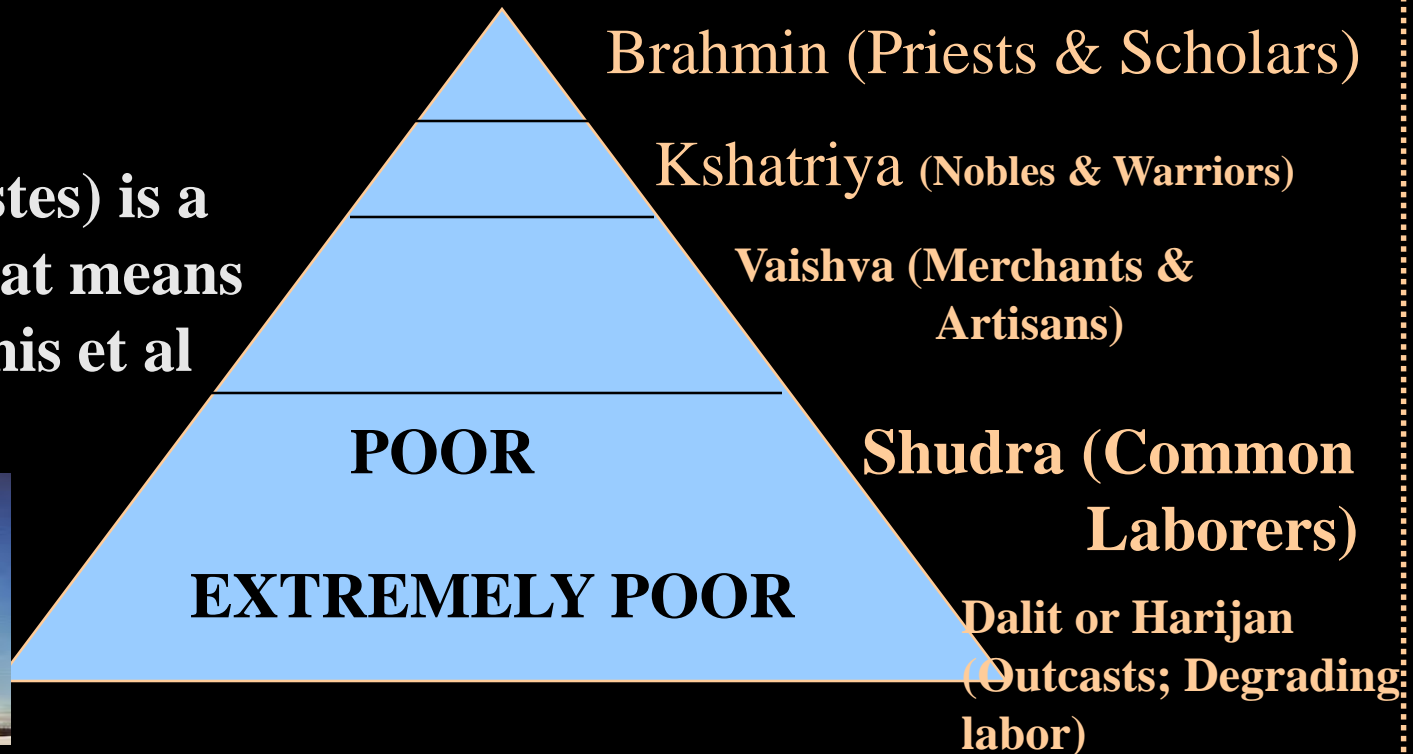
2. Caste

3. Clan

4. Feudal

5. Class

STRATIFICATION IN SLAVE SOCIETY: Focus on Ascribed Status

Aristocracy/Slave Owners

Commoners

Slaves

WEALTHY

POOR

EXTREMELY POOR

The BODY is central to slave societies

STRATIFICATION IN CASTE SOCIETY: Focus on Ascribed Status

Verna (major castes) is a Sanskrit word that means "colour" (Macionis et al 2009, p. 199)

Brahmin (Priests & Scholars)

Kshatriya **(Nobles & Warriors)**

Vaishva (Merchants & Artisans)

POOR

EXTREMELY POOR

Shudra (Common Laborers)
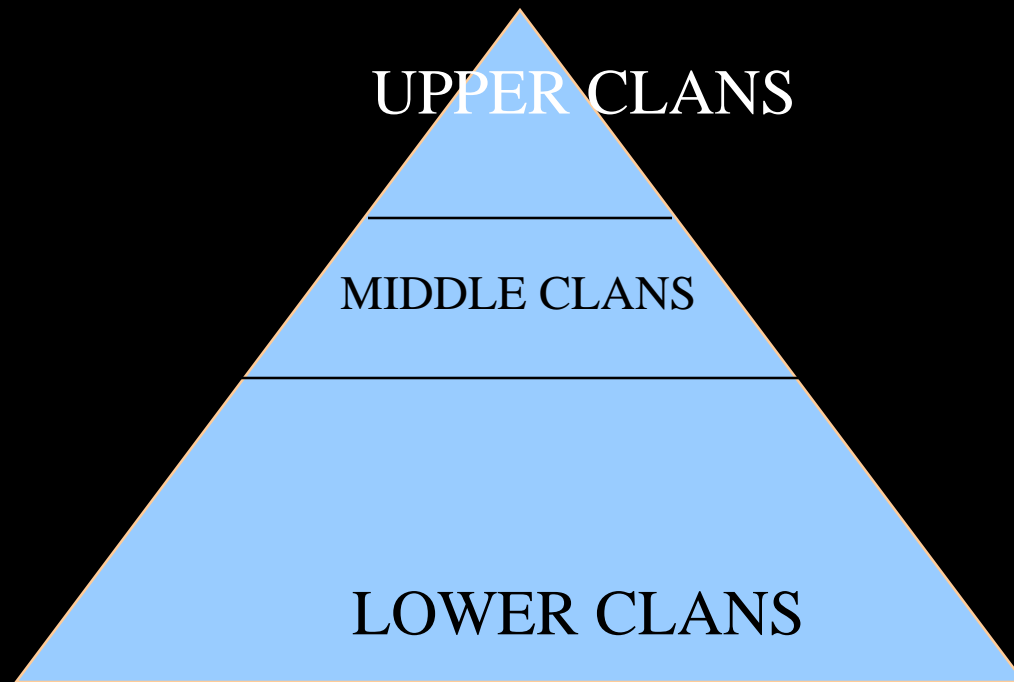
Dalit or Harijan (Outcasts; Degrading labor)

The BODY is central to the caste system

CASTE SOCIETIES: India, Apartheid South Africa, Japan, and Jim Crow Southern United States
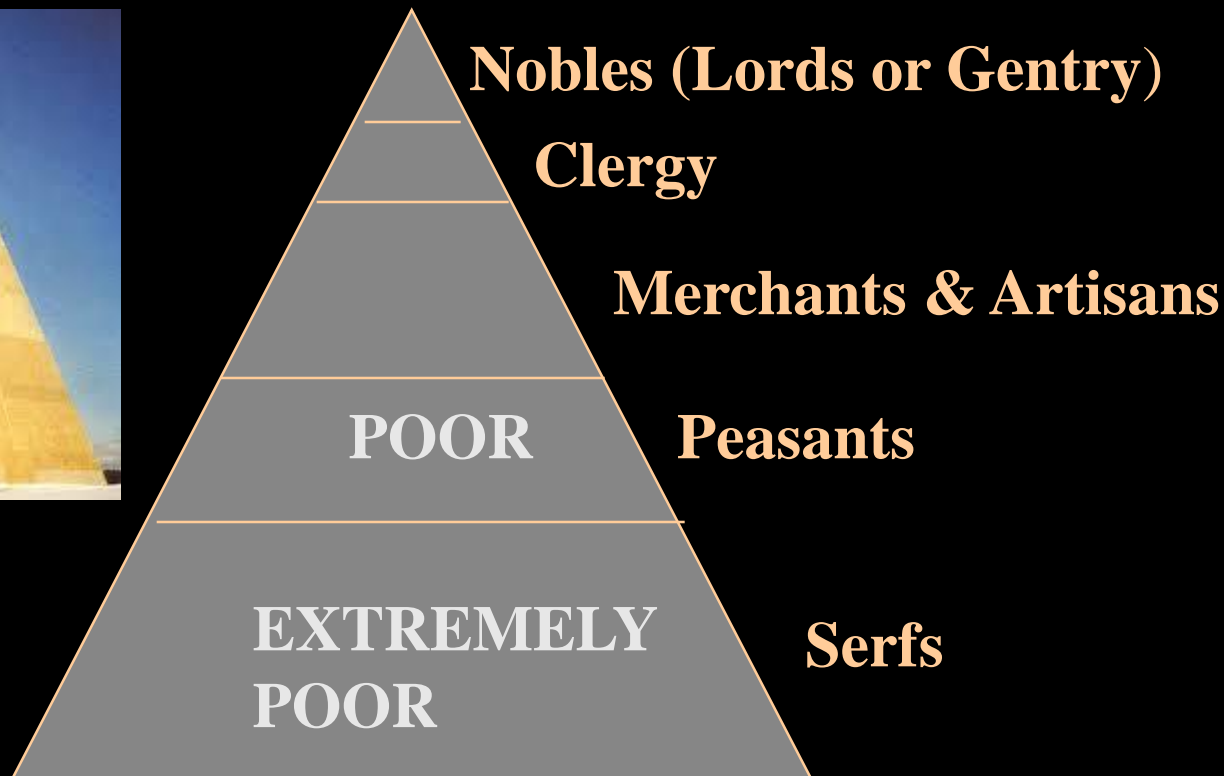
STRATIFICATION IN CLAN SOCIETY: Focus on Ascribed Status

Large network of relatives [extended family] that shares a common status in agricultural societies, such as Scotland. Individual members' allegiance to the clan is a lifelong obligation (Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 111)

UPPER CLANS

MIDDLE CLANS

LOWER CLANS

Ancestry is central

STRATIFICATION IN ESTATE OR FEUDAL SOCIETY: Focus on Ascribed Status

Nobles (Lords or Gentry)

Clergy

Merchants & Artisans

POOR — **Peasants**

EXTREMELY POOR — **Serfs**

The BODY was not supposed to be central in the Feudal system, but it was

http://www.middle-ages.org.uk/serfs.htm

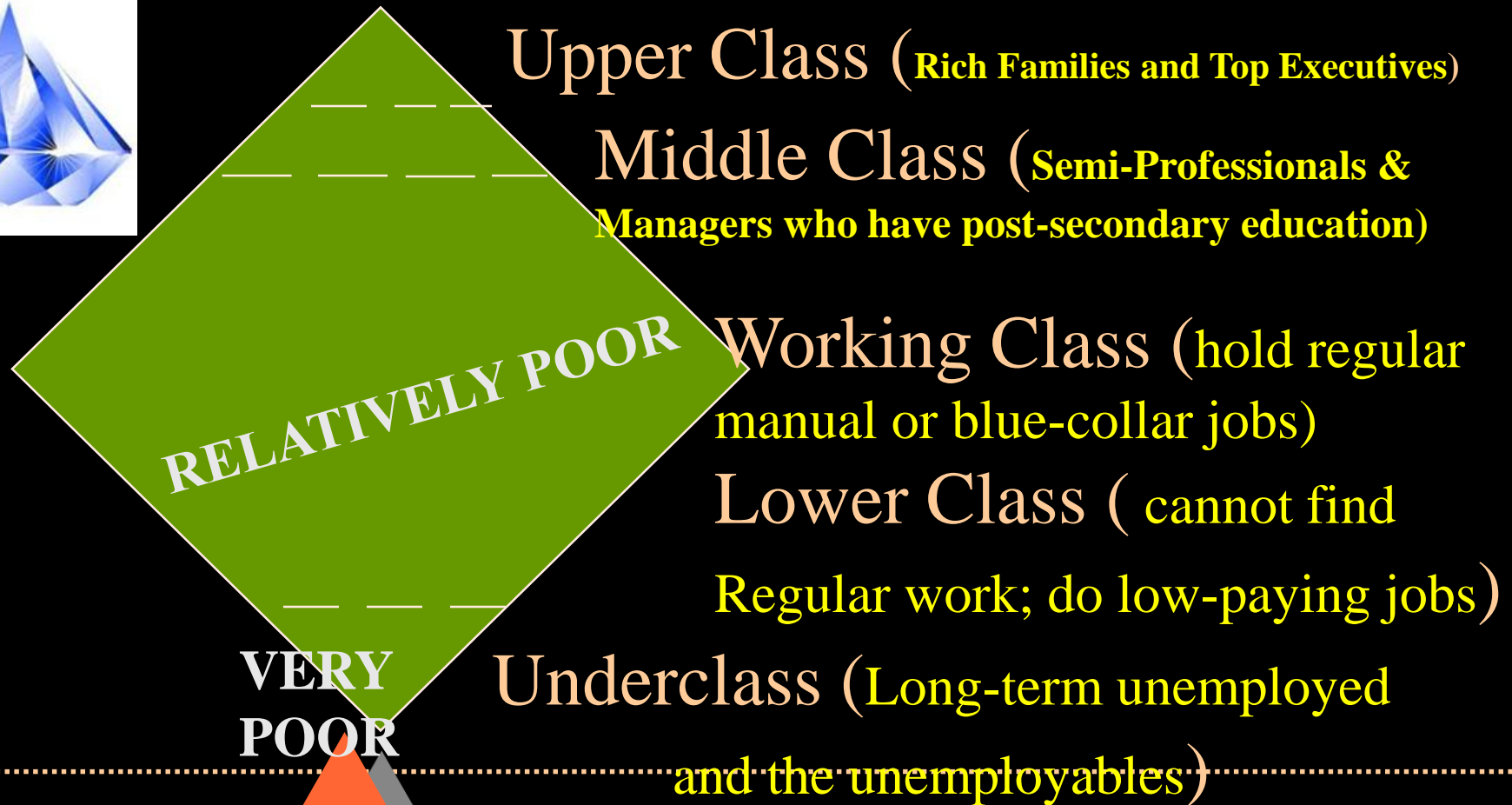Estate Societies: Medieval Europe, China and Japan

WAGE INCREASE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SERFS

◆ Déjà vu ["Already seen"]: HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

◆ After the black or bubonic plague pandemic, the serfs in Europe were able to improve their income because of their increased bargaining power related to labour shortages. This history is repeating itself as the West emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

STRATIFICATION IN INDUSTRIAL CAPITALIST SOCIETY:
Social Class: Achieved Status: Material Capital, Social Capital, & Cultural Capital.

Upper Class (**Rich Families and Top Executives**)

Middle Class (**Semi-Professionals & Managers who have post-secondary education**)

Working Class (hold regular manual or blue-collar jobs)

Lower Class (cannot find Regular work; do low-paying jobs)

Underclass (Long-term unemployed and the unemployables)

RELATIVELY POOR

VERY POOR
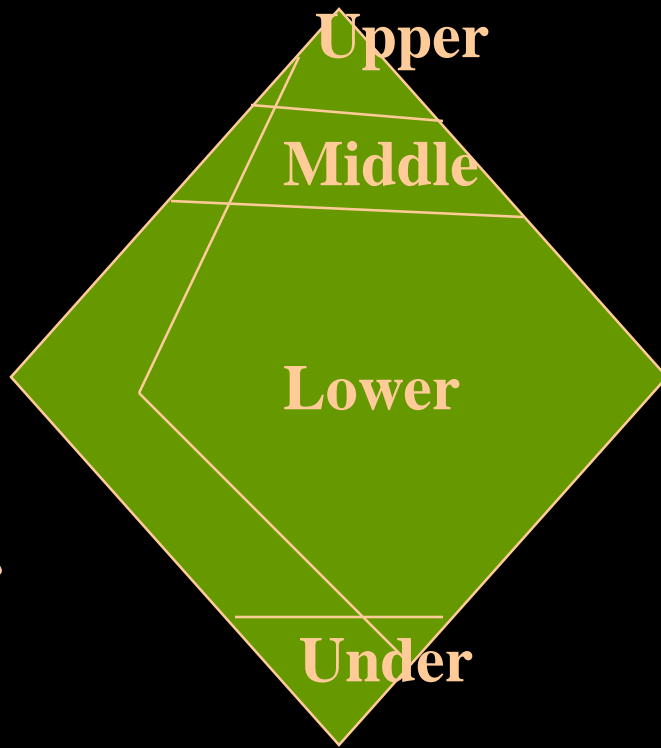
The BODY is not supposed to be central in the class system, but it is

INTERSECTIONALITY IN SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Minority Ethnoracial Groups

Upper

Middle

Lower

Under

Dominant Ethnoracial Groups

MEN

Upper Class

Middle Class

Lower Class

Under Class
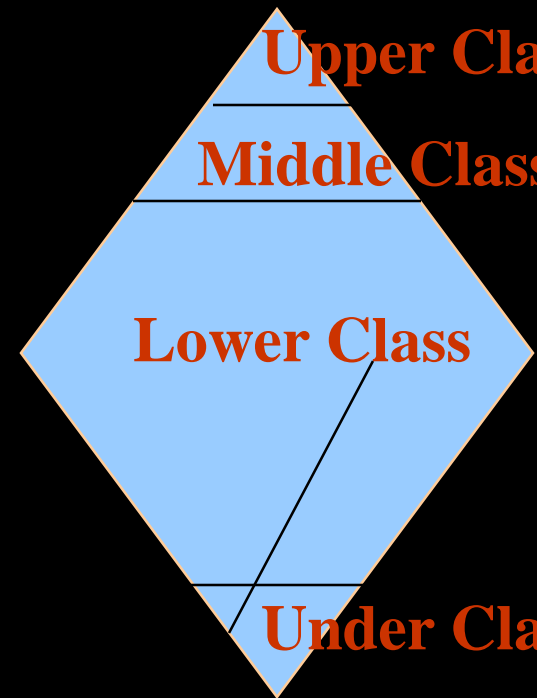
WOMEN

The BODY is central

INTERSECTIONALITY IN SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

◆ Women and racial/ethnic minorities often wield less authority on the job than white men do. When women and racial/ethnic minorities do hold some degree of power, it is usually at the lower levels of the organizational structure. As well, women and racial/ethnic managers receive lower returns on their power than white men do (Tepperman 2015, p. 311).

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION'S EFFECTS

◆ **In modern society, stratification is usually determined by income and other forms of wealth, such as stocks, bonds, and technology, but resources such as power and prestige matter, too. No matter what determines it, a society's stratification system has significant consequences for its members' attitudes, behavior, and, perhaps most important of all, their life chances—how well people do in such areas as education, income, and health. The mind-bugling assets of the wealthy, elite, and supper rich in contrast with Homelessness and poverty are examples of these consequences (Cumming, 2020).**

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION'S EFFECTS

ASCRIBED STATUS AND WEALTH: CANADA'S RICHEST, 2018

FAMILY	NET WORTH, BILLION CDN$
Thomson Family (Thomson Reuters, Woodbridge Co. Ltd.	41.4
Joseph Tsai	14.4
Galen Weston (George Weston Ltd., Loblaws Cos. Ltd.)	13.6
Ted Rogers, Jr. (Rogers Communications Inc.)	11.6
Saputo Family (Saputo)	10.4
Garrett Camp (Uber, StunbleUpon)	8.6
Desmarais Family (Power Corp)	8.4
Irving Family (Irving Oil Ltd., Loblaws Cos. Ltd)	7.4
Richardson Family (James Richardson & Sons	6.6
Jimmy Pattison (Jim Pattison Group)	6.4

Source: Sara Cumming 2020, p. 115

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION'S EFFECTS: Did you Know?

◆ **1. Every four hours and four minutes, Canada's best-paid CEOs earn the annual income of a full-time, full-year minimum wage worker (Mackenzie 2007).**

◆ **2. A small number of Canadians are extremely wealthy and powerful. In 2015, the wealthiest 1 per cent of Canadian tax filers held 11.2 per cent of the national total income—up considerably from the 7 per cent they held in the early 1980s (Statistics Canada, 2017a). To have a better understanding of what this wealth means, consider Linda McQuaig and Neil Brook's illustration: if the Thomson Family, one of Canada's wealthiest families, started to count their wealth at $1.00 per second and counted non-stop day and night, they would have it all counted up in approximately 700 years (2010). This is wealth beyond most of our wildest imaginations (Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 115-116)**

◆ **3. While low-income earners and high-income earners are increasing, middle-class earners are rapidly disappearing (Smith, 2018, cited in Cummings 2020, p. 116). Karl Marx predicted this current trend in the 19th century.**

POVERTY LINE

◆ **In Canada poverty is not measured by the "Poverty Line". Rather the focus is on low income. According to Quan-Haase & Tepperman, 2021, pp. 149-150), currently three methods are widely used to measure low income in Canada: 1) Low Income Cut-Off (LICO: calculates income thresholds below which a family will spend a larger proportion of its income on essential necessities), 2) Market Basket Measure (MBM: calculates how much income a household requires for its needs, including subsistence and the needs that satisfy community norms), and 3) Low Income Measure (LIM: calculates the low income threshold as one half of the median income of same-sized households in communities of a similar size).**

◆ **In 2018 the Canadian government tabled a bill to set the MBM as Canada's first official poverty line…According to the MBM, 9.5 per cent of Canadians lived below the poverty line in 2017 (Ibid., p. 150).**

◆ **Low income life [living at the bottom of the pyramid or the diamond-shaped societies] is different today than it was a century ago. In a digital age, when much of daily life takes place online, relative poverty has taken on a new meaning. People who live in poverty today—whether relative or absolute—cannot fully participate in digital culture…being poor today not only means being money poor; it means being information poor and disadvantaged. Being excluded from the chief information sources of our society can greatly affect how young people in poverty see themselves and can increase their sense of alienation and stigma (Ibid., p. 151).**

LOW INCOME CUT-OFF
Before Taxes, 2006

Community Size

| Family Size	500 000+	100 000 – 499 999	30 000 – 99 9999	Less than 30 000	Rural Areas
1	$21 202	$18 260	$18 147	$16 605	$14 596
2	$26 396	$22 731	$22 591	$20 671	$18 170
3	$32 450	$27 945	$27 773	$25 412	$22 338
4	$39 399	$33 930	$33 721	$30 855	$27 122
5	$44 686	$38 482	$38 245	$34 995	$30 760
6	$50 397	$43 402	$43 135	$39 469	$34 694
7	$56 110	$48 322	$48 024	$43 943	$38 626

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006

POVERTY IN CANADA

◆ **1. The Working Poor:**

◆ The working poor exists because "the capitalist financial structure that prevails in the West depends on the supply of insecure, poorly paid workers and a reserve of unemployed people" (Armstrong and Armstrong 1994: The Double Ghetto, cited in Tepperman 2015, p. 222).

◆ Canadians who work a minimum number of hours a year at minimum wage and whose family income falls below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). In 2004, in Canada, 551, 900 individuals were in this category. About 20% of this category were immigrants (Schaefer and Haaland 2009, p. 200).

◆ **2. The Underclass or The Long-Term Poor:**

◆ People who lack training and skills to work. Persistently and disproportionately represented in this category in Canadian society are those of Aboriginal heritage.
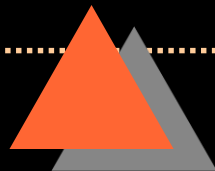
POVERTY IN CANADA:
The BODY is Central

◆ **Strong correlation between poverty and gender: <u>Feminization of Poverty</u>.**

◆ **Women make up nearly 70 percent of the world's poor** **(Source: Un Urn. 1996. More and Better Jobs for Women: An Action Guide. Geneva: The International Labour Organization, pp. 11, 14).**

◆ In Canada, one-third of women aged 25 and under have struggled to afford menstrual products – with a staggering 70% of women reporting absenteeism from school, work, and social activities because of their period. The educational, financial, and social impacts of menstruation are far-reaching and affect people who menstruate in different ways (Source: **ROBBYN LANNING**, MA, MLIS (2020) | *Librarian* Library | Learning Services, Camosun).

POVERTY IN CANADA: The BODY is Central

◆ **Strong correlation between poverty and skin color : Racialization of Poverty:**

◆ **Among all possible types of discrimination, one based on race and ethnic characteristics is found to be most common and persistent, as well as more conducive to poverty…it is no historical accident that skin colour and poverty are related" (Kazemipur and Halli 2005, p. 148).**

POVERTY IN CANADA:
The BODY is Central

◆ **The Colour of Poverty in Canada:**

◆ Aboriginal and racialized persons have a higher risk of living in poverty compared to non-racialized persons. One in every four Aboriginal children live in poverty. Racialized communities also experience ongoing, disproportionate levels of poverty (22%) and are more likely to fall below the poverty line [LICO, BMM, LIM] and experience problems like poor health, lower education, and fewer job opportunities than those from European backgrounds. In two of Canada's largest cities, more than half of those living in poverty are from racialized groups: 58 percent of people living in poverty in Vancouver are from racialized groups, and 62 percent of people living in poverty in Toronto are from racialized groups (National Council of Welfare 2012 cited in Theresa Anzovino and Deborah Boutilier 2015, p. 73).

◆ **The income gap between racialized and non-racialized Canadians isn't budging; rather it has slightly widened. Racialized Canadians earn 26 per cent less than non-racialaized Canadians (Block, 2017, cited in Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 119).**

THE CHALLENGE OF ELIMINATING OR REDUCING POVERTY

◆ **1. "The poor will always be with you" (Jesus Christ of Nazareth in 1st Century)**

  – **Don't blame the victim or the system: Help the victim.**

◆ **2. The poor will not be transformed by help: The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life (Richard J. Herrnstein & Charles Murray 1994).**

  – **Blame the Victim; Don't help the victim**

◆ **3. International AID**

◆ **4. Charity**

◆ **5. Policy: The Welfare State or Safety Net or Universal Basic Income**

◆ **6. Microfinance – KIVA and other NGOs**

◆ **7. Higher Education**

◆ **8. Industrialization**

Blame the system; help the victim

CULTURE OF POVERTY: A Myth?

◆ Sons and daughters of the impoverished families are likely to be poor because their cultural backgrounds provide little in the way of coping skills and their resultant class disadvantage shatters their abilities to learn, grow, plan and protect themselves (Oscar Lewis 1966 cited in Tepperman 2015, p. 304).

◆ Oscar Lewis' application of the concept of "Culture of Poverty" erroneously portray poor people as "feeling inferior and helpless,… and that the responsibility for changing the circumstances of the impoverished people lies directly with the individual. Contemporary analysts argue that the classism and blaming the victim stance embedded in Lewis's analysis have contributed to policies that exacerbate rather than improve economic inequalities (Seabrook, 2014, cited in Sara Cumming, 2020, p. 120)

◆ The Impact of Working Class Culture: The Case of lottery winners in Canada & USA:

◆ http://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/lottery-winner-blew-10-million-194200861.html
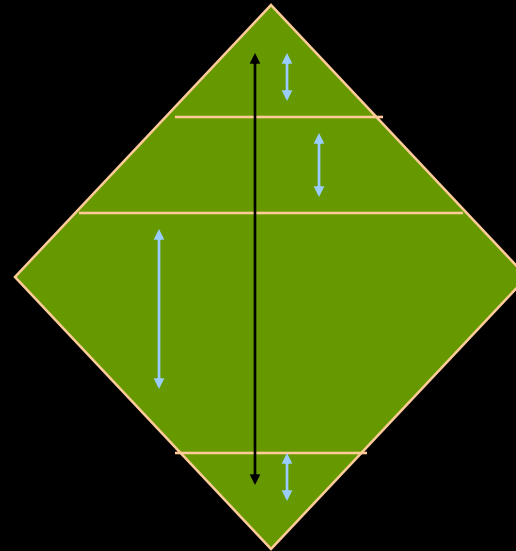
SOCIAL MOBILITY:

◆ The Ability to move within and across the layers of social stratification system intra-generationally and/or inter-generationally.
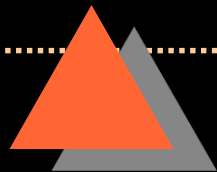
DETERMINANTS & TYPES OF SOCIAL MOBILITY

DETERMINANTS?

1. Inheritance
2. Marriage
3. Talent
4. Education
5. Protestant Ethic
6. "Luck"
7. Race/Ethnicity
8. Gender, Sexuality
9. Ableness, Age
10. Social change

◆ **TYPES**

◆ **1. Vertical**

◆ **2. Horizontal**

◆ **3. Structural**

a) Intra-generational: Within generations

b) Inter-generational: Across generations

STRUCTURAL MOBILITY:
Changed social status and mobility processes that are due much less to individual behaviour than to structural changes in society

◆ The Tide Raises All Boats

STRUCTURAL MOBILITY

◆ Satya Nadella's (Ex-CEO of Microsoft) Story:

◆ "Like many others, it was my great fortune to benefit from the convergence of several tectonic movements: India's independence from British rule, the American civil rights movement, which changed immigration policy in the United States, and the global tech boom." (Nadella 2017, p. 24: *Hit Refresh*)
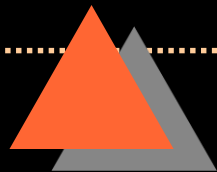
TYPES OF SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

- **1. CLOSED SOCIETIES:**
  - **Zero social mobility based on achievement: E.g. Caste societies**
- **2. SEMI-CLOSED SOCIETIES:**
  - **Very limited social mobility based on achievement: E.g. Slave societies**
- **3. SEMI-OPEN SOCIETIES:**
  - **Limited social mobility based on achievement: E.g. Feudal societies**
- **4. OPEN SOCIETIES:**
  - **Virtually unlimited social mobility based on achievement: E.g. Class societies, particularly capitalist societies.**
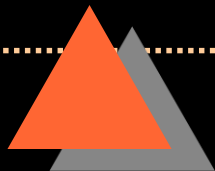
SOCIAL MOBILITY: BEYOND THE PERSONAL

◆ How many of us are able to expand our minds beyond our own personal experience? So many people, certainly people who sit around the cabinet table, say, 'well, it worked for me' or, 'This is how my father managed it' – these trite catchphrases– and the idea that other people might have had such a different life experience that their choices and beliefs and behaviours would be completely different from your own seems to escape a lot of otherwise intelligent people (J.K Rowling, 2012, *The Guardian*).