TOPIC: THEORIES OF SOCIALIZATION

Introduction

How do we develop a sense of self and relate to other people?

Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory
Erikson's Lifespan Development Theory
Mead's Theory of the Social Self

How do we learn to think and reason?

Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

How do we learn right from wrong?

Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development
Gilligan's Theory of Moral Development

Note: Each theory is more expansive than depicted in this course.

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Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory

◆ **Sigmund Freud** (1856 - 1939): Developed a theory of personality comprised of 3 elements:

Id	Superego	Ego
▸ Represents primitive, _____ desires. ▸ Demands pleasure and seeks immediate gratification. ▸ Present at _____.	▸ Represents values and norms learned from society. ▸ _____ compass; creates emotions like shame and guilt. ▸ Begins developing around _____ years old.	▸ Represents rationality and reason. ▸ _____ id's demands & superego's expectations. ▸ Begins developing around _____ years old.

🔑 **TAKEAWAY**

◆ **Sublimation**: _____ impulsive drives into more socially acceptable behaviors.

  ▸ Ex: Sexual needs are satisfied by monogamous partnerships.

◆ Freud proposed that a healthy personality depends on balancing biological needs with societal expectations.

EXAMPLE

Match each component of Freud's model with its function:

Id	
Ego	
Superego	

a) Balances biological demands with societal expectations.

b) Strives for immediate gratification of biological desires.

c) Enforces moral standards learned from society.

PRACTICE

David is frustrated with the way his boss has been treating him, but he can't risk standing up to his boss and losing his job. To get out all his pent-up anger and frustration, David starts taking a kick-boxing class three times a week. According to Freud, this would be an example of:

a) Sublimation.

b) Preoperational thinking.

c) How the id can affect behavior.

d) Postconventional morality.

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Erikson's Lifespan Development Theory

◆ **Erik Erikson** (1902 – 1994): Created a theory on development and socialization across the lifespan.

  ‣ Proposed _____ stages based on the unique challenges that people face as we grow and age:

Stage	Challenge
1 **Trust vs. Mistrust** Infancy	**Can I trust others to meet my needs?** Lays groundwork for all future social relationships.
2 **Autonomy vs. Shame & Doubt** Toddlerhood	**Can I do things for myself?** Gain _____ in their ability to face the world.
3 **Initiative vs. Guilt** Early Childhood	**Can I take initiative in my environment and social interactions?** Learn to engage with their surroundings and with other people.
4 **Industry vs. Inferiority** Middle Childhood	**Can I succeed at the tasks society gives me?** Begin to internalize societal _____ around productivity and skills.
5 **Identity vs. Role Confusion** Adolescence	**Who am I? Who will I become?** _____ different roles, values, and belief systems.
6 **Intimacy vs. Isolation** Early Adulthood	**Can I form meaningful, lasting relationships?** Form _____ connections and taking on adult social roles.
7 **Generativity vs. Stagnation** Middle Adulthood	**Am I contributing to society in a meaningful way?** Social contributions through _____, parenting, or volunteering.
8 **Integrity vs. Despair** Late Adulthood	**Did I live a meaningful life?** _____ on one's life and contributions to society.

🔑 **TAKEAWAY**

This theory brings attention to how social factors influence our

_____ throughout the lifespan.

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What makes Erikson's theory unique among theories of socialization?

a) It emphasizes how socialization can influence the development of moral reasoning.

b) It emphasizes how social factors influence development in unique ways across the entire lifespan.

c) It centers on how different components of personality interact and remain in balance.

d) It focuses heavily on the development of specific cognitive skills.
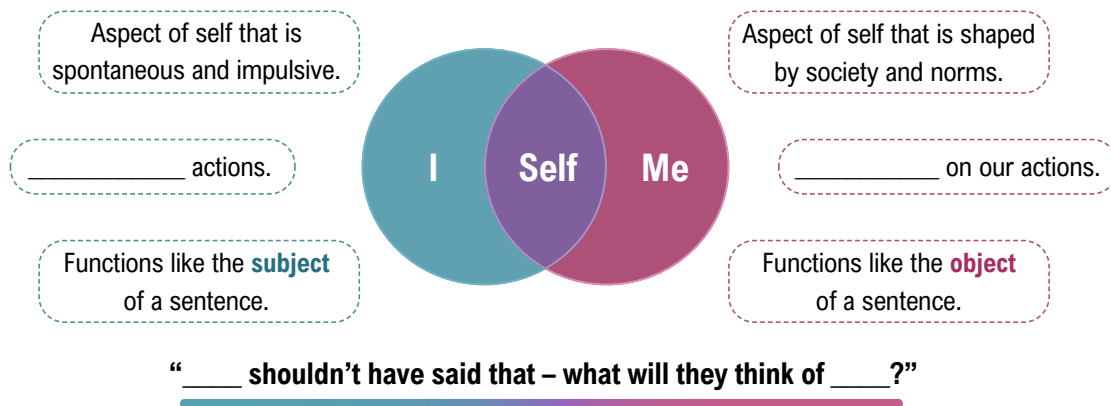
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Mead's Theory of the Social Self: I and Me

◆ **George Herbert Mead** (1863 – 1931):

Developed a theory to explain how social experience affects development.

◆ **Self:** A person's conscious experience of personal _____, and awareness that we are distinct from others.

- Not present at birth – develops _____ through social experiences.

- The self is _____ nature – contains **"I"** and **"Me"** - these components unite to form our sense of self.

I	Self	Me

Aspect of self that is spontaneous and impulsive.

_____ actions.

Functions like the **subject** of a sentence.

Aspect of self that is shaped by society and norms.

_____ on our actions.

Functions like the **object** of a sentence.

"_____ shouldn't have said that – what will they think of _____?"

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Mead's Theory of the Social Self: Other

◆ The **Self** is distinguished from the **Other:** someone outside of the self.

◆ _____-taking as the Other is essential to the development of the Self.

◆ Mead proposed 3 stages of development:

Imitation Stage (Birth – 3 years)	**Play Stage** (3 – 6 years)	**Game Stage** (7 – 9 years)
Play involves _____ others, without understanding the *meaning* of the roles and behaviors.	Children act out the role of a _____ **other**. Understand the different expectations placed on others based on their roles.	Children can understand the roles of multiple people at once, within a _____ situation.

◆ **Generalized Other:** Societal norms and values that apply across _____ social contexts.

🔑 TAKEAWAY

Identity is socially constructed – it develops gradually through
social interactions and role-taking.

EXAMPLE

Write out a significant milestone that Mead believed occurred in each of his stages of self-development:

Imitation Stage:	
Play Stage:	
Game Stage:	

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In Mead's theory, which component of the self is responsible for spontaneous, impulsive acts?

a) Me   b) Other   c) I   d) Id

Which statement best describes the "Me" component of Mead's theory?

a) The unfiltered, impulsive desires of the individual.

b) The socialized aspect of the self that focuses on societal expectations.

c) The portion of personality that balances biological drives and societal demands.

d) The capacity for abstract moral reasoning.

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Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development

◆ **Jean Piaget** (1896 – 1980):

Psychologist who studied cognitive development (how people think and understand).

◆ Identified 4 stages of cognitive development:

Sensorimotor Stage
(Birth – 2 years)

- Children use their senses and motor skills to understand the world.
- Begin to develop a **sense of self** and show _____-**directed behavior.**

Preoperational Stage
(2 – 7 years)

- Children use **language** and mental _____ to represent objects and ideas.
- Display **egocentrism** (difficulty understanding other's perspectives).
- Lack logical and abstract thinking.

Concrete Operational Stage
(7 – 11 years)

- Children can think logically about _____ objects and events.
- Become **less egocentric** (can now perspective take).
- Struggle with abstract thinking.

Formal Operational Stage
(12+ years)

- Children can think logically about **abstract concepts** and **hypothetical situations**.
- Ability to plan for the _____.

🔑 TAKEAWAY

Social life requires skills like perspective taking &

understanding _____ expectations, beliefs, or values.

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What major developmental shift occurs when children move from the preoperational stage to the concrete operational stage?

a) Children begin to display goal-directed behavior.

b) Children become less egocentric, allowing them to gain skills in perspective taking.

c) Children become capable of abstract moral reasoning.

d) Children gain the ability to think hypothetically and plan for the future.

How might formal operational thinking enhance adolescent social development?
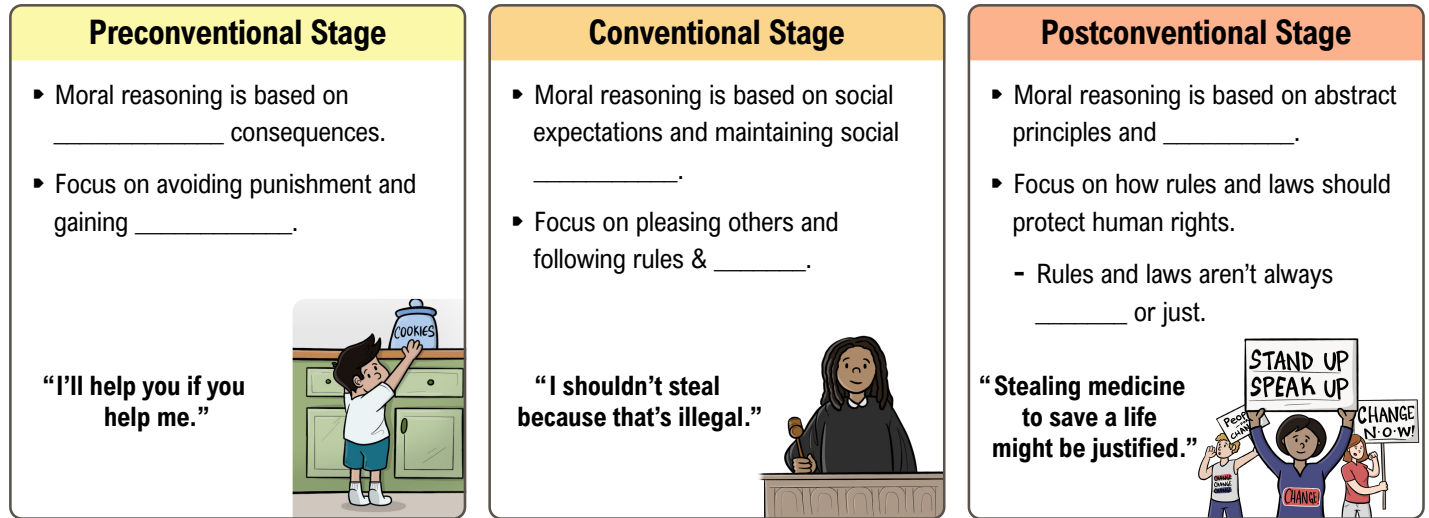
a) Thinking about abstract concepts like justice and equality can help adolescents make more informed decisions and become involved in local politics.

b) It allows them to engage in deeper, more meaningful conversations with friends who hold similar values.

c) It allows them to imagine the different ways that they could contribute to society in the future.

d) All of the above.

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Kohlberg's Theory of Moral Development

◆ **Lawrence Kohlberg** (1927 – 1987): Studied moral development (understanding right from wrong).

◆ Identified _____ stages of moral development:

Preconventional Stage	Conventional Stage	Postconventional Stage
▸ Moral reasoning is based on _____ consequences. ▸ Focus on avoiding punishment and gaining _____. **"I'll help you if you help me."**	▸ Moral reasoning is based on social expectations and maintaining social _____. ▸ Focus on pleasing others and following rules & _____. **"I shouldn't steal because that's illegal."**	▸ Moral reasoning is based on abstract principles and _____. ▸ Focus on how rules and laws should protect human rights. - Rules and laws aren't always _____ or just. **"Stealing medicine to save a life might be justified."**

Theorized developmental progression

🔑 **TAKEAWAY**

◆ Studying moral development helps us understand how people _____ social norms and values.

  ▸ This can be applied to patterns of behavior (ex: obedience) and even social _____.

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Match each moral reasoning statement in the gray box to the correct stage, based on Kohlberg's theory.

Preconventional	
Conventional	
Postconventional	

1. "I cleaned my room so my parents don't get mad at me."

2. "Stealing is wrong, but it's understandable when food prices are so high and the government isn't offering assistance."

3. "I won't cheat on this exam because that's against the rules."

True or False: If false, chose the answer that best corrects the statement. The statement "I don't steal because I don't want to break the law" reflects *conventional moral reasoning*.

a) True.

b) False; It represents preconventional moral reasoning.

c) False; It represents post conventional moral reasoning.

d) False; This statement is not a moral judgement at all.

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Gilligan's Theory of Moral Development

◆ **Carol Gilligan:** Feminist and psychologist; revised Kohlberg's theory through a gender critical lens.

◆ Believed that Kohlberg's model showed gender _____, since it was developed using only male participants.

  ▪ Women tended to score differently than men on his stages.

  ▪ Gilligan believed women were _____ to think about morality in a different way than men.

◆ Gilligan theorized that men and women use different types of moral reasoning.

Justice Perspective	Care and Responsibility Perspective
(Men)	(Women)
Reasoning based on rules and laws, with an emphasizes justice and _____.	Reasoning based on context, care, relationships, and _____.

🔑 **TAKEAWAY**

Gender socialization can play a role in how people internalize
social norms and values.

EXAMPLE

Gilligan argued that Kohlberg's original model was flawed because it:

a) Overestimated the importance of rules and laws in moral decision making.

b) Was based almost entirely on male samples and perspectives.

c) Overemphasized the importance of preconventional moral thinking.

d) Failed to account for how people might think about more abstract moral concepts.

PRACTICE

According to Gilligan's theory, women are often to socialized to make moral judgements that are based around:

a) Unquestioning obedience to authority.

b)   Justice, logic, and fairness.

c) Personal benefit.

d) Relationships, care, and empathy.