Marriages Families and Intimate Relationships 4th edition Williams Solutions Manual

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Chapter 2

UNDERSTANDING: Learning about Intimate Behavior

Learning Objectives

After reading this chapter, students should be able to:

2.1 Identify and explain the steps involved in critical thinking.
2.2 Discuss the eight key theoretical perspectives on the family and describe how macro- and micro-level orientations apply to the perspectives.
2.3 Explain the five principal kinds of scientific research and the importance of objectivity.

Major Questions You Should Be Able to Answer

1. Is there a more beneficial way to approach the world and ideas than I might be taking now?
2. What are eight perspectives for looking at the family and relationships?
3. What are five principal kinds of scientific research?

On the Web

Understanding Advertising

Jean Kilbourne
http://jeankilbourne.com

Do you really know how advertising works? See if you can find out one thing about ads that makes you realize how they influence you. To start, you might go to the website "Jean Kilbourne" and click on "Get Active." What did you learn?

Chapter Outline

I. 2.1 Learning How to Think: Keys to Being Open-Minded
We discuss how uncritical thinking can hinder our approach to the truth. We then describe four steps in critical thinking.
• Major Question 2.1: Is there a more beneficial way to approach the world and ideas than I might be taking now?

A. Numbers That Matter: How Times Have Changed
   1. The average American spent 4.5 hours daily watching TV in 2013
B. Uncritical Thinking & Magical Thinking
   1. The enemy: Our mind-sets
C. Critical Thinking
   1. The steps in critical thinking

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a. Get an understanding of the problem
b. Gather information and interpret it
c. Develop a solution plan and carry it out
d. Evaluate the plan's effectiveness

D. Example of Magical Thinking: The Vaccine Doubters
1. Taking health for granted
2. The discredited autism connection
3. Antiscience & the Internet

E. Critical Thinking: Skills versus Disposition

F. Practical Action: The Steps in Critical Thinking
1. Get an understanding of the problem
2. Gather information & interpret it
3. Develop a solution plan & carry it out
4. Evaluate the plan's effectiveness

II. 2.2 Theoretical Perspectives on the Family

Theories offer perspectives explaining why processes and events occur. Eight perspectives for viewing marriage and family are structural-functional, conflict, symbolic interaction, family systems, social exchange, feminist/male studies, ecological, and family development.

- Major Question 2.2: What are eight perspectives for looking at the family and relationships?

A. Two Types of Theories: Macro-Level versus Micro-Level Orientations
1. Macro-level orientation: The top-down view
2. Micro-level orientation: The bottom-up view

B. The Structural-Functional Perspective: The family is a social institution performing essential functions
1. Manifest functions: intended
2. Latent functions: unintended
3. Applying the perspective: Families have three main functions:
a. To ensure that society has an ongoing supply of new members and to be a source of socialization
b. To provide economic support for family members
c. To provide emotional support for family members

C. The Conflict Perspective: Conflict & change, not harmony, is the normal state of the family
1. Applying the perspective
a. Conflict over power
b. Conflict over resources

D. The Symbolic Interaction Perspective: People's interactions ultimately determine their behavior
1. Applying the perspective
a. Definition of the situation
b. Self-image based on others' interactions
c. Predictability of behavior

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E. The Family Systems Perspective: Family members are interconnected, & changes in one member affect the others
    1. Applying the perspective
F. The Social Exchange Perspective: Individuals seek the most benefits & the least costs in a relationship
    1. Applying the perspective
G. The Feminist Perspective: Inequality between men & women results from male dominance
    1. Applying the perspective
        a. Emphasis on inequality
        b. No one kind of family
        c. Reduction in harassment and violence
    2. Men's studies
H. The Ecological Perspective: The family is influenced by & influences its environment
    1. Applying the perspective
I. The Family Development Perspective: Individuals & families change through stages of life
    1. Applying the perspective
J. Is Any Perspective Better than Any Other?
    1. Pluses & minuses
        a. Structural-functional
        b. Conflict
        c. Symbolic interactionist
        d. Family systems
        e. Social exchange
        f. Feminist
        g. Ecological
        h. Family development

III. 2.3 How Do You Know What's True? Learning to Evaluate Research Results

Five principal kinds of scientific research are survey, clinical, observational, experimental, and other—cross-cultural, historical, and longitudinal. When looking at research findings, be aware of the blinders of your own experience and the flaws that can affect research studies.

- Major Question 2.3: What are five principal kinds of scientific research?

A. Survey Research: Collecting data by questionnaire or interview from representative samples
    1. Step 1: Decide on the population & the sample
        a. Representative (random) sample
        b. Nonrepresentative sample
    2. Step 2: Gather the data: Using questionnaires or interviews
        a. Survey by questionnaire
        b. Survey by interview
    3. Step 3: Analyze & generalize the results
B. Clinical Research: In-depth examination of individuals or groups in counseling
    1. Benefits: host of insights

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2. Drawbacks: results can't be generalized

C. Observational Research: Observing people in their usual surroundings
   1. Two kinds of observation
      a. Participant observation—Interact anonymously with subjects
      b. Nonparticipant observation—Just observe subjects
   2. Benefits
   3. Drawbacks

D. Experimental Research: Measuring behavior under controlled conditions
   1. Two kinds of variables
      a. Independent variables
      b. Dependent variables
   2. Experimental group versus control group
      a. Experimental group
      b. Control group
   3. Benefits
   4. Drawbacks

E. Other Kinds of Research
   1. Cross-cultural
   2. Historical
   3. Longitudinal
   4. Content analysis
   5. Secondary analysis

F. Trying to Be Objective: How Do You Know What's True?
   1. Your mind-sets: The possible filters
      a. Ethnocentrism—"My country or culture is best"
      b. Heterosexism—"The only legitimate family is heterosexual"
      c. Bias against not having children—"Children are the ultimate reason"
   2. Possible flaws in research studies
      a. Researcher is biased
      b. Sample is biased
      c. No control group
      d. Questions not neutrally worded
      e. Time and other distortions
      f. Questions of reliability and validity

G. Using the Sociological Imagination: Different Folks, Different Families

Key Terms

Case study method: research that consists of clinical practitioners working directly with individuals or families using interviews, observation, and analysis of records (p. 58).

Clinical research: entails in-depth study of individual or small groups who have sought counseling for psychological, relationship, or marital/family problems from mental health professionals (p. 58).

Conflict perspective: views individuals and groups as being basically in conflict with each other for power and scarce resources (p. 50).

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Content analysis: the systematic examination of cultural artifacts or various forms of communication to extract thematic data and draw conclusions about social life (p. 60).

Control group: group in which subjects are not introduced to the independent variable by the researcher (p. 59).

Critical thinking: clear thinking, skeptical thinking, active thinking; actively seeking to understand, analyze, and evaluate information in order to solve specific problems (p. 44).

Cross-cultural study: study in which social scientists compare data on family life among different kinds of societies (p. 60).

Dependent variables: factors or behaviors that are affected by changes in the independent variable (p. 59).

Developmental tasks: family members fulfill specific role expectations and responsibilities as they move through the life cycle (p. 54).

Ecological perspective: examines how a family (or individual) is influenced by and influences its environment (p. 53).

Ethnocentrism: the belief that one's native country, culture, language, abilities, or behavior are superior to those of another culture (p. 61).

Experiment: factors or behaviors are measured or monitored under closely controlled circumstances (p. 59).

Experimental group: group in which subjects are exposed to an independent variable introduced by the researcher (p. 59).

Experimental research: research in which researchers try to isolate a single factor or behavior under controlled conditions to determine its effect (p. 59).

Expressive role: the role of the female as a homemaker who is nurturing and supportive (p. 47).

Family development perspective: proposes that family members accomplish developmental tasks as they move through stages in the family life cycle (p. 54).

Family life cycle: family members' roles and relationships change, largely depending on how they have to adapt to the absence or presence of child-rearing responsibilities (p. 54).

Family systems perspective: suggests that family members make up a system of interconnected parts of a whole and that changes in one part change the other parts (p. 51).

Feminist perspective: the view that inequality in women's roles is the result of male dominance in the family and in society (p. 52).

Generalized: the results of the sample can be applied to the population, or the larger group (p. 58).

Hawthorne effect: situation in which subjects of research change from their typical behavior because they realize they are under observation (p. 59).

Heterosexism: the belief that the standard family is heterosexual, with homosexual families (lesbian and gays) not being viewed as true families (p. 61).

Historical study: study in which researchers compare census, social agency, or demographic data to ascertain changing patterns of family life (p. 60).

Independent variables: factors or behaviors that can be controlled or manipulated by the experimenter (p. 59).

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Instrumental role: the role of the male as the breadwinner who is hard-working, self-confident, and competitive (p. 47).

Interviewer bias: bias of interviewers that allows their own preconceptions to influence how they ask questions (p. 57).

Latent functions: unconscious or unintended functions that have hidden purposes (p. 47).

Longitudinal study: study in which researchers use questionnaires or interviews over a number of years to follow up on earlier investigations (p. 60).

Macro-level orientation: focuses on large-scale patterns of society (p. 47).

Magical thinking: the interpreting of two closely occurring events as though one caused the other, without any concern for causal link (p. 43).

Manifest functions: functions that are open, stated, and conscious (p. 47).

Micro-level orientation: focuses on small-scale patterns of society, concentrating on individual interactions in specific settings (p. 47).

Nonparticipant observation: researchers observe their subjects without interacting with them (p. 58).

Nonrepresentative sample: a sample in which participants are chosen by researchers on the basis of convenience or availability (p. 57).

Observational research: research in which researchers obtain information data by observing people in their usual surroundings (p. 58).

Participant observation: researchers interact with the subjects they are observing but do not reveal that they are researchers (p. 58).

Population: any well-known group of people social scientists want to study (p. 57).

Random sample: a sample in which everyone in a particular population has an equal chance of being included; also called representative sample (p. 57).

Reliability: the degree to which a measurement method produces the same results when repeated by the same or other researchers (p. 62).

Representative sample: see "random sample" (p. 57).

Sample: small group of the population to be studied; may be representative or nonrepresentative (p. 57).

Secondary analysis: the analysis of data collected by other researchers (p. 60).

Social exchange perspective: proposes that people's interactions represent the efforts of each person to maximize his or her benefits and minimize costs (p. 52).

Socialization: the process by which offspring learn attitudes, beliefs, and values appropriate to their society and culture so they can function effectively in society (p. 49).

Sociological imagination: the influence of social structure and culture on interpersonal decisions (p. 63).

Stratified random sample: a sample of specific subgroups of a particular population in which everyone in the subgroups has an equal chance of being included in the study (p. 57).

Structural-functional perspective: views the family as a social institution that performs essential functions for society to ensure its stability (p. 47).

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Survey research: uses questionnaires or interviews to collect data from small representative groups (samples), which are then used to generalize conclusions valid for larger groups (populations) (p. 57).

Symbolic interaction perspective: focuses on internal family interaction, the ongoing action and response of family members to one another (p. 50).

Theory: a perspective or a set of statements that explains why processes and events occur (p. 46).

Thomas theorem: theorem that states, "If people define situations as real, they are real in their consequences" (p. 50).

Validity: the degree to which a measurement method actually measures what it claims to measure and is free of bias (p.62).

Variable: a factor that can be varied or manipulated in the experiment (p. 59).

Discussion Topics

2.1 Learning How to Think: Keys to Being Open-Minded

1. Help students identify and analyze a basic assumption they have about family life. For example, many students believe that parents should rear their own children. Encourage students to discuss where they got this idea, if this idea is always the best, and how to analyze alternatives. It is okay if in the end they decide that parents should raise their own children because now they have examined the concept and have accepted it based on thought instead of default. Ask them to begin to think of more challenging areas they have accepted by default rather than thought, such as religion, politics, college major—the list goes on.

2. Why develop critical thinking skills? Have students discuss the differences between critical thinking and habitual or uncritical thinking. Help them learn that critical thinking is more difficult and takes more time, at least in the beginning. Have them discuss the value of being able to think critically to help them be motivated to putting forth an effort to think in this new way.

2.2 Theoretical Perspectives on the Family

1. Have students discuss the differences among the eight perspectives. Ask them to point out strengths and weaknesses of each perspective. Help them understand that each perspective is flawed on its own and that true critical thinking employs a variety of perspectives.

2.3 How Do You Know What's True? Learning to Evaluate Research Results

1. Discuss the benefits of research and the limits of findings. Often students become disillusioned when they find out that they cannot completely accept the findings of research. (Help them rethink critical thinking skills.) Help them realize that all research

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has limitations, and that when these limitations are considered, we gain information and broaden our understanding of the topic.

Class Activities and Handouts

The following handouts may be printed out and used for in-class and/or out-of-class activities related to the topics covered in this chapter.

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In-Class Activity

Please provide the type of possible research flaws illustrated below:

The Family Research Alliance, an organization supporting one woman/one man marriage, recently hired a researcher to examine the family behaviors of homosexual couples.

Type of research flaw? _____

When the researchers run the test again, they achieve different results.

Type of research flaw? _____

A researcher examines the effect of listening to music while learning math in a second-grade classroom.

Type of research flaw? _____

A major test to measure psychological problems is developed using people who are hospitalized with mental illness as its sample.

Type of research flaw? _____

A researcher creates a survey and does not test it with a small group first to make sure the wording is understandable.

Type of research flaw? _____

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Out-of-Class Activity

Name: _____ Date: _____

For each of the eight theoretical perspectives listed below, please provide an example of a family you know (from TV, movies, literature, or real life) that demonstrates that perspective. Provide a brief explanation.

1) Structural-Functional Perspective

2) Conflict Perspective

3) Symbolic Interaction Perspective

4) Family Systems Perspective

5) Social Exchange Perspective

6) Feminist Perspective

7) Ecological Perspective

8) Family Development Perspective

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Diversity Resources

Family Systems Theory
http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Family_Systems_Theory.aspx
A detailed look at the family systems theory via the International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family.

"A Stop Sign at the Intersection of History and Biography: Illustrating Mills's Imagination with Depression-Era Photographs" (2002. Hanson, C. *Teaching Sociology*)
http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/introtosociology/Documents/TSHanson2002.pdf
A paper by Chad Hanson, a member of the social science faculty at Casper College, proposing that Depression-era photographs provide students with a visual counterpart to the perspective suggested by C. Wright Mills in *The Sociological Imagination.*

"Migrant Mother"
http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/introtosociology/images/Sociology/8b29516vPeapickersHigherResolution.jpg
Dorothea Lange's famous Depression-era photograph depicting a destitute migrant farm worker and several of her children in California in 1936. (See "A Stop Sign at the Intersection of History and Biography," above.)

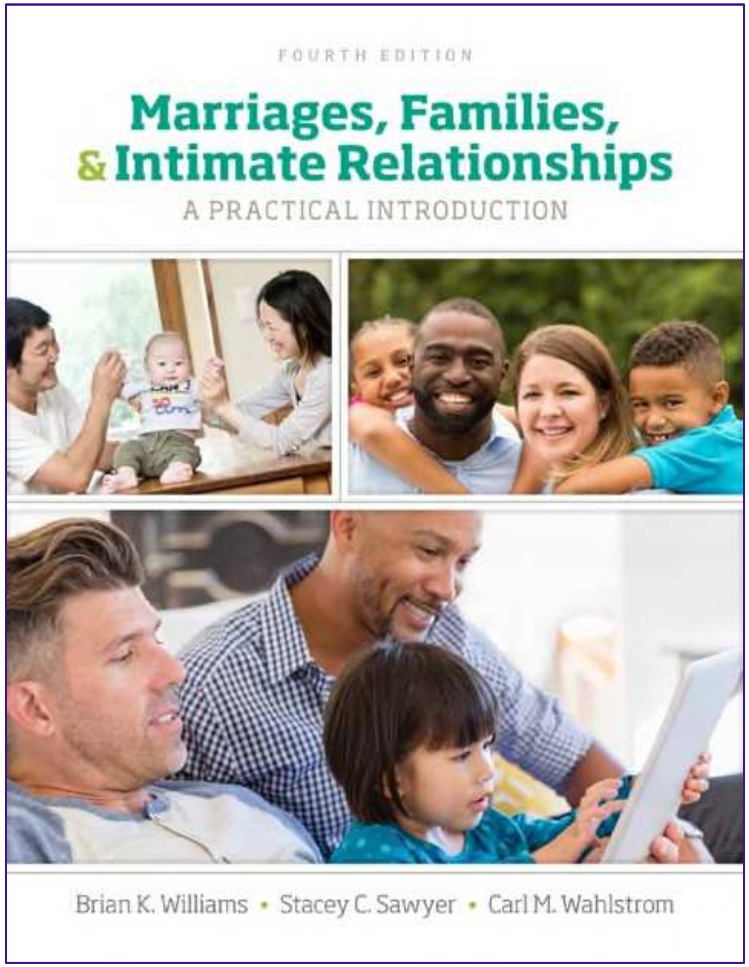
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Marriages, Families, & Intimate Relationships:
A Practical Introduction

Fourth Edition

Williams | Sawyer | Wahlstrom



Chapter 2
Understanding
Learning about Intimate Behavior

ALWAYS LEARNING

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Learning Objectives

2.1 Identify and explain the steps involved in critical thinking.

2.2 Discuss the eight key theoretical perspectives on the family and describe how macro- and micro-level orientations apply to the perspectives.

2.3 Explain the five principal kinds of scientific research and the importance of objectivity.

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Learning How to Think: Keys to Being Open-Minded

2.1 Identify and explain the steps involved in critical thinking.

- Meaningfulness
  - May or may not make you happy
  - Achieving a valued sense of one's self and one's purpose within the larger context of life and community
  - Associated with better health, work, and life satisfaction and performance
- The search for meaning begins with independent thinking.

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Uncritical Thinking & Magical Thinking

- Magical thinking
  - Interpreting two closely occurring events as though one caused the other without concern for the causal link
- The Enemy: Our Mindsets
  - Mindsets are patterns of thinking that affect how we respond to new ideas.
  - We listen to the information we want to hear.
  - Having mindsets makes life comfortable.

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Panel 2.1 Examples of Magical Thinking.

I won't change my clothes if the team's winning.
I read my daily horoscope to help avoid trouble.
Crime and violence are linked to the breakdown of the traditional family.
I knock on wood when talking about future possibilities.
Walking a mile a day can lead to a loss of more than 50 pounds in five years.
I stay away from the number 8.
Bad things are more likely to happen after I "jinx" myself (as in boasting you've never failed an exam).
Visualization or prayer can destroy cancer cells.
Certain people can help solve crimes using their psychic abilities.
Wishing someone harm can make that person sick.

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Critical Thinking

- Actively seeking to understand, analyze, and evaluate information to solve problems
- The Steps in Critical Thinking
  1. Get an understanding of the problem.
  2. Gather information and interpret it.
  3. Develop a solution plan and carry it out.
  4. Evaluate the plan's effectiveness.

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Critical Thinking: Skills versus Disposition

- Critical-thinking skills can be taught.
- Critical-thinking dispositions are related to traits that determine whether you choose to *use* critical-thinking skills.

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Theoretical Perspectives on the Family

2.2 Discuss the eight key theoretical perspectives on the family and describe how macro- and micro-level orientations apply to the perspectives.

- Theory
  - Perspective or set of statements that explains why processes and events occur
- Family theory may cover as many as 16 perspectives but only 8 are summarized in the following slides.

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Two Types of Theories: Macro-Level versus Micro-Level Orientations

- Macro-Level Orientation: The Top-Down View
  - Focuses on large-scale patterns of society
- Micro-Level Orientation: The Bottom-Up View
  - Focuses on small-scale patterns of society

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Panel 2.2 The Eight Theoretical Perspectives Compared.

	1. STRUCTURAL-FUNCTIONAL	2. CONFLICT	3. SYMBOLIC INTERACTION	4. FAMILY SYSTEMS	5. SOCIAL EXCHANGE	6. FEMINIST	7. ECOLOGICAL	8. FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
Type of orientation	Macro	Macro	Micro	Micro	Micro	Macro and micro	Macro and micro	Macro and micro
Principal features	Stability, consensus, instrumental, and expressive roles; manifest and latent functions	Conflict, competition over scarce resources, lack of consensus, social inequality	Ongoing internal family interaction; actions and reactions of family members to each other	Family members act as interconnected parts in which changes in one part create changes in other parts; all parts work toward equilibrium	People's interactions in relationships represent the efforts of each person to maximize benefits and minimize costs	Inequality in women's roles is the result of male dominance in the family and society	Family is influenced by its immediate and distant environments	Family members accomplish tasks as they move through age-related stages
Illustrative questions	What functions does the family serve? How does the family contribute to societal stability?	Who benefits from the existing social arrangement?	How do family interactions create reality for the family? How is the family experienced by its members?	How do family members experience crises in the family (illness, economic changes, substance abuse)?	How does one partner react to a lack of affection from another?	How do men benefit from traditional gender roles? How are women oppressed by the traditional definition of family?	How do individuals grow and adapt through interactions with their environment?	How do family roles change based on absence or presence of children or father or mother figure?

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1. The Structural-Functional Perspective: The Family Is a Social Institution Performing Essential Functions (1 of 2)

- Views the family as a social institution that performs essential functions for society to ensure its stability
- Talcott Parsons, sociologist in the 1950–60s
  - Male in *instrumental role*
  - Female in *expressive role*
- Manifest Functions—Intended
  - Open, stated, and conscious functions

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1. The Structural-Functional Perspective: The Family Is a Social Institution Performing Essential Functions
(2 of 2)

- Latent Functions—Unintended
  - Unconscious or unintended functions
  - These functions have hidden purposes
- Applying the Perspective
  - To Ensure Society Has an Ongoing Supply of New Members and to Be a Source of Socialization
  - To Provide Economic Support for Family Members
  - To Provide Emotional Support for Family Members

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2. The Conflict Perspective: Conflict & Change, Not Harmony, Is the Normal State of the Family

- Views individuals and groups as being basically in conflict with each other for power and scarce resources
- Applying the Perspective
  - Conflict perspective proponents believe that differences appear for two reasons.
    - Conflict over Power
    - Conflict over Resources

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3.The Symbolic Interaction Perspective: People's Interactions Ultimately Determine Their Behavior

- Herbert Blumer's work
  - Based on Charles Horton Cooley and George Herbert Mead
- Focuses on internal family interactions, the ongoing action, and response of family members to one another
- Applying the Perspective
  - Definition of the Situation
  - Self-Image Based on Others' Interactions
  - Predictability of Behavior

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4. The Family Systems Perspective: Family Members Are Interconnected & Changes in One Affect Others

- Family members make up a system of interconnected parts of a whole
  - Changes in one part change the other parts
- Applying the Perspective
  - Equilibrium
  - Emotional equilibrium
    - Ways of expression and behavior

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5. The Social Exchange Perspective: Individuals Seek the Most Benefits & the Least Costs in a Relationship

- Proposes people's interactions represent the efforts of each person to:
  - Maximize benefits
  - Minimize costs
- Applying the Perspective
  - Economics-like model of rationality does not account for how in many relationships it may not be obvious what benefits the couple gets.
  - "Walkaway wives" describe women who shut down emotionally from inattentive husbands.

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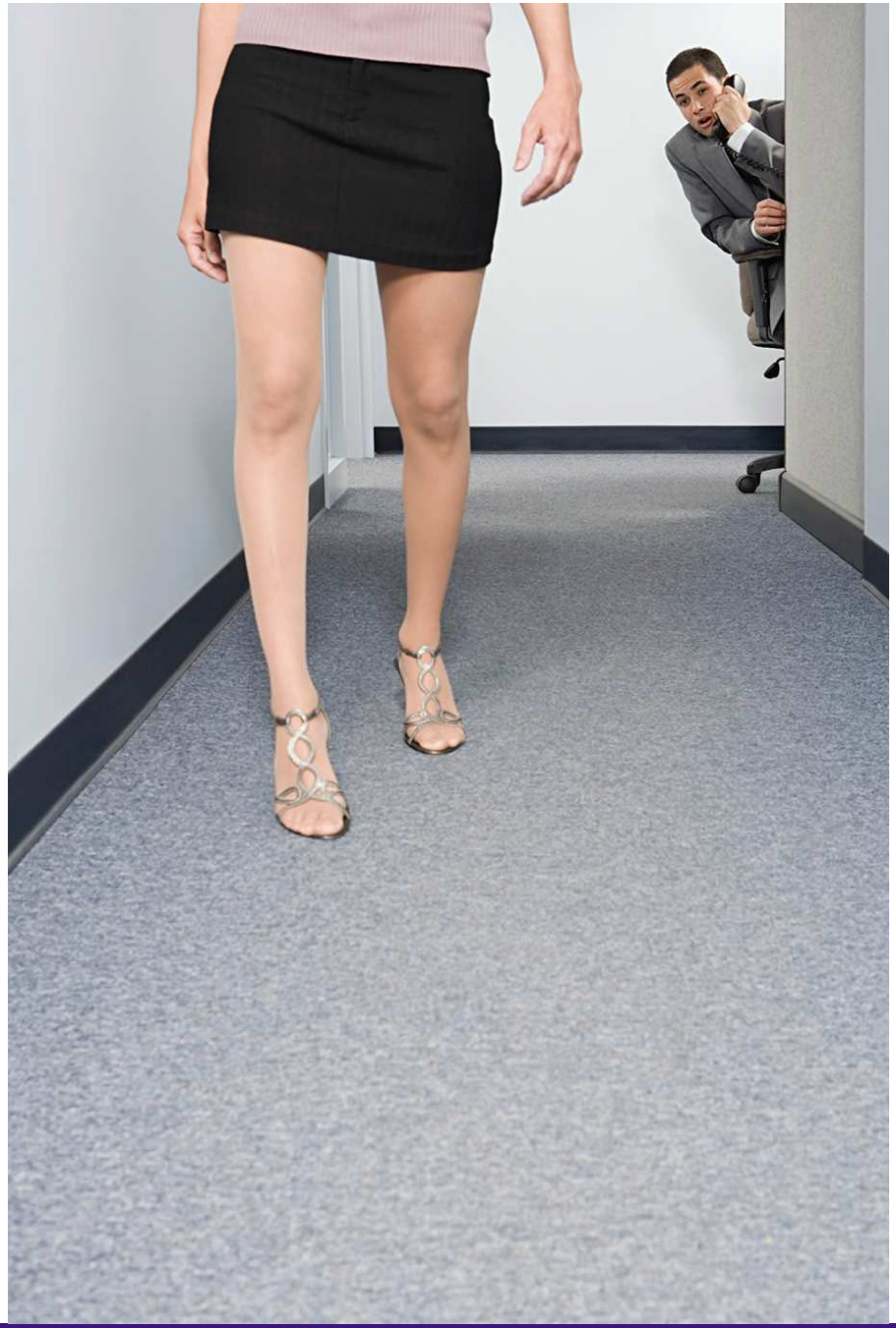
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6. The Feminist Perspective: Inequality between Men & Woman Results from Male Dominance

- Applying the Perspective
  - Emphasis on Inequality
  - No One Kind of Family
  - Reduction in Harassment and Violence
- Men's Studies
  - New discipline believing that men were overlooked in family studies
  - Roles as husbands, fathers, sons, ex-spouses

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7. The Ecological Perspective: The Family Is Influenced by & Influences Its Environment

- Examines how a family (or individual) is influenced by and influences its environment
- Applying the Perspective
  - Babies as young as 12 months old can view the behavior of adults and pick up their emotions.

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8.The Family Development Perspective: Individuals & Families Change through Stages of Life

- Family members accomplish developmental tasks through stages in the family life cycle.
  - Roles and relationships change, largely depending on how members have to adapt to the absence or presence of childrearing responsibilities.
- Applying the Perspective
  - Developmental tasks
    - Fulfillment of specific role expectations and responsibilities while moving through the life cycle
  - Not all aspects of life fit neatly into a life cycle model.

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Panel 2.3 Eight Stages in the Family Life Cycle.
The eight stages are not universal, of course; many people start families later or don't have children at all.

1. Married couple: no children
2. Childbearing family—lasts about 2ó years: oldest child younger than 30 months old
3. Family with preschoolers—lasts about 3ó years: oldest child 2–6 years old
4. Family with schoolchildren—lasts about 7 years: oldest child 6–13 years old
5. Family with adolescents—lasts about 7 years: oldest child 13–20 years old
6. Family as launching center—lasts about 8 years: oldest child an adult and has been "launched" into independence
7. Middle-age family: empty nest—no children
8. Aging family: from retirement to death of one or both spouses

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Is Any Perspective Better Than Any Other

- Pluses & Minuses
  - Structural-Functional
  - Conflict
  - Symbolic Interactionist
  - Family System
  - Social Exchange
  - Feminist
  - Ecological
  - Family Development

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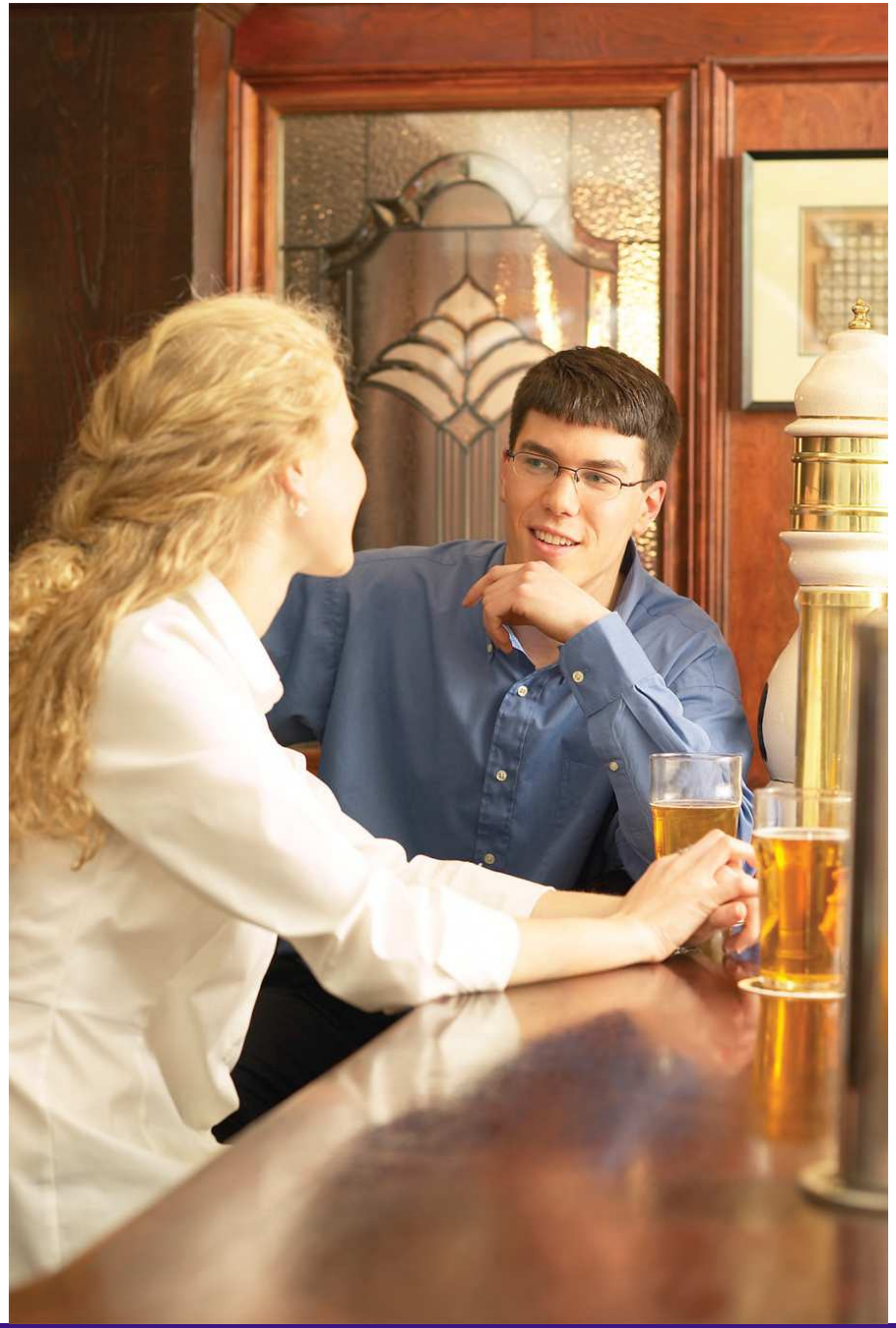
How Do You Know What's True? Learning to Evaluate Research Results

2.3 Explain the five principal kinds of scientific research and the importance of objectivity.

- Smart thinkers want to check intuitions against available evidence, not just gut feelings.
- Principal kinds of scientific research
  - Survey
  - Clinical
  - Observational
  - Experimental
  - Other
    - Cross-cultural, historical, longitudinal, content analysis, and secondary analysis

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1. Survey Research: Collecting Data by Questionnaire or Interview from Representative Samples (1 of 2)

- Step 1: Decide on the Population & the Sample
  - Representative (random) sample
    - Everyone has the same chance of being included.
  - Nonrepresentative sample
    - Researchers pick for convenience or availability.
  - Stratified random sample
    - Specific subgroups of population in which everyone in the subgroups has an equal chance of being included in the study

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1. Survey Research: Collecting Data by Questionnaire or Interview from Representative Samples (2 of 2)

- Step 2: Gather the Data: Using Questionnaires or Interviews
  - Survey by questionnaire
  - Survey by interview
    - Interviewer bias, in which interviewer's own preconceptions influence how they ask questions and send signals to subjects
- Step 3: Analyze & Generalize the Results
  - Whether results of a sample can be said to apply to the population

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2. Clinical Research: In-Depth Examination of Individuals or Groups in Counseling

- Case Study Method
  - Working directly with clients using interviews, observation, and analysis of records
  - Benefits—Host of Insights
  - Drawbacks—Results Can't Be Generalized

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3. Observational Research: Observing People in Their Usual Surroundings (1 of 2)

- Two Kinds of Observation
  - Participant Observation—Interact Anonymously with Subjects
  - Nonparticipant Observation—Just Observe Subjects
- Benefits
  - Nonparticipant observation valuable as its presence does not interfere with a natural situation

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3. Observational Research: Observing People in Their Usual Surroundings (2 of 2)

- Drawbacks
  - *Hawthorne effect* in participant observation
    - Subjects of research change from their typical behavior because they realize they are under observation
- Observation method accounts for less than 5% of research articles.

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4. Experimental Research: Measuring Behavior under Controlled Conditions (1 of 2)

- Two Kinds of Variables
  - Independent Variables
    - Factors that can be controlled/manipulated by experimenter
  - Dependent Variables
    - Cannot be controlled/affected by changes in independent variables
- Experimental Group versus Control Group
  - The control group is not exposed to the independent variable.

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4. Experimental Research: Measuring Behavior under Controlled Conditions (2 of 2)

- Benefits
  - Experimenters can observe behavior directly so they are not dependent on what responders say about their behavior.
  - Researchers have control over many factors and can isolate variables.
- Drawbacks
  - Behavior takes place in artificial environment.
  - Subjects are often college students or paid volunteers, thus not representative of the population at large.

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5. Other Kinds of Research

- Cross-Cultural
- Historical
- Longitudinal
- Content Analysis
- Secondary Analysis

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Trying to Be Objective: How Do You Know What's True? (1 of 2)

- Your Mind-Sets: The Possible Filters
  - Ethnocentrism—"My Country or Culture Is Best"
  - Heterosexism—"The Only Legitimate Family Is Heterosexual"
  - Bias against Not Having Children—"Children Are the Ultimate Reason"

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Trying to Be Objective: How Do You Know What's True? (2 of 2)

- Possible Flaws in Research Studies
  - Researcher Is Biased
  - Sample Is Biased
  - No Control Group
  - Questions Not Neutrally Worded
  - Time and Other Distortions
  - Questions of Reliability and Validity
    - Reliability is the degree to which a measurement method produces the same results when repeated.
    - Validity is the degree to which measurement method actually measures what it claims and is free of bias.

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Using the Sociological Imagination: Different Folks, Different Families

- C. Wright Mills
  - Social imagination
    - Influence on social structure and culture on interpersonal decisions
    - A good perspective from which to view changing nature of family
- Family, education, and larger social forces such as gender roles, media, technology, and religion all influence your views.

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