

Socialization

Ryan Cragun – Summer, 2005

Calvin...



What is socialization?

- Socialization
 - Education into group membership
 - The process by which humans adopt or learn the culture of a group
- Process vs. Outcome
- Primary vs. Secondary

Goals of socialization

- Impulse control/conscience
- Role preparation
- Cultivation of meaning

Primary vs. Secondary

- What is primary?
- What is secondary?
- Significant socializers:
 - parents, friends, school, siblings, co-workers
- Total Institutions
- Other secondary socializers?

The Importance of Socialization

- Isolation
 - Genie and other feral children
- Harlow's Monkeys
- What else?

Theoretical Perspectives

- Symbolic Interactionism – development of self through interaction with others
- Role theory – socialization is the instruction of the norms associated with roles
- Reinforcement theory – socialization is a reward/punishment game
- Joining groups – socialization is learning what it means to be a group member

Research Examples

- Socialization and social class
 - creativity vs. obedience
- Socialization into death acceptance
 - talking about it in a positive and supportive environment helps
- Socialization, College Prep, and IQ
 - reinforcing intelligence indirectly can have direct effects on intelligence

Concluding Thoughts...

- Does socialization have to be successful?
- Does socialization limit agency?

Class Questions