Today’s lecture: social psychology and microsociology

1. Weber and the need for sociology to understand understanding
2. symbolic interactionism
3. impression management, social constructionism, and ethnomethodology
4. role theory and identity

Weber argued that true subject matter of sociology is action is because behaviors are to actors and take into account the (perceived)

“All history is which has to be interpreted in terms of the of various actors.”

Photos of Cooley and Mead

• early advocates of the importance of a systematic study of
• Mead’s work explicitly argued against the movement in
• Their work later provided foundations of what is called
properties of objects are by an individual on the basis of a system of

these guide human

- Thomas theorem: if situations are defined as
- role-taking: understanding how a social situation

meanings are acquired through previous social interactions

- socialization: the process by which

- much debate today about the relative importance of different
aside #1: gender role socialization

aside #2: Becker, “Becoming a Marihuana User”

Orienting question:

Steps to becoming a recreational marihuana user:
1. Learn to
2. Associate the
3. Learn to that are experienced

only through is successful social possible

- connection to last week’s discussion of “culture” and
- symbolic interactionism has emphasized as a way of getting at the of particular
society is an
of
successful

3 theoretical movements related to
symbolic interactionism
1. studies of impression management
2. social constructionism
3. ethnomethodology

impression management:
the
actions by
which individuals attempt to shape
the
that others

The dominant metaphor in the
sociological study of impression
management has been thinking of life
as like
orienting ideas of social constructionism:
that many things that appear completely natural to us (1) are the product of; (2) could be; and (3) are by us in social

ethnomethodology:
study of the relationship between specific
Example of Impression Management and Gender

Gardner, *Passing By*

Example of Social Constructionism and Gender

Lorber and Farrell (editors), *The Social Construction of Gender*

Example of Ethnomethodology and Gender

West and Zimmerman, “Doing Gender”
expectations and social roles

• expectations: anticipations about how other people
• Consider: complex society is very much built upon the existence of
  among
• Many expectations are attached to particular in society
• role: a package of associated with a in society

some struggles with roles...

1. what are the consequences when role?
2. what happens when the different roles on us?
3. what happens when trying to fulfill a particular role causes us to behave?

identity:
the that people use to think about
variation in identities