

the sociological definition of parents

the sociological definition of parents explores how society shapes our understanding of parenthood, emphasizing more than just biological relationships. This article delves into the sociological perspective of parents, addressing how cultural norms, family structures, and social roles define and influence the concept of parenting. Readers will discover how sociologists interpret the role of parents within various societal frameworks, examine the impact of socialization, investigate changing family dynamics, and analyze the responsibilities attributed to parents across cultures and time periods. The content also highlights different types of parental relationships, the influence of social institutions, and the evolving nature of parental roles in contemporary society. By the end, readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be a parent from a sociological standpoint, making this article essential for anyone interested in social sciences, family studies, or cultural anthropology.

- The Sociological Approach to Defining Parents
- Key Sociological Perspectives on Parenthood
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The Sociological Approach to Defining Parents

Sociology offers a nuanced understanding of parents, moving beyond simple biological or legal definitions. In sociological terms, parents are individuals who assume the primary responsibility for nurturing, socializing, and caring for children within a familial or social group. This definition recognizes both biological and non-biological relationships, such as adoptive parents, stepparents, and guardians. Sociologists analyze how societal norms, values, and expectations shape the role of parents, emphasizing the social construction of family roles. The sociological definition of parents is therefore rooted in the functions these individuals perform within their social context, rather than merely their genetic connection to children.

Core Elements of Sociological Parenthood

Rather than focusing solely on reproduction, the sociological definition of parents involves a broader set of responsibilities and relationships. Parenting encompasses emotional support, guidance, protection, and the transmission of cultural values. Sociologists consider the influence of social structures, such as class, ethnicity, and religion, on parental roles. The definition expands to include those who fulfill the caregiving and socializing functions, regardless of biological ties, reflecting the diversity of modern family arrangements.

Key Sociological Perspectives on Parenthood

Several sociological theories provide distinct lenses for understanding parents and their roles within society. These perspectives help explain how parenting is influenced by social forces and changing cultural patterns.

Structural Functionalism

Structural functionalists view parents as essential agents for maintaining societal stability. They focus

on the functions parents perform, such as nurturing children, teaching norms, and ensuring social continuity. In this perspective, the family is a core institution that organizes and regulates the upbringing of future generations, with parents as central actors.

Conflict Theory

Conflict theorists analyze how socioeconomic inequalities impact parental roles and family dynamics. They emphasize the struggles parents face due to class, race, or gender disparities, and how these factors shape access to resources, opportunities, and social power. This approach highlights the ways in which parents navigate societal constraints and advocate for their children.

Symbolic Interactionism

Symbolic interactionists focus on the daily interactions and meanings constructed between parents and children. This perspective examines how parenting roles are performed, negotiated, and interpreted through communication, rituals, and shared experiences. It recognizes the variability and flexibility of parental identities across different social settings.

Parental Roles and Functions in Society

Parents serve diverse roles within society, each contributing to the development and well-being of children and the larger community. The sociological definition of parents emphasizes not only caregiving but also the transmission of social norms, values, and traditions.

Primary Functions of Parents

- **Socialization:** Instilling societal norms, values, and cultural practices.

- **Protection:** Ensuring physical and emotional safety of children.
- **Economic Support:** Providing financial resources and stability.
- **Emotional Nurturance:** Offering love, support, and encouragement.
- **Education:** Guiding learning and skill development.

These roles are shaped by societal expectations and can vary significantly depending on cultural context, family structure, and individual circumstances.

Parental Authority and Responsibility

Authority and responsibility are central themes in the sociological understanding of parents. Parents are expected to make decisions in the best interest of their children, balancing discipline with autonomy. Societies differ in the degree of authority granted to parents and the extent to which children are encouraged to express independence.

Diversity of Family Structures and Parental Definitions

The sociological definition of parents adapts to the diversity of family structures present in contemporary society. Changing norms have expanded the concept to include various forms of parenthood beyond the traditional nuclear family.

Types of Parental Relationships

- **Biological Parents:** Those genetically related to the child.

- **Adoptive Parents:** Individuals who legally assume parental responsibilities.
- **Stepparents:** Partners who take on parental roles through marriage.
- **Foster Parents:** Temporary caregivers appointed by social services.
- **Grandparents and Extended Family:** Family members who often fulfill parental functions.

These arrangements reflect the flexible, socially constructed nature of parenthood in sociology. The recognition of same-sex parents, co-parents, and communal caregiving further expands the definition.

Impact of Culture and Tradition

Culture plays a major role in shaping parental definitions. In some societies, extended families or community members share caregiving responsibilities. Traditions, religious beliefs, and local customs influence who is considered a parent and how parental duties are distributed.

Socialization and the Impact of Parents

Socialization is a central function of parents in sociological theory. Parents are the primary agents of socialization, introducing children to societal norms, values, beliefs, and behaviors. This process shapes children's identities, attitudes, and future social roles.

Mechanisms of Socialization

- **Modeling Behavior:** Parents serve as role models for children's conduct.
- **Communication:** Conveying expectations, rules, and cultural narratives.

- **Discipline:** Reinforcing boundaries and acceptable behavior.
- **Education:** Facilitating formal and informal learning experiences.
- **Social Networks:** Introducing children to social groups and institutions.

Through these mechanisms, parents influence children's development and integration into society. Sociologists study the long-term effects of parental socialization on personality, achievement, and social mobility.

Changing Dynamics of Parenthood in Modern Society

The sociological definition of parents continues to evolve in response to shifting societal trends. Factors such as globalization, changing gender roles, and advances in reproductive technology have broadened the scope of parenthood.

Contemporary Challenges and Trends

- **Single-Parent Families:** Increasing prevalence and unique challenges.
- **Same-Sex Parenting:** Expanding recognition and legal rights.
- **Blended Families:** Complex relationships and roles.
- **Technological Influence:** Digital parenting and online socialization.
- **Work-Life Balance:** Economic pressures and dual-income households.

Sociologists examine how these changes affect parental roles, responsibilities, and the well-being of children. The adaptability of parents to new social realities is a key area of research, highlighting the resilience and diversity of family life.

Frequently Asked Questions About the Sociological Definition of Parents

Q: What is the sociological definition of parents?

A: The sociological definition of parents refers to individuals who assume primary responsibility for nurturing, socializing, and caring for children within a family or social group, encompassing biological, adoptive, and other caregiving relationships.

Q: How does sociology differ from biology in defining parents?

A: While biology focuses on genetic connections, sociology emphasizes the roles, responsibilities, and social functions individuals perform in caring for and socializing children, including non-biological caregivers.

Q: What roles do parents play in socialization?

A: Parents act as primary agents of socialization by teaching children societal norms, values, behaviors, and cultural practices, shaping their identities and future roles within society.

Q: How do family structures influence the definition of parents?

A: Family structures such as nuclear, single-parent, extended, and blended families expand the definition of parents to include stepparents, adoptive parents, and other caregivers, reflecting societal

diversity.

Q: Are non-biological caregivers considered parents in sociology?

A: Yes, sociology recognizes non-biological caregivers, such as adoptive parents, stepparents, and foster parents, as fulfilling parental roles based on their caregiving and socializing functions.

Q: What impact do cultural norms have on parental definitions?

A: Cultural norms and traditions shape who is considered a parent, the distribution of parental duties, and the expectations placed on caregivers within different societies.

Q: How has the definition of parents changed in modern society?

A: The definition has evolved to include same-sex parents, single-parent families, blended families, and other non-traditional arrangements, reflecting broader societal acceptance and legal recognition.

Q: What sociological theories explain the role of parents?

A: Key theories include structural functionalism, which focuses on social stability; conflict theory, which examines power and inequality; and symbolic interactionism, which explores daily interactions and role negotiation.

Q: How do parents influence children's social development?

A: Through modeling behavior, communication, discipline, education, and introducing children to social networks, parents profoundly shape children's social skills, values, and integration into society.

Q: Why is the sociological definition of parents important?

A: Understanding the sociological definition of parents helps explain family diversity, the impact of social change, and the crucial role caregivers play in shaping individuals and society as a whole.

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The Sociological Definition of Parents: Beyond Biology and Blood Ties

Introduction:

We all have a picture in our minds of what a "parent" is. But stepping beyond personal experience and into the realm of sociology reveals a far more nuanced and complex reality. This blog post will delve into the sociological definition of parents, moving beyond simplistic biological definitions to explore the diverse roles and responsibilities encompassed by parenthood. We'll examine various theoretical perspectives, discuss the evolving nature of family structures, and consider the social implications of different parenting models. Get ready to challenge your preconceived notions about what it truly means to be a parent in the eyes of sociology.

Beyond Biology: The Social Construction of Parenthood

The most common understanding of parenthood rests on biological ties – the genetic link between parent and child. However, sociology argues that parenthood is not solely determined by biology; it's a socially constructed role. This means that the meaning and significance attached to parenthood are shaped by cultural norms, social expectations, and historical contexts. What constitutes "parenthood" differs across cultures and time periods. For example, in some societies, extended family members play a significant role in raising children, while in others, the emphasis is heavily placed on the nuclear family unit.

The Role of Socialization

Sociology emphasizes the crucial role parents play in the socialization of children. This process involves teaching children the norms, values, beliefs, and behaviors necessary to function within their society. Parents transmit cultural knowledge, shaping their children's identities and preparing them for adult life. This process isn't always intentional; it's embedded in everyday interactions, from bedtime stories to dinner table conversations. The effectiveness of socialization, however, can be impacted by various socio-economic factors and parental styles.

Theoretical Perspectives on Parenthood

Several sociological theories offer insightful perspectives on the role of parents.

Functionalism: The Importance of Social Stability

Functionalist theory views the family, and by extension parenthood, as essential for maintaining social order. Parents are seen as fulfilling crucial functions, including providing emotional support, economic stability, and transmitting social values to ensure the smooth functioning of society. This perspective often emphasizes the nuclear family structure as the ideal model.

Conflict Theory: Inequalities and Power Dynamics

Conflict theory, on the other hand, highlights the inequalities embedded within family structures and parental roles. It emphasizes how power dynamics within families, influenced by factors like gender, class, and race, can affect children's experiences and opportunities. This perspective draws attention to the potential for conflict and inequality in parenting practices.

Symbolic Interactionism: The Construction of Meaning

Symbolic interactionism focuses on the micro-level interactions between parents and children. It examines how meaning is created and negotiated through these interactions, shaping the parent-child relationship and the child's sense of self. This theory emphasizes the role of communication, interpretation, and shared understanding in shaping the dynamics of parenthood.

The Evolving Landscape of Parenthood: Beyond the Nuclear Family

Traditional notions of parenthood, often centered around the nuclear family (two biological parents raising children), are rapidly evolving. Modern society witnesses a rise in diverse family structures, including single-parent families, same-sex parent families, adoptive families, and families with blended families. These changes necessitate a broader understanding of parenthood that moves beyond the traditional biological and marital definitions.

The Impact of Social Change

Factors like increased female participation in the workforce, changing social attitudes towards family structures, and advances in reproductive technologies have contributed significantly to this evolution. Understanding the sociological implications of these changes is crucial for creating inclusive and supportive social policies for families of all configurations.

Challenges and Considerations

The sociological definition of parents also necessitates acknowledging the challenges and complexities inherent in parenthood. Issues such as parental stress, child abuse, and the effects of poverty on child development are significant concerns that warrant sociological investigation. Understanding these challenges is vital for designing effective interventions and support systems aimed at promoting healthy child development and well-being.

Conclusion:

The sociological definition of parents extends far beyond a simple biological or legal connection. It encompasses a complex interplay of social roles, responsibilities, and expectations, shaped by cultural norms, societal structures, and individual experiences. By moving beyond simplistic definitions and exploring various theoretical perspectives, we gain a richer understanding of the diverse ways in which individuals assume the role of parent and the significant impact this role has on individuals, families, and society as a whole. The ongoing evolution of family structures and societal values requires continuous reflection and adaptation of our understanding of parenthood.

FAQs:

1. Q: Does sociology recognize only legal parents as parents? A: No, sociological perspectives recognize a wider range of parental figures, including adoptive parents, foster parents, step-parents, and even extended family members who play significant parental roles. The focus is on the social and relational aspects of parenting rather than solely legal status.
2. Q: How does social class affect the sociological definition of parents? A: Social class significantly influences parenting practices and access to resources. Parents from higher socioeconomic backgrounds often have more resources to invest in their children's education and well-being, while those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds may face greater challenges.
3. Q: What is the role of gender in the sociological understanding of parenthood? A: Sociological research highlights the often unequal distribution of parental responsibilities based on gender, with mothers traditionally shouldering a greater burden of childcare. However, evolving gender roles are leading to more equitable distribution in some families.
4. Q: How does culture influence the definition of parenthood? A: Cultural norms greatly impact what is considered "good parenting." Practices vary significantly across cultures, ranging from parenting styles to the level of parental involvement in children's lives.
5. Q: How does the sociological perspective on parenthood inform social policy? A: Sociological research on parenthood informs policies related to family support, child welfare, and education by providing insights into the challenges and needs of diverse family structures and highlighting inequalities that need to be addressed.

the sociological definition of parents: Parenting Matters National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Supporting the Parents of Young Children, 2016-11-21

Decades of research have demonstrated that the parent-child dyad and the environment of the family—which includes all primary caregivers—are at the foundation of children's well-being and healthy development. From birth, children are learning and rely on parents and the other caregivers in their lives to protect and care for them. The impact of parents may never be greater than during the earliest years of life, when a child's brain is rapidly developing and when nearly all of her or his experiences are created and shaped by parents and the family environment. Parents help children build and refine their knowledge and skills, charting a trajectory for their health and well-being during childhood and beyond. The experience of parenting also impacts parents themselves. For instance, parenting can enrich and give focus to parents' lives; generate stress or calm; and create any number of emotions, including feelings of happiness, sadness, fulfillment, and anger. Parenting of young children today takes place in the context of significant ongoing developments. These include: a rapidly growing body of science on early childhood, increases in funding for programs and services for families, changing demographics of the U.S. population, and greater diversity of family structure. Additionally, parenting is increasingly being shaped by technology and increased access to information about parenting. Parenting Matters identifies parenting knowledge, attitudes, and practices associated with positive developmental outcomes in children ages 0-8; universal/preventive and targeted strategies used in a variety of settings that have been effective with parents of young children and that support the identified knowledge, attitudes, and practices; and barriers to and facilitators for parents' use of practices that lead to healthy child outcomes as well as their

participation in effective programs and services. This report makes recommendations directed at an array of stakeholders, for promoting the wide-scale adoption of effective programs and services for parents and on areas that warrant further research to inform policy and practice. It is meant to serve as a roadmap for the future of parenting policy, research, and practice in the United States.

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comprehensive book examines the causes and consequences of parenting distress, drawing on a wide array of findings in current empirical research. Kirby Deater-Deckard explores normal and pathological parenting stress, the influences of parents on their children as well as children on their parents, and the effects of biological and environmental factors. Beginning with an overview of theories of stress and coping, Deater-Deckard goes on to describe how parenting stress is linked with problems in adult and child health (emotional problems, developmental disorders, illness); parental behaviors (warmth, harsh discipline); and factors outside the family (marital quality, work roles, cultural influences). The book concludes with a useful review of coping strategies and interventions that have been demonstrated to alleviate parenting stress.

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the impact of racism and sexism. The Meritocracy Myth examines talent, attitude, work ethic, and character as elements of merit and evaluates the effect of non-merit factors such as social status, race, heritage, and wealth on meritocracy. A compelling book on an often-overlooked topic, first edition was highly regarded and proved a useful examination of this classic American ideal.

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volumes of *The Social History of the American Family* explore the vital role of the family as the fundamental social unit across the span of American history. Experiences of family life shape so much of an individual's development and identity, yet the patterns of family structure, family life, and family transition vary across time, space, and socioeconomic contexts. Both the definition of who or what counts as family and representations of the "ideal" family have changed over time to reflect changing mores, changing living standards and lifestyles, and increased levels of social heterogeneity. Available in both digital and print formats, this carefully balanced academic work chronicles the social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of American families from the colonial period to the present. Key themes include families and culture (including mass media), families and religion, families and the economy, families and social issues, families and social stratification and conflict, family structures (including marriage and divorce, gender roles, parenting and children, and mixed and non-modal family forms), and family law and policy. Features: Approximately 600 articles, richly illustrated with historical photographs and color photos in the digital edition, provide historical context for students. A collection of primary source documents demonstrate themes across time. The signed articles, with cross references and Further Readings, are accompanied by a Reader's Guide, Chronology of American Families, Resource Guide, Glossary, and thorough index. *The Social History of the American Family* is an ideal reference for students and researchers who want to explore political and social debates about the importance of the family and its evolving constructions.

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been a core feature of social policy developments in the UK and Europe in the past decade. Michael Sheppard argues that the issue of social exclusion lies at the very heart of social work and he examines the implications of this position for both theory and practice. He goes on to examine a range of key topics in social work including: • Social work values and knowledge • Empowerment • Need • The exercise of authority • Authority and Choice • Evidence-based practice • Reflection and reflective learning • Judgement and decision making • Social work and 'art' • Social work as 'science' He discusses how each of these topics reflect an underlying concern with social exclusion, making it clear that even though the term 'social exclusion' is of recent origin, it provides a framework for understanding the enduring themes of social work. The book offers an original contribution to the understanding and practice of social work and includes a reappraisal of some fundamental aspects of the profession and its practice. In its focus on issues of wide concern it will be essential reading for practitioners and students in social work. It will also be of interest within social policy generally, offering an example of the way in which social exclusion becomes an issue of professional concern in welfare, and the form this takes in practice.

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DISCOUNTED BUNDLE SAVES YOUR STUDENTS MONEY! This book is available bundled with Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life Readings, Seventh Edition (bundle ISBN: 978-1-4129-6151-6) The Seventh Edition of David Newman's Sociology: Exploring the Architecture of Everyday Life invites students to delve into the fascinating world of sociological thought. Encouraging students to think more about how sociology applies to their everyday lives, this edition features updated coverage and fresh examples, including revamped micro-macro connections to help students understand the link between individual lives and the structure of society. New to the Seventh Edition Presents new and updated coverage throughout, including new sections on Muslim-Americans, global warming, and sexual orientation Features Newman's signature compelling writing style with slightly briefer chapters and integrated global content in each for a better fit with today's courses Provides a more robust research methods section with innovative discussions of spuriousness in research, reading a research article correctly, and more, plus a new 'Doing Social Research' feature Offers new examples from the myriad U.S. subcultures to engage students with examples that are relevant to their lives Features new and updated Micro-Macro Connections, including technology and erosion of privacy, the global health divide, and more, to help students make the link between their daily lives and the architecture of society Includes fresh examples and updated statistical information throughout the text, along with new exhibits and impactful visual essays Ancillaries Instructor's Resources on CD-Rom are available to qualified instructors. Contact SAGE at info@sagepub.com or 1.800.818.7243 to request a copy. Student study site - COMING SOON - at www.pineforge.com/newman7study Intended Audience This core text is designed for students enrolled in Introduction to Sociology and Principles of Sociology courses in departments of sociology.

the sociological definition of parents: Research Handbook on the Sociology of the Family Norbert F. Schneider, Michaela Kreyenfeld, 2021-06-25 Exploring how family life has radically changed in recent decades, this comprehensive Research Handbook tracks the latest developments and trends in scholarly work on the family. With a particular focus on the European context, it addresses current debates and offers insights into key topics including: the division of housework, family forms and living arrangements, intergenerational relationships, partner choice, divorce and fertility behaviour.

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participants in the research within this volume.

the sociological definition of parents: Social Class and Transnational Human Capital Jürgen Gerhards, Hans Silke, Sören Carlson, 2017-06-26 Due to globalization processes, foreign language skills, knowledge about other countries and intercultural competences have increasingly become important for societies and people's social positions. Previous research on social inequality, however, has dominantly focused on the reproduction of class structures within the boundaries of a particular nation-state without considering the importance of these specific skills and competences. Within Social Class and Transnational Human Capital authors Gerhards, Hans and Carlson refer to these skills as 'transnational human capital' and ask to what extent access to this increasingly sought-after resource depends on social class. Based on Pierre Bourdieu's theory of class, they investigate this question via both quantitative and qualitative empirical analyses. In doing so the authors focus, among other examples, on the so-called school year abroad, i.e. students spending up to a year abroad while attending school – a practice which is rather popular in Germany, but also quite common in many other countries. Thus, this insightful volume explores how inequalities in the acquisition of transnational human capital and new forms of social distinction are produced within families, depending on their class position and the educational strategies parents pursue when trying to prepare their children for a globalizing world. An enlightening title, this book will appeal to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as postdoctoral researchers interested in fields such as sociology, social inequality research, globalization studies and educational studies.

the sociological definition of parents: Handbook of Parenting Marc H. Bornstein, 2005-02-16 Despite the fact that most people become parents and everyone who has ever lived has had parents, parenting remains a mystifying subject about which almost everyone has opinions, but about which few people agree. Striking permutations on the theme of parenting are emerging--single parenthood, blended families, lesbian and gay parents, and teen versus fifties first-time moms and dads. Divided into four volumes, the Handbook of Parenting is concerned with different types of parents, basic characteristics of parenting, forces that shape parenting, problems faced by parents, and the practical sides of parenting. Contributors have worked in different ways toward understanding all of these diverse aspects of parenting and look to the most recent research and thinking in the field to shed light on many topics every parent has wondered about. Because development is too subtle, dynamic, and intricate to admit that parental caregiving alone determines the course and outcome of ontogeny, volume 1 concerns how children influence parenting. Volume 2 relates parenting to its biological roots and sets parenting in its ecological framework. Volume 3 distinguishes among the cast of characters responsible for parenting and is revealing of the psychological make-ups and social interests of those individuals. Volume 4 describes problems of parenting as well as the promotion of positive parenting practices. Written to be read and absorbed in a single sitting, each chapter addresses a different but central topic in parenting, and is rooted in current thinking and theory as well as classic and modern research on that topic. All chapters follow a standard organization including an introduction to the chapter as a whole followed by historical considerations of the topic, a discussion of central issues and theory, a review of classic and modern research, forecasts of future directions for theory and research, and a conclusion. In addition to considering their own convictions and research, the chapter contributors present and broadly interpret all major points of view and central lines of inquiry.

the sociological definition of parents: The Social Self Robert C. Ziller, 2013-10-22 The Social Self is a multifaceted analysis of the self concept based on the social nature of the self. The emphasis is on self-esteem along with self-centrality, self-complexity, social interest, identification, power, marginality, openness, and majority identification. The book relies on an approach based upon non-verbal measures of the self concept and in which the individual is asked to locate himself in relation to a field of significant others, represented in a variety of geometric arrangements using symbols of the self and others. Comprised of nine chapters, this book begins with a description of some of the basic components of the self system including self-esteem, social interest, and marginality. The discussion moves toward more complex analyses including the alienation syndrome

and the political personality involving two or more of the components of the social self. The next section focuses on the development of the self concept and examines such variables as socioeconomic background and the history of geographic mobility of the child. A theory of self-other orientation is also considered, along with a helical theory of personal change. This monograph is intended for students of social psychology, personality, sociology, and education who are interested in the self concept, its measurement, and theoretical considerations.

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the sociological definition of parents: Normative Patterns and Legal Developments in the Social Dimension of the EU Ann Numhauser-Henning, Mia Rönnmar, 2013-06-28 This book explores the normative and legal evolution of the Social Dimension - labour law, social security law and family law - in both the EU and its Member States, during the last decade. It does this from a wide range of theoretical and legal-substantive perspectives. The past decade has witnessed the entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty and its emphasis on fundamental rights, a new coordination regulation within the field of social security (Regulation 883/2004/EC), and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the so-called Laval Quartet. Furthermore structural changes affecting demographics and family have also challenged solidarity in new ways. The book is organised by reference to distinct 'normative patterns' and their development in the fields of law covered, such as the protection of established groups, the position of market functional values and the scope for just distribution. The book represents an innovative and important interdisciplinary approach to analysing EU law and Social Europe, and contributes a complex, yet thought-provoking, picture for the future. The contributors represent an interesting mix of well-known and distinguished as well as upcoming and promising researchers throughout Europe and beyond.

the sociological definition of parents: Parenting and Work in Poland Katarzyna Suwada, 2021 The open access book provides a critical account of parenthood in Polish society. It uses a qualitative perspective to show how mothers and fathers engage with parenthood and also function in the labour market. Parenting in contemporary Poland is not only affected by individual preferences and choices, but significantly by the institutional context, in particular the family policy system, as well as socio-cultural norms of how men and women should fulfill parental roles. The author distinguishes between different kinds of work done in connection to parenthood and shows how the existing institutional system reinforces gender and other forms of social inequalities even in a post-communist state like Poland. The author demonstrates that Polish society has different expectations and institutional norms related to work and gender norms compared to those in long-standing democracies in Europe and elsewhere. The book also shows that the experiences of parenthood in Poland are different between men and women, between single and coupled parents, and based on economic and other resources. This book is of interest to social science students and researchers of family studies, parenting, sociology of work, and social structure in post-communist societies.

the sociological definition of parents: Child Abuse and Neglect Alexander Muela Aparicio,

2012-07-11 Child maltreatment constitutes a social problem that affects all societies of the world. A recent study by the World Health Organisation points out that millions of children suffer some form of maltreatment and require medical and social attention. Therefore, child maltreatment is not a new phenomenon; it has been around since the beginning of time. Child maltreatment is recognized as an important psychopathological risk factor and is associated with poor psychological function in childhood and adolescence and adulthood. The aim of this book is to address the issue of child abuse and neglect from a multidimensional perspective. The reader will find a selection of internationally recognized works addressing the issue of child maltreatment both from theoretical and applied view.

the sociological definition of parents: The Routledge Handbook of Child and Family Social Work Research Elizabeth Fernandez, Penelope Welbourne, Bethany Lee, Joyce L. C. Ma, 2024-09-30 This Handbook provides an accessible resource for all social work students, educators, practitioners, and policymakers to increase their knowledge and understanding of how research into the diversity and impact of child and family social work interventions might underpin and drive policy and practice. Divided into six sections The Context of Child and Family Social Work Research Preventive and Reparative Responses to Children and Families Child Maltreatment: Causes, Consequences, and Responses Alternate Care as an Approach to Safeguarding Children and Young People Intervention: Therapeutic Responses to Vulnerable Children, Youth, and Families Child and Family Social Work in the Global Context and comprising 52 newly written chapters by experts in the field, it provides a foundational overview of the field of child and family social work, including defining concepts, sentinel historical milestones, and the scope of practice. It also identifies developments in auxiliary fields such as neuroscience, psychology, education, health, poverty, and media By illustrating diverse research endeavours in parenting, maltreatment, prevention, child protection, and substitutive interventions including foster care, residential care, adoption, and juvenile corrections and elaborating child welfare research methods, measures, and impacts on practice, it analyses evidence-based interventions and policies in early intervention, child protection, child placement, adoption, and advocacy. It will be required reading for anyone working in social work and child protection.

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the sociological definition of parents: Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Social Issues [4 volumes] Michael Shally-Jensen, 2010-12-22 This single-source reference will help students and general readers alike understand the most critical issues facing American society today. Featuring the work of almost 200 expert contributors, the Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Social Issues comprises four volumes, each devoted to a particular subject area. Volume one covers business and the economy; volume two, criminal justice; volume three, family and society; and volume four, the environment, science, and technology. Coverage within these volumes ranges from biotechnology to identity theft, from racial profiling to corporate governance, from school choice to food safety. The work brings into focus a broad array of key issues confronting American society today. Approximately 225 in-depth entries lay out the controversies debated in the media, on campuses, in government, in boardrooms, and in homes and neighborhoods across the United States. Critical issues in criminology, medicine, religion, commerce, education, the environment, media, family life, and science are all carefully described and examined in a scholarly yet accessible way. Sidebars, photos, charts, and graphs throughout augment the entries, making them even more compelling and informative.

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the sociological definition of parents: The Sanctity of Social Life Diana Crane, 1977-01-01 For years, speculation has been mounting among lawyers, church leaders, social scientists, and the general public over the question of prolongation of life and the critically ill patient's right to die. But

what is the physician's attitude toward this controversial subject? Under what conditions does a doctor battle to save the life of the patient, and when does he decide to withdraw medical treatment and allow death to occur? The answers to these questions form the basis of this book, a fascinating examination of the nature of death and dying, as seen from the physician's point of view.

the sociological definition of parents: Apoyo Sacrificial, Sacrificial Support Stephany Cuevas, 2021 Apoyo Sacrificial, Sacrificial Support explores the experiences of undocumented Latinx parents as they support and guide their children's pathways to higher education, and how their precarious immigration status impacts this support. In addition to analyzing the various understandings, interactions, and relationships undocumented Latinx parents develop with different education entities, including secondary schools and colleges and universities, the book also examines these in relation to the various social, political, and economic factors that shape parents' engagement with their children's education. Cuevas illuminates how the parents in her study engaged in supportive behaviors similar to those of middle and upper classes families despite the barriers they faced, such as low-income households, undocumented legal status, and single parenting. Providing an alternative view of parental engagement and access to higher education, Apoyo Sacrificial, Sacrificial Support will help educators truly meet the needs of marginalized students and communities. Book Features: Illustrates the often unobserved and unappreciated supportive strategies employed by undocumented Latinx parents. Highlights in-depth qualitative interviews that center the voices and perspectives of parents. Shows how an undocumented immigration status is a unique barrier that shapes how families interact with education entities. Illustrates the range of supportive behaviors undocumented Latinx parents engage in to ensure their children's success, including access to higher education. Demonstrates how the parents of first-generation Latinx students play a critical role in their success, even after they matriculate to college.

the sociological definition of parents: The Social Psychology of Living Well Joseph P. Forgas, Roy F. Baumeister, 2018-01-29 How to live well and the search for meaning have long been of intense concern to humans, perhaps because Homo sapiens is the only species aware of its own mortality. In the last few decades, empirical psychology made a major contribution to this quest. This book surveys groundbreaking work by leading international researchers, demonstrating that social psychology is the core discipline for understanding well-being and the search for meaning. Basic conceptual and theoretical principles are discussed, drawing on philosophy, evolutionary theory and psychology, followed by a review of the role of purposeful, motivated activity and self-control in achieving life satisfaction. The role of emotional and cognitive processes and the influence of social, interpersonal and cultural factors in promoting a happy and meaningful life are discussed. The book will be of interest to students, practitioners and researchers in the behavioral and social sciences, as well as to laypersons for whom improving the quality of human life and understanding the principles of well-being are of interest.

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