Main sociological topics

1. **Describe the principles and explain the problems of defining the population living in poverty. Discuss which social factors influence becoming poor.**

    - Spéder, Zs., Kapitány,B. (2005) Poverty and deprivation: assessing demographic and social structural factors. Working Papers on Population, Family and Welfare, No. 8., HDRI. P. 54. https://demografia.hu/en/publicationsonline/index.php/workingpapers/article/view/324
    - Tóth, István György 2014: Revisiting Grand Narratives of Growing Income Inequalities: Lessons from 30 Country Studies. In: Nolan, Brian et al. (Eds.): Changing inequalities and societal impacts in rich countries: thirty countries' experiences. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 11-47.

2. **The evolution of poverty over time and poverty trends and dynamics. How poverty has evolved since the change of regime. Does economic fluctuation affect poverty? What factors shape the dynamics of poverty, and what factors influence falling into poverty and escaping from poverty?**

    - Spéder, Zs. (1998) Poverty dynamics in Hungary during the transformation. Economics of Transition, vol. 6. Issue. 1. P. 1-21-
    - Tóth, István György 2014: Revisiting Grand Narratives of Growing Income Inequalities: Lessons from 30 Country Studies. In: Nolan, Brian et al. (Eds.): Changing inequalities and societal impacts in rich countries: thirty countries' experiences. Oxford: Osxford University Press: 11-47.

3. **Social functions of religion. Types of religious organizations. Secularization.**

    - Henslin, James E. (1997): Sociology. A Down-to-Earth Approach. Allyn and Bacon, pp. 494-505; 510-525.
    - Giddens, Anthony et al. (2018): Introduction to Sociology. Seagull, New York – London, pp. 551-566.

4. **Traditional and modern communities. Functions of communities in modern society.**

    - Henslin, James E. (1997): Sociology. A Down-to-Earth Approach. Allyn and Bacon, pp. 138-154.
    - Redfield, Robert (1947): The Folk Cociety. American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 52, No. 4 (Jan., 1947), pp. 293-308.

5. **What are the roles of schools and education in society according to the functionalist theory (Durkheim, Parsons), the conflict theory (Weber, Collins) and Bourdieu's theory?**

    - Alan R. Sadovnik: Theoy and Research in the Sociology of Education in: Sadovnik & Coughlan (2015). Sociology of Education: A critical reader (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge
    - Randall Collins: Functional and Conflict Theories of Educational Stratification in: Sadovnik & Coughlan (2015). Sociology of Education: A critical reader (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge
    - Pierre Bourdieu: The Forms of Capital in: Sadovnik & Coughlan (2015). Sociology of Education: A critical reader (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge

6. **What are the key concepts of Marxian class analysis in a world system perspective?**

- Grusky, David (2019). Social Stratification. 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
  Chapter 14. Karl Marx: Alienation and Social Classes, Classes in Capitalism and Pre-Capitalism, Ideology and Class.
  Chapter 15. Ralf Dahrendorf: Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society.
  Chapter 16. Erik Olin Wright: A General Framework for the Analysis of Class Structure.
  Chapter 17. Immanuel Wallerstein: Class Conflict in the Capitalist World Economy.

7. **What are the dimensions and key concepts of Weberian social structure analysis, including classes, status groups, and power groups?**

- Grusky, David (2019). Social Stratification. 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
  Chapter 18. Max Weber: Class, Status, Party; Status Groups and Classes; Open and Closed Relationships.
  Chapter 19. Anthony Giddens: The Class Structure of the Advanced Societies.
  Chapter 20. Frank Parkin: Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique.
  Chapter 21. Tak Wing Chan and John H. Goldthorpe: Is There a Status Order in Contemporary British Society?

8. **What are the key concepts to grasp elite rule?**

- Grusky, David (2019). Social Stratification. 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
  Chapter 31. C. Wright Mills: The Power Elite.
  Chapter 32. Anthony Giddens: Elites and Power.
  Chapter 36. Gil Eyal, Iván Szelényi, and Eleanor Townsley: Post-Communist Managerialism.
  Chapter 127. Gil Eyal, Iván Szelényi, and Eleanor Townsley: Making Capitalism Without Capitalists.
  Chapter 126. Victor Nee: Post-Socialist Stratification.

9. **What are the differences between the conceptualization of class mobility and status attainment?**

- Grusky, David (2019). Social Stratification. 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
  Chapter 53. Robert Erikson and John H. Goldthorpe: Trends in Class Mobility: The Post-War European Experience
  Chapter 58. Peter M. Blau and Otis Dudley Duncan, with the collaboration of Andrea Tyree: The Process of Stratification

10. **What is the significance of lifestyles in social structure analysis?**

- Grusky, David (2019). Social Stratification. 4th Edition. New York: Routledge.
  Chapter 18. Max Weber: Class, Status, Party; Status Groups and Classes; Open and Closed Relationships.
  Chapter 114. Pierre Bourdieu: Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgment of Taste.
  Chapter 115. Tak Wing Chan and John H. Goldthorpe: The Social Stratification of Theater, Dance, and Cinema Attendance.

11. **Jürgen Habermas's theory of communicative action, system and life-world, and the colonization of the life-world; Niklas Luhmann's autopoietic systems theory.**

    - C. B. Laustsen et al. (2017): System and Differentiation: Luhmann and Habermas. (Chapter 6.) In Social Theory: A Textbook. London, New York: Routledge, 100–107.
    - Hartmann, Martin (2019): Lifeworld and System. In The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 205–253.
    - Silva, Felipe Gonçalves (2019): Colonization of the Lifeworld. In The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 36–39.

12. **Niklas Luhmann's autopoietic systems theory.**

    - C. B. Laustsen et al. (2017): System and Differentiation: Luhmann and Habermas. (Chapter 6.) In Social Theory: A Textbook. London, New York: Routledge, 91–99.
    - Hartmann, Martin (2019): Lifeworld and System. In The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 205–253.
    - Silva, Felipe Gonçalves (2019): Colonization of the Lifeworld. In The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon. Amy Allen and Eduardo Mendieta (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 36–39.

13. **Pierre Bourdieu's theory on social space, habitus, practices, symbolic violence, and distinctions.**

    - C. B. Laustsen et al. (2017): Power and Stratification: Foucault and Bourdieu. (Chapter 5.) In Social Theory: A Textbook. London, New York: Routledge, 80–90.

14. **Michel Foucault's theory of power, surveillance, and biopolitics.**

    - C. B. Laustsen et al. (2017): Power and Stratification: Foucault and Bourdieu. (Chapter 5.) In Social Theory: A Textbook. London, New York: Routledge, 72–80.

15. **Luc Boltanski and his co-author's theory of new capitalism and justification.**

    - C. B. Laustsen et al. (2017): State and Market: Althusser and Boltanski & Chiapello. (Chapter 7.) In Social Theory: A Textbook. London, New York: Routledge, 118–127.

Methodology & Specialization

Methodology

1. **Describe what principal component analysis (PCA) and exploratory factor analysis (EFA) does. Additionally, highlight the differences between these two dimension reduction methods.**

    - Note: The given literature may considerably overlap with each other – multiple sources are given to provide various perspectives.
    - Garson, D. G. (2022). Factor Analysis and Dimension Reduction in R: A Social Scientist's Toolkit.
        Part 1: Factor analysis: research questions it adresses.
        Part 2: Assumptions and limitations of factor analysis (13-16 only)
        Part 3: Fundamental concepts in factor analysis.
        Part 4, 6, 7: applied analytical parts.
    - Watkins, M. (2020). A Step-by-Step Guide to Exploratory Factor Analysis with R and RStudio. Routledge.

2. **Describe k-means cluster analysis and hierarchical cluster analysis as methods of findings groups in the data.**

    - Note: The given literature may considerably overlap with each other – multiple sources are given to provide various perspectives.
    - Kassambara, A. (2021). Practical Guide to Cluster Analysis in R. sthda.com. Available: https://xsliulab.github.io/Workshop/2021/week10/r-cluster-book.pdf
        Chapter I / 3: Clustering distance measures.
        Chapter II / 4: K-means clustering.
        Chapter III / 7: Agglomerative clustering.
        Chapter IV / 12: Determining the optimal number of clusters.
    - Giordani, P., Ferraro, M. B., Martella, F. (2020). An introduction to Clustering in R. Springer.
        Part I: Introduction to clustering.
        Part II: Hieraerchical clustering.
        Part III: Non-hierarchical clustering (only k-means).

3. **Explain the objectives, formulation, and estimation of the linear regression model, including the rationale of the OLS estimator and the interpretation of regression coefficients in both simple and multiple regression settings**

    - Chatterjee, S. & Hadi, A. S. (2012). Regression Analysis by Example (5th ed.). John Wiley & Sons., Chapters 1-3).

4. **Discuss statistical inference in linear regression, including the properties of OLS estimators, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and measures of model adequacy and goodness of fit.**

    - Chatterjee, S. & Hadi, A. S. (2012). Regression Analysis by Example (5th ed.). John Wiley & Sons., Chapters 2-3).

5. **Planning a complex research project on a chosen topic relevant to the field of sociology. One criterion is to formulate research questions on the chosen topic, some of which can be answered using quantitative research methods and others using qualitative methods. The task is to present the research plan for the planned research.**

- Bhattacherjee, Anol (2012): Social Science Research: Principles, Methods, and Practices. University of South Florida – Scholar Commons, USF Tampa Library Open Access Collections http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=oa_textbooks
- Beissel-Durrant, Gabriele (2004): A Typology of Research Methods Within the Social Sciences. ESRC National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) and Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (SRI) NCRM Working Paper http://eprints.ncrm.ac.uk/115/1/NCRMResearchMethodsTypology.pdf
- Teddlie, C., & Tashakkori, A. (2003). Major issues and controversies in the use of mixed methods in the social and behavioral sciences. In A. Tashakkori & C. Teddlie (Eds.), Handbook of mixed methods in social & behavioral research (pp. 3-50). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

6. **Consumer behavior, changes in consumer behavior trends, current consumer behavior trends.**

- Nagy, Szabolcs (2024) Current trends in consumer behaviour. In: Marketingkaleidoszkóp 2024: Trendek és hatások: A marketing új dimenziói. Marketingkaleidoszkóp; Miskolci Marketing és Turizmus Műhely (2024;). Miskolci Egyetem, Gazdaságtudományi Kar Marketing és Turizmus Intézet, Miskolc, pp. 36-63.
- Riandhi, A. N., Arviansyah, M. R., & Sondari, M. C. (2025). AI and consumer behavior: Trends, technologies, and future directions from a scopus-based systematic review. Cogent Business & Management, 12(1). https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2025.2544984
- Lim, W. M., Kumar, S., Pandey, N., Verma, D., & Kumar, D. (2023). Evolution and trends in consumer behaviour: Insights from Journal of Consumer Behaviour. Journal of Consumer Behaviour, 22(1), 217–232. **https://doi.org/10.1002/cb.2118**

7. **Explain how qualitative research progresses from the original idea throw the data collection to the analysis.**

- Berg, B. L., & Lune, H. (2017). Qualitative research methods for the social sciences (9th ed.). Pearson.
- Babbie, E. (2013). The practice of social research (13rd ed.). CENGAGE Learning Custom Publishing. pp. 1-160.

Specialization

8. **Advanced statistical methods I.: Describe the methods you can use to perform descriptive analysis including measures of central tendency, measures of variability and tables. Define the types of data, and the specifics of the normal distribution.**

    - Note: The given literature may considerably overlap with each other – multiple sources are given to provide various perspectives.
    - Freedman, D. – Pisani, R. – Purves, R. (2007). Statistics, Fourth Edition. Part II.
    - Colwell, S. R. – Carter, E. M. (2016). Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences. Wiley. Chapters 1-6.

9. **Advanced analytical methods II.: From an applied perspective, describe the difference between point estimation and interval estimation, and the logic of hypothesis testing. Additionally, select two different bivariate hypothesis testing methods and present them (what do you use it for, what are its hypotheses, what are the assumptions, and how the test works).**

    - Note: The given literature may considerably overlap with each other – multiple sources are given to provide various perspectives.
    - Colwell, S. R. – Carter, E. M. (2016). Introduction to Statistics for the Social Sciences. Wiley. Chapters 6-10 and 12-13.
    - Békés, G. – Kézdi, G. (2021). Data Analytics for Business, Economics and Policy. Cambridge University Press. (Chapter I, pages 96-167).
    - Freedman, D. – Pisani, R. – Purves, R. (2007). Statistics, Fourth Edition. Part III / Chapter 8 and 9.

10. **Describe the R and RStudio environment and its basic elements. Additionally, talk about how do you prepare survey data for analysis (for example data importing, data cleaning, defining variables, etc.).**

    - Wickham et al. (2025). R for Data Science. Available: https://r4ds.hadley.nz/
    - Bonell, J – Ogihara, M. (2024). Exploring Data Science with R and the Tidyverse. (chapters 1-3 and 5-8).
    - Békés, G. – Kézdi, G. (2021). Data Analytics for Business, Economics and Policy. Cambridge University Press. (Chapter I, pages 3-58).
    - Venables, W. N. – Smith, D. M. – R Core Team (2026). An Introduction to R. Notes on R: A Programming Environment for Data Analysis and Graphics. Available: https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf - Relevant chapters.