

extended family family consisting of all relatives (parents, children, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc.); often used in a more limited sense to define a family structure in which a married couple and their children share a household with parents

F

family life-cycle theory a developmental perspective on the life spans of families

family studies an interdisciplinary study that integrates anthropology, sociology, psychology and other social sciences to study the behaviour of individuals and their families

family systems theory a sociological theory that explains the interactions among family members

family wage the economic concept that a man's income should provide adequate money to support a wife and children; family wage was used to justify paying women less than men for performing the same work

family-work conflict stress arising when an individual's family responsibilities affect workplace roles (contrast *work-family conflict*)

female infanticide the killing of female children immediately after birth

feminist theories conflict theories that were developed to explain the impact of sex and gender on behaviour, and to consider issues of human behaviour from the specific viewpoint of women

fertility refers to the actual reproductive performance of a person (usually a woman)

fertility rate the number of children born alive during a specified period

free-choice mate selection when individuals are attracted to each other, fall in love, and decide to marry

function in sociology, a basic and universal action or purpose of individuals or groups

functional requisites basic functions that must be carried out for societies to survive and thrive

functionalism the sociological theory that tries to explain how a society is organized to perform functions effectively (also called *structural functionalism*)

G

generation a group of people all born around the same time; each cohort may become a generation with distinctive characteristics, such as the baby boom or the echo-boom generations

generativity productivity, or the range of ways people are able to leave their mark on future generations; what Erikson describes as the basis of identity in middle adulthood

genetic diseases hereditary diseases such as diabetes, hemophilia, sickle-cell anemia

genogram a diagram that depicts the nature of the interactions within a family system

gerotranscendence a sense of rising above the difficulties of age; Erikson's term for the challenge of "old" old age

grieving process the process of mourning, and accepting the death of a loved one over time

H

heterogamy marriage between two partners who are from different racial, social, religious, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds (also called *intermarriage*; contrast *homogamy*)

homelessness having no fixed place to sleep at night

homeostasis a state of equilibrium within a system; systems theory suggests that a change in one part of a system will require other parts of the system to adjust in order to maintain this state of balance

horde a band of people, referring to the first family groupings of humans—much like the troops of primates

household a term used by Statistics Canada to mean groups of people who live together whether or not they are related by birth, adoption, or marriage

hypothesis a possible answer to a research question

I

ideal mate theory a theory of mate selection that attempts to explain attraction from a symbolic interactionist perspective; attraction is based on an individual's unconscious image of the ideal mate formed from perceptions of the meaning of certain characteristics

identity who an individual is; Erik Erikson's theory describes the formation of identity in eight stages of life

in vitro fertilization a procedure in which eggs (ova) from a woman's ovary are removed and are fertilized with sperm in a laboratory procedure, and then the fertilized egg (embryo) is returned to the woman's uterus

independent variables the variable, or quality in research that the dependent variable is based on, or the cause in a cause-and-effect situation

individualism a social philosophy that emphasizes independence and self-reliance and that favours the free action of individuals

individuation in the family life-cycle theory, the process of young adults forming an identity separate from that of the family of origin

industrial nuclear family a family structure in which there is a separation of the means of earning income (in industry or business) from the home and household tasks

infant mortality rate number of deaths of infants less than one year of age per 1000 births

infertile unable to reproduce

infidelity unfaithfulness to the intimate relationship; having extramarital affairs

insecurely attached infants babies with a limited degree of attachment to their primary caregiver (See also *attachment* and *securely attached infants*)

institutions social structures, such as the law, the economy, and the family, that by performing assigned functions enable societies to carry out the functional requisites

instrumental role men's goal-oriented role of providing for the family by working and earning an income (contrast *expressive role*)

intact family a family in which both parents are in their first marriage and have biological or adopted children

integrity completeness, uprightness, or attachment to principle; refers to Erikson's idea that, in later life, individuals seek the integrity that results from living out one's identity

intergenerational cycle of violence the evidence that individuals who experienced violence or abuse as a child, or who observed the assault or abuse of others, are more likely to become either victims or perpetrators of violence in their intimate relationships

intermarriage marriage between two partners who are from different racial, social, religious, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds (also called *heterogamy*; contrast *homogamy*)

K

kin group refers to all of a family's relatives—uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents, in-laws, and other relatives

kin-keeper a cross-cultural expectation that women will organize family events and maintain contact with family members

L

liberal feminism a feminist theory that argues that women are unable to participate in society according to their individual abilities because discriminatory policies in society place arbitrary limits on their behaviour

life structure the pattern or design of an individual's life, according to Levinson

limerance the blissful emotional state felt when lovers fall "head over heels" in love

lineage ancestry

low income cut-off (LICO) the term that Statistics Canada uses to define families living in poverty; those who live below the low income cut-off (LICO) point have insufficient income for a minimum standard of living.

M

macro study a large-scale study of patterns of behaviour within a society

marital system the strategies for interaction and influence between the individuals in a marriage or intimate relationship

market experience perspective the idea that dating enabled individuals to learn to relate to the opposite sex and to judge character so that they would be able to determine what qualities they wanted in a marriage partner

marriage a relationship between two or more individuals based on sexual union that is recognized as legitimate and that carries specific role expectations within a society

marriage contract the mutual obligations of husband and wife

matrilineal descent system a system of family lineage in which only the relatives on the mother's side are important for emotional ties or for transfer of property or wealth

matrilocal when a family or kinship group is located near the wife's family

mentor in the world of work, a more experienced person who assists a younger person through the transition into a career path

micro study a small-scale study of individual cases

middle age the middle of the life span

midlife transition the passage from early adulthood into middle adulthood; Daniel Levinson's research defined a midlife transition that occurs between 40 and 45 years of age

monogamy having one marital partner

N

natural selection in evolution, the process by which the fittest survive because they are able to adapt to their environment and compete successfully for limited resources

negotiation a process of conferring with others in order to reach a mutually acceptable solution to a problem

non-event life passages that we want to happen but don't, such as not marrying or having children

non-normative crises in the family life cycle, unexpected events such as unemployment, infertility, illness, or infidelity that require an adjustment in behaviour (also called non-normative events; contrast normative events)

norm the most prevalent behaviour that occurs; consistent behaviour

normative event in family life-cycle theory, the predictable events in life that require a developmental change in behaviour (also called normative crisis; contrast non-normative crisis)

nuclear family a family structure in which the husband and wife live with their children

O

open-ended questions in research questionnaires, questions that the subjects can answer freely

opinion people's thinking or judgment about something or someone (see *perception*)

orderly change model based on the stage theories of development; it explains that an individual's identity is formed earlier in life, but changes through interaction with the environment in the present

P

pair-bond the enduring relationship between a man and a woman, thought to be essential to human survival, and the trademark of humans, according to Helen Fisher

parameter in research, definitions or limits on what is being studied

parenthood the transition to parenting and rearing a child.

parenting styles the patterns of socialization of children by parents based on the balance of power among parents and their children

participant observation a type of observation in research in which the researcher is a participant in the group being studied, and the subjects are aware that they are being observed

patriarchy family organization in which men wield power and are the decision makers

patrilineal descent system a system of family lineage in which only relatives on the father's side are important for emotional ties or for transfer of property or wealth

patrilocal when a family or kinship group is located near the husband's family

pay equity equal pay for work of equal value

peer marriage a truly egalitarian companionate relationship, in which division of household and child-care roles is based on negotiation, not traditional gender roles

perception something observed or taken in through the mind or senses (see *opinion*)

perinatal referring to the period of time immediately after birth

permissive parenting a parenting style in which the children have greater power than parents in family situations

persistent poverty poverty that lasts for a long time rather than a short term result of a crisis

personality a person's characteristic patterns of motivation

phases periods of change in events, attitudes, and accomplishments; refers to life stages theory

physical abuse non-accidental physical injury to a child resulting from actions of a parent or guardian

polyandry the practice of a wife having several husbands

polygamy the practice of having several spouses

polygyny the practice of a man having more than one wife

primary caregivers the main people responsible for raising a child, usually parents

primary sources research sources that present information first-hand; results from original investigations

principle of least interest in reference to couple relationships, the principle that explains that the person with the least commitment to the relationship has the greatest power, since the person with the greater commitment is more likely to give in to maintain harmony

symbolic analysts people who can manipulate mathematical data and words and identify and solve problems

symbolic interactionism a psychological theory that attempts to explain how individuals choose how they will act based on their perceptions of themselves and of others

systems theory the sociological theory that attempts to explain how groups of individuals interact as a system—a set of different parts that work together and influence one another in a relatively stable way over time

T

theoretical perspective in sociological and psychological study, a point of view based on a specific theory

theory a framework for organizing and explaining observable evidence

theory of intergenerational transmission refers to elder abuse; suggests that people who were abused or neglected as children by their parents are likely to abuse or neglect their parents when they are old

theory of random change a theory of aging that explains that fate, or non-normative events, cause change in identity because of how individuals adapt to their new roles; this model asks whether social change affects the behaviour of a cohort, resulting in the cohort effect

transition a change from one stage of a life cycle to another

transitional family a family structure in which the mother temporarily leaves the work force to look after her young children

trends patterns of change in behaviour

U

universal day care licensed day care that is available and accessible for all families

V

variables in research qualities, such as gender or birth order, or behaviours, such as marrying or attending university

verbal/emotional abuse abuse in the form of insults; put-downs that can cause psychological harm

victim referring to abuse, assault or violence, the person who is mistreated

voluntary childlessness when couples deliberately decide not to become parents

W

wisdom the ego strength, meaning insight and enlightenment, that occurs when an individual completes the formation of their identity in Erik Erikson's eighth stage of life, "integrity versus despair"

work-family conflict stress arising when work responsibilities affect family roles (contrast *family-work conflict*)

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Index

A

A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes, 34

A Generation on Hold, 77

Aboriginal Peoples:

as family groups, 266–268

as hunter-gatherers, 13

early ancestors, 9

suicide crisis, 153–154

Abuse:

adult victims, 369

child, 363, 369–372

elder, 467–470

emotional, 366

granny bashing, 467

physical, 366

psychological, 467

sexually, 366

verbal, 366

Activity theory of aging, 443

Adams, Michael, 315

Addiction, 269

Adolescence, 12, 58, 62, 72

Adoption, 294–297

Adult Education Survey (1998), 81

Adultery, 173, 238, 250

Adulthood:

a history of, 382–400

early period, 126

end of adolescence, 58

transition to, 96

Advanced industrial economy, 83

Affective nurturance, 8

Age Affect Man's Belief - Job is Important to Happiness (graph), 129

Age Affect Woman's Belief - Job is Important to Happiness (graph), 129

Age of innocence, 17

Age of majority, 58

Age strata, 386

Aging:

negative connotation, 439

theories of, 420–422

Agricultural families, 13

Agriculture, 11, 13

Alaton, Salem, 202–204

Alberta Status of Women Action Committee (ASWAC), 248

Allahar, James, 63, 83

Alzheimer's disease, 475–476

Amato, Paul, 316, 350, 435–436

Ambert, Dr. Anne-Marie, 349

Amphetamines, 197

Anderson, Deborah, 426

Androcentricity, 43

Angus Reid survey, 116–117, 280

Anthropology (def.), 30

Anticipatory socialization, 109

Artificial insemination, 278, 340

Asch, Solomon, 32

Assisted reproductive technologies (ART), 340–345

Autonomous self, 102

Average Age at First Marriage, 1921–1998 (graph), 169

Average amount owed to student loan programs (graph), 144

Average Earnings (table), 133–134

Ayree, Samuel, 393

B

Baby boom echo, 64

Baby boom, 18, 64, 84, 401–403, 470, 477

Baby boomer, 40, 127–128, 387

Baby bust, 64

- Baird, Dr. Patricia, 343
- Balakrishnan, T. R., 284
- BaMbuti Pygmies, 30, 65, 89
- Bartholet, Elizabeth, 284
- Bereavement, 409, 465
- Betrothal, 165
- Bibby, Reginald, 30–31, 60, 112, 238
- Biblarz, Timothy J., 326
- Bill C-47, 343
- Biological clock, 97, 283
- Birgeneau, Robert J., 79, 146–147
- Birth control, 20, 276
- Bisexual, 233
- Blair, Kimberlee, 248–249
- Blended families, 21
- Bloir, Kirk, 436–439
- Boisvert, Jean-Marie, 215
- Boldt, Menno, 154
- Boom, Bust & Echo*, 474–475
- Booth, Alan, 349
- Bourgeoisie, 42
- Brahmacharya, 96
- Brazil, 12
- Bride price, 165
- British North America Act (1867), 168
- Bruer, John, 311, 313
- Buhler, Charlotte, 419
- Bundling, 199
- Business Council on National Issues, 474
- Buss, David, 32, 192–193, 196, 217, 237, 422
- Byfield, Ted and Virginia, 228–229
- C**
- Campbell, Cathy, 353
- Canada Census 2001, 232
- Canada Census, 328
- Canada Health Act, 474
- Canada Pension Plan (CPP), 402–403, 406, 472–473, 476–478
- Canada's Teens: Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow*, 31
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), 238
- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, 127
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 370
- Canadian Education Association, 74
- Canadian Employment Insurance program, 305
- Canadian Families with Children Living at Home (graph), 264
- Canadian Fertility Survey, 278
- Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect, 363, 365
- Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIAR), 313
- Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 332
- Canadian National Child-Care Study, 328
- Canadian Royal Commission on Reproductive Technologies, 343
- Canadian Youth Foundation, 84
- Caregiver Functioning and other Family Stressors in Child Maltreatment (graph), 367
- Caregiving, 28
- Carey, Elaine, 317
- Carranza, Laura V., 311
- Carter, Betty, 60, 213, 239, 304
- Casullo, Toni, 478–479
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 127
- Census Day, 6
- Champion, Chris, 248–249
- Change in Income by Source and Income Quintile (table), 403
- Characteristics of “a Good Job” (table), 135
- Chemistry of Love*, 197
- Chezzi, Derek, 127
- Child Age and Sex in Child Maltreatment Investigations (graph), 367
- Child Functioning in Child Maltreatment Investigations (graph), 369
- Child labour laws, 17

- Child neglect, 365
 - Child poverty rate, 360
 - Child Tax Benefit, 360
 - Child-care, 29
 - Childbearing:
 - as an option, 275
 - attitudes, 297
 - intergenerational concerns, 297–298
 - Childhood and Society*, 101
 - Childhood:
 - as period of innocence, 15
 - Childlessness:
 - as an option, 293–294
 - natural, 293
 - voluntary, 293
 - Children's Aid Society, 297, 371–372
 - Chinese families, 273–274
 - Chiriboga, David A., 420, 429, 432
 - Chronological clock, 382
 - Clans, 14
 - Clark, Dr. Dawne, 353
 - Cob, Chris, 350–351
 - Cohabitation, 163, 179–182
 - Cohort Differnece and the Aging Process (graph), 387
 - Cohort effect, 107, 386
 - Cohort, 41, 64
 - Coleman, Peter G., 442
 - Coloroso, Barbara, 322
 - Commitment, 201
 - Common-law, 163, 166, 171, 180
 - Community College Diplomas in Career Programs (table), 82
 - Compulsory education, 17, 62
 - Conflict theory (def.), 41, 50
 - Conjugal Relationship of Canadian Women (table), 171
 - Conjugal relationship, 162
 - Consanguinity, 13, 166
 - Consumer family, 18
 - Conway, John E., 9, 391, 396, 451
 - Cooley, Charles, 110
 - Corriveau, Marie-Josephte, 270
 - Cost of Raising a Boy to Age 18 (table), 306
 - Cost of Raising a Girl to Age 18 (table), 305
 - Côté, Anton, 63, 83
 - Cottage industry, 15
 - Council of Ministers in Education, 75
 - Courtship, 198–200
 - Covell, Katherine, 371
 - Cox, Martha, 307, 310, 327
 - Credentialism, 75
 - Criminal Code of Canada:
 - Section 213, 153
 - Crisis, 103
 - Current, Lisa, 393
 - Cycle of Violence (graph), 245
- D**
- d'Aquino, Tom, 474
 - Daly, Kerry, 317
 - Dating, 199–201
 - Davidson, Kate, 455
 - Death:
 - acceptance, 443
 - accidental, 372
 - as a natural life event, 462
 - as the purpose of life, 439
 - awareness of, 450
 - congenital anomalies, 372
 - five stages of, 464
 - of a child, 372–375
 - perinatal, 372
 - Decision-Making Process (graph), 111
 - Delayed parenthood, 282–284
 - Dementia, 475
 - Demo, David, 307, 310, 327
 - Demographics, 31

Dependency crisis, 470
Dependency ratio, 470
Dependency-free expectancy, 472
Depression, 168
Descent:
 bilateral, 19
 matrilineal, 19
 patrilineal, 19
Despair, 441
Developmental theories, 40, 49, 98, 236
Dialectical Analysis of Development, 421
Discrimination, 130
Disengagement theory, 462
Distribution of Canadian Children According to Age and Types of Family (table), 325
Distribution of Poor Children Aged 0 to 11 by Family Type (table), 358
Divorce Act (1968), 20, 251
Divorce Act (1985), 251
Divorce, 26, 165, 168, 170, 175, 180, 191, 226, 249–257, 279, 326, 346–351, 374, 436
Donald and Louisa (case study), 374–375
Dooley, Randal, 364–365
Dower rights, 165
Dowry, 165
Dream, 104, 109, 137–138, 423, 428, 432
Druxbury, Linda, 318
Dual-income family, 20, 28
Dugsin, Romola, 138–139
Durant, Will, 14
Durkheim, Emile, 152–154, 249
Duty-based moral code, 138
Dyer, C. B., 469
Dym, Barry, 207, 219, 435

E

Early Years Study, 310
Eastern cultures, 138–142
Ecofeminist, 343
Economics, 32
Education:
 as first separation from family, 113
 gender gap, 80
 lifelong learning, 81
 the development of, 72–81
Egalitarian relationships, 177, 214
Ego, 101, 109
Elder care, 29
Elder neglect, 467
Elliot, Louise, 153
Embryo implants, 340
Employment and Education (graph), 78
Employment Insurance, 360
Empty-nest, 20, 385, 387
Engels, Friedrich, 42
Environics, 315
Erikson, Erik, 40, 98–102, 108, 109, 113, 138, 152, 195, 204, 304, 309, 419–420, 423, 424, 429, 441, 444, 462
Erikson, Joan, 101
Este, David, 353
Estranged Women at Greatest Risk of Spousal Homicide (graph), 247
Eternal Youth, 68
Ethnic diversity, 351
Ethnocentrism, 30
European families, 268–273
Evolution of Desire, 192
Expectations of Teenagers (graph), 58
Extended family, 7, 14–15

F

Factors Influencing Fertility (table), 288

Faller, Mary Beth, 254

Families and Time: Keeping Pace in a Hurried Culture, 317

Family Law Act (Ontario), 475

Family Structures, 1994 (graph), 27

Family Studies, 32

Family systems theory, 49

Family wages, 271, 391

Family-work conflict, 392

Family:

as defined by Statistic Canada, 6

as social policy, 5

definition of, 4–6

etymology of, 9

extended, 7

legal definition of, 7

origins of, 9

six functions of, 7

Father Knows Best, 18, 315

Fatherhood, 13, 395

Female infanticide, 274

Feminist theories, 42, 50, 246

Feminist, 343

Ferraro, Kathleen, 246

Fertility, 278

Fidelity, 99

Fifty+ Survival Guide, 401

Finnie, Ross, 84–85

Fisher, Helen, 162, 237

Fiske, Marjorie, 420, 429, 432

Fitzpatrick, Norma, 240–241

Foot, David, 474–475

Forms of Marriage in Society (graph), 164

Fragmented Gods, 31

Frankel-Brunswick, Else, 108

Free-choice mate selection, 191

Freeman, Rhonda, 350

Frequently Mentioned Occupations in Study of Youths' Career Expectations (table), 119

Freud, Sigmund, 101, 109, 308–309, 450

Frideres, James, 435

Friedan, Betty, 43

Friends, 65

Fulton, E. Kaye, 114–115

functional requisites, 4

Functionalism, 35, 49, 61, 238, 372, 425, 461, 468

G

Gartrell, Dr. Nanette, 342

Gay, 233–236

Genealogy, 19

General Social Survey (1995), 128, 169, 238

General Social Survey (1999), 246

General Social Survey (2000), 328

Generation on Hold, 63

Generation X, 64, 83

Generativity, 420, 423–424, 450

Genetic diseases, 281

Genogram (graph), 36

Gerontology, 467–470

Gerotranscendence, 443

Gerstel, Judy, 471–472

Giese, Rachel, 234–235

Gilligan, Carol, 100

Glenn, Michael, 207, 219, 435

Glossop, Robert, 21, 28, 470

Golden, Frederic, 341–342

Goldstein, Daniel, 207
Goldstine, Hilary, 207
Goltz, j. Walyter, 476
Gombe, Uganda, 10
Good Marriage: How and Why Love Lasts, 206
Goodall, Jane, 9–10
Goode, William, 4, 21
Gorlick, Carolyne, 347–348
Gottainer, Greg, 326
Gottman, Dr. John, 210–211, 213, 214, 218, 239
Gould, Robert, 108
Grandparents, 333, 400–401, 425
Gray, John, 38
Greenfield, Dr. Dorothy, 342
Greenstein, Theodore N., 219
Grief Time Line (graph), 466
Grieving process, 465
Grigg, Darryl, 393
Grihastha, 96
Growing Old in Canada, Life Expectancy (graph), 405
Growing Old in Canada, Poverty (graph), 405
Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), 402
Guldner, Claude, 214–215, 226, 230, 436–437

H

Haddock, Shelly, 393
Halifax explosion, 5
Hall, G. Stanley, 62
Harris, Helen, 197
Harris, Peter (case study), 256–257
Harris, Steven (case study), 295–296
Harris-Vidoni family (table), 19
Hawkes, Rev. Brent, 234
Hawking, Stephen, 34
Hayes, Christopher, 426

Heterogamy, See Intermarriage
Hetherington, Mavis, 348
Hewitt, W.E., 46
High School and Beyond, 67
Hindu society, 96
Hippie, 61
Historical Trends in the Labour Force (graph), 477
History of the Wife, 191
Hitchcock, Alfred, 190
Holloway, Garth, 136–137
Homelessness, 147–150
Homeostasis, 128
Homogamy, 193
Homosexuality, 233
Hordes, 10
House of Commons Health Committee, 343
Household (def.), 6
How 1995 Graduates Found a Job (table), 86
Howarth, Glennys, 465
Howe, Brian, 371
Hudson Bay Company, 167, 267
Human Rights Act (1977), 130
Hunter-Gatherers, 10–13, 166, 266–268
Hutterites, 139
Hyphenated Canadians, 232
Hypothesis, 46, 47

I

Identity, 98
Identity: Youth and Crisis, 101
Immigration, 21, 139, 351–353
Impact of Canadian Historical Events and Legislation on Various Ahe Cohorts (graph), 473
In a Different Voice, 100
In vitro fertilization, 278, 340

Indicies of Median Family Income and Average Tuition Fees (graph), 143
Individualism, 138
Individuation, 102
Industrial nuclear family, 17
Industrial revolution, 16
Industrialization, 61–62
Infant Mortality Rates (table), 278
Infant mortality rates, 279
Infidelity:
 in relationships, 238–241
 resulting in divorce, 239
Ingram, Jay, 440–441
Institutions (def.), 35
Integrity, 420
Intermarriage, 227–231
Internet, 27
Intimacy, 100, 204
Intravenous drugs, 149
Israeli kibbutzim, 8, 166

J

Jahoda, Marie, 429
Johnson family, 36
Johnson, Colleen (case study), 71
Johnson, David, 435–436
Johnson, Emma (case study), 220–221
Johnson, Grant (case study), 334–335
Johnson, Margaret (case study), 411–413
Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 393

K

Kelman, Suanne, 264
Kin-keeper, 397, 410
Kinship, 19

Kotre, John, 421, 423, 425
Krotki, Karol J., 284
Kübler-Ross, Elizabeth, 373, 464

L

Labour Force Participation Rates by Age and Sex (graph), 390
Labour, 16, 28, 62
Lahey, Kathleen, 233
Lamb, Michael, 332
Lapierre-Adamczyk, Evelyne, 279, 284, 287
LaRossa, Ralph, 304
Larson, Lyle E., 476
Latin Schools, 72
Lavee, Yoav, 212
Leave it to Beaver, 18
LeBlanc, Sarah (case study), 183–184
Leibow, David, 114–115, 239
Leishman, Rory, 370
Lesbian mothers, 342
Lesbian, 233–236
Levinson, Daniel, 32, 90–91, 98, 103–105, 108–110, 195, 419–420, 421, 423, 428
Liberal Feminism, 43
Liebowitz, Michael, 197
Life Expectancy at Birth (table), 383
Life structure, 103
Life Table Estimates of First Marriage: Canada, 1990 (graph), 170
Limerance, 197
Lineage, 268
Living Arrangement of Seniors (graph), 407
Locke, John, 310
Loevinger, Jane, 98, 101–102
Love, Honor and Negotiate: Making Your Marriage Work, 213
Low income cut-off (LICO), 357

- planning for, 340
 - styles of, 320–324
 - transition to, 264–266
 - Parsons, Talcott, 175
 - Passages: The Predictable Crises of Adult Life*, 107
 - Pater familias, 61
 - Patriarchy, 14
 - Pay equity, 130
 - Pearlin, Leonard, 98, 106–107, 126, 139
 - Pederson, David, 309
 - Peer marriage, 220
 - Penning, Margaret, 436
 - Pension, 462
 - Percentage of Children in Age Groups by Parents Usual Hours of Work and Study (graph), 329
 - Percentage of Husbands and Wives Reporting “Very Satisfying” Marriages (graph), 435
 - Percentage of Outcomes of Teenage Pregnancy (graph), 287
 - Percentage of People Providing Both Unpaid Child Care and Care Assistance to a Senior (graph), 398
 - Percentage of Unmarried Adults Living With Parents (graph), 68
 - Percentage of Women Childless at time of Interview and Expecting to Remain Childless (table), 293
 - Percentage of Young Men and Women Attending School, 1921–1991 (table), 74
 - Perceptions, 26
 - Persistent poverty, 359
 - Personality, 32
 - Phenylethylamine (PEA), 197
 - Phillips, Jackie (case study), 256–257
 - Piaget, Jean, 32
 - Pitchko, John, 131–132
 - Plato, 233
 - Politics, 32
 - Pollard, Michael, 182
 - Polyandry, 164, 190
 - Polygamy, 14
 - Polygyny, 164, 190
 - Post-secondary education:
 - as expense, 28
 - cost of, 143–147
 - occupational choices, 118
 - Posterski, Don, 31
 - Postman, Neil, 73
 - Poverty, 355
 - Pre-Industrial Family, 14
 - President’s Council on Undergraduate Education, 79
 - Primary caregiver, 304
 - Primary Category of Investigated Maltreatment by Level of Substantiation (graph), 366
 - Principle of least interest, 216
 - Proletariat, 42
 - Proportion of Births to Unmarried Women (graph), 286
 - Proportion of Births to Unwed Women by Age of Mother (graph), 286
 - Psychological clock, 97, 421
 - Psychology (def.), 32
 - Puffer, Fran, 28
- Q**
- Quebec Pension Plan (QPP), 402–403, 406, 472–473, 476–478
 - Québec, 17
- R**
- Racism, 354
 - Radical feminism, 43
 - Rainforest, 12
 - Rates of Return (table), 145
 - Ratio of Females to Males in Selected Age Groups (graph), 410
 - Rear Window*, 190–191, 195
 - Reference groups, 331
 - Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP), 402, 406, 462, 474, 476–478

- Relationships:
 intimate, 190
 issues, 226
 mentor, 90
 parent-child, 88
 workplace, 90
- Religion, 32
- Report on Education, 75
- Research papers:
 ethics, 46–47
 methods, 48, 50–51
 plagiarism, 47
 report, 44
 skills, 44–45, 65, 87, 99, 117, 176, 227, 299, 308, 356–357, 389, 427
- Resocialization, 108
- Retirement, 401–404, 458–462
- Reugees, 351–353
- Riegel, Klaus, 98, 106, 421
- Rincover, Dr. Arnold, 140–141
- Rites of passage, 96
- Robinson, Maureen, 442
- Rock, Hon. Allan (Health Minister), 343–344
- Rogers, Stacy, 436
- Role (def.), 35
- Roman Catholic, 152
- Romantic love, 196
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 21, 310
- S**
- Sadhus, 96
- Same-sex parents, 21, 232–236
- Sannyas, 96
- Sapolsky, Robert, 65
- Schindler Zimmerman, Toni, 393
- Schlesinger, Benjamin, 211–212, 279
- Schlesinger, Rachel Aber, 279
- Schlossberg, Nancy K., 108
- Schwartz, Pepper, 220
- Seasons, 421
- Sedra, Provost Adel, 79
- Self-esteem, 110, 116
- Self-fulfilling prophecy, 266
- Serial Monogamy, 190
- Seven Features of Generativity (graph), 424
- Seven-Year Stages of a Woman's Life (graph), 419
- Sexual fidelity, 236
- Sexuality:
 importance to marriage, 201
 suppression of, 10–11
 in relationships, 437
 maturity, 97
- Sexually transmitted diseases, 149
- Shaw, Mrs. Donald, 5
- Sheehy, Gail, 107–108
- Shimoni, Dr. Rena, 353
- Significant others, 330
- Singer, Zev, 456–458
- Sistemazione, 398–399
- Slazman, Marian, 67
- Sloan Study of Youth and development, 116–119
- Snarey, John, 316
- Social assistance, 360
- Social clock, 98, 171, 386, 421
- Social construction theory, 421
- Social death theory, 462
- Social exchange theory, 39, 49
- Social feminism, 43
- Social history, 32, 60–61
- Social Homogamy, 193
- Social science, 43–44
- Socialization, 111
- Socialize, 8

- Sociology (def.), 30
- Spousal Violence:
- assault, 242
 - cycle of, 244
 - domestic, 242, 244
 - in a relationship, 242–249
 - intergenerational cycle of, 244
 - stages of engagement, 246
 - victim, 242
- Spouse, 168
- Stability template model, 420
- Stager, Professor David, 145
- Stages of Cognitive Development (1970), 32
- Stages of Life:
- Chinese philosophy, 418
 - transitional years, 418
- Stagnation, 423
- State of the Family in Canada (1994), 329
- Statistics Canada, 6, 27, 31, 169, 171, 357
- Status (def.), 35
- Steinhauer, Paul, 311
- Stepparenting, 452
- Sterilization, 277
- Sternberg's Love Triangle (graph), 196
- Sternberg, Robert, 196, 202
- Stewart, Abigail, 432
- Stuart-Russell, C. F., 408–409
- Sturino, Franc, 398–399
- Suicide Information and Education Centre (SIEC), 155
- Suicide Rates Per 100,000 in Canada and the United States in 1990 (table), 151
- Suicide, 126, 151–155
- Suicide: A Study in Sociology*, 152
- Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning (1999), 144
- Symbolic analyst, 78
- Symbolic interactionism (def.), 38, 49, 468
- Symbolic interactionism, 174, 218–219, 236
- Symbolic interactionists, 136, 138, 154
- Systems theory, 37, 128, 236
- T**
- Tabula rasa*, 310
- Tan, Dr. Ben, 354
- Tannen, Deborah, 218
- Technical Generativity, 425
- Technological family, 7
- Teevan, James J., 46
- Teffler, David, 401
- The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, 18
- The Emerging Generation*, 31
- The Life Cycle Completed*, 101
- The Nesting Phenomena Survey*, 69
- The Seasons of a Man's Life*, 105, 108
- The Seasons of a Woman's Life*, 108
- The Simpsons*, 64
- Theory of intergenerational transmission, 468
- Theory of random change, 421
- Theory, 29, 34
- Timson, Judith, 208–209, 459–461
- Toda family, 274–275
- Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, 147
- Transgender, 233
- Transitional family, 20
- Transitions*, 28
- Transsexual, 233
- Trobriand Islands, 13
- Tubal ligation, 276
- Turnbull, Colin, 30
- Types of Violence in Marital Unions (table), 243
- U**
- Ubelacker, Sheryl, 429
- Unemployment, 458–462

Universal day care, 333

Urueu-Wau-Wau, 12

V

Vanaprastha, 96

Vanier Institute of the Family, 6, 21, 28, 264, 463, 470

VanLaningham, Jody, 435–436

Vasectomy, 276

Vautour, Anne, 234

Vautour, Elaine, 234

Views on How Being Married Would Change Their Lives (table), 180

Views on Reasons For and Against Cohabitation (table), 181

Violence Against Women Study (1993), 244–245

W

Wadhera, Sanjay (case study), 141–142, 220–221

Walker, Lenore E., 244

Walkom, Thomas, 476

Wallerstein, Judith, 206, 347

Waring, Dr. Ted, 214

Wharf, Brian, 355

Whittaker, Stephanie, 433–434

Why Men Marry (table), 173

Whyte, Martin King, 201

Wiener, Valerie, 21, 72, 89

Wild, Russell, 172

Willi, Jürg, M. D., 174

Wisdom, 441

Women's Fertility Rates (table), 282

Women's movement, 20

Women:

as chattel, 14

as employees, 126

as graduates, 135

as homemaker, 18

as wife, 16

in the work force, 276–277

Work-family conflict, 391

World Health Organization (WHO), 151

World War II, 18, 168, 272

Wu, Zheng, 182, 436

Y

Yalmon, Marilyn, 191

Young people's rights (chart), 59–60

Z

Zdeb, Chris, 453

Zeus, 233

Ziemba, Scott, 393

Zimmerman, Professor Shirley, 7

Zuckerman, Shirley, 207

Zuker, Justice Marvin, 7, 177–179, 237, 251–252, 323–324, 368, 476