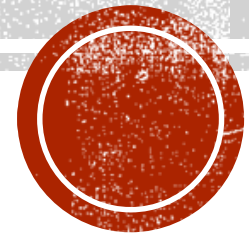


SOCIALIZATION & CULTURE

Studying Anthropology



SOCIALIZATION & ANTHROPOLOGY

- **so·cial·i·za·tion**
- a continuing or ongoing process whereby an individual acquires or learns the norms, values, behaviour, and social skills appropriate to their culture or society. These skills and habits are considered essential for successful participation in one's culture or society.



Learning Goal (Begin with the End in Mind): I will have a beginning understanding of the concept of socialization and how it is connected to culture. I will be able to apply this and the lessons on characteristics of culture to further my understanding of how culture is transmitted to people living in it.



- Human infants are born without any culture. They must be transformed by their parents, teachers, and others into cultural and socially proficient beings. The general process of acquiring culture happens during the process of **socialization**.
- During socialization, we learn the language of the culture we are born into as well as the roles we are to play in life. For instance, girls learn how to be “girls” or a range of gendered behaviours, daughters, sisters, friends, potentially wives, significant others and possibly mothers. In addition, they learn about the occupational roles that are possibilities. We also learn and usually adopt our culture's **norms** through the socialization process.

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AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION



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- **Norms** are the conceptions of appropriate and expected behaviour that are held by most members of the society. While socialization refers to the general process of acquiring culture, anthropologists use the term **enculturation** for the process of being socialized to a particular culture. You were enculturated to your specific culture by your parents and the other people who raised you.
- Socialization is important in the process of personality formation. While much of human personality is the result of our genes, it can also be attributed to socialization. The social interactions and experiences that we have help to shape our beliefs and attitudes or the way we see the world, others and our own situation.

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- This is why there are so many differences between the common personality types in one society in comparison to another. For instance, the **Semai tribesmen** of the central Malay Peninsula of Malaysia typically are gentle people who do not like violent, aggressive individuals. In fact, they avoid them whenever possible. In contrast, **the Yanomamö** Indians on the border area between Venezuela and Brazil usually train their boys to be tough and aggressive. The ideal Yanomamö man does not shrink from violence and strong emotions. In fact, he seeks them out. Likewise, **Shiite Muslim men of Iran** are expected at times to publicly express their religious faith through the emotionally powerful act of self-inflicted pain.



CANADIAN CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS & SOCIALIZATION

Get a partner and list as many Canadian characteristics as you can	What social interactions, formal and informal communications and experiences have you had to provide this sort of socialization as a young Canadian?

