Today’s Agenda

- Early women in sociology
- Women in sociology now
- Diary #2
Sexism in early sociology

- As you’ve probably noticed, all of the sociologists we have talked about so far are men.

- In the 1800s, there were strict gender roles, with women being assigned to the household.
  - Even being limited to four roles in a German saying: church, cooking, children and clothes.
  - While these are ideas that we no longer agree with, these were the norm for the 19th century.
Sexism in early sociology

- Higher education wasn’t a thing for many people, man or woman at the time
  - But those who were able to do so were almost exclusively men
  - Only a handful of women from wealthy families were given the opportunity, and then they still were unable to receive advanced degrees or become professors
Harriet Martineau

- **Harriet Martineau** was born in 1802 in England.
  - Well before of Durkheim and Weber
- She would often write about her observations of social life.
  - She would hide her writings, because writing was not seen as “feminine”
- She would continue her research and her writings, eventually studying in both Great Britain and the United States.
In 1837, she published *Society in America*, which looked at many aspects of American society in its early stages:

- She looked at **family, race, gender, politics and religion**
- **Why is this so influential? Why should this have been more acknowledged at the time?**

While this information was new and groundbreaking for the time, it was largely ignored:

- This is still a book worth reading today
“One of the fundamental principles announced in the Declaration of Independence is that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. How can the political condition of women be reconciled with this? Governments in the US have power to tax women who hold property … to fine, imprison and execute them for certain offences … They are not ‘just,’ as they are not derived from the consent of the women thus governed”  - Harriet Martineau in Society in America
Harriet Martineau

- This work was largely ignored
- Until recently, her work has not been included when discussing other early sociologists
  - Until recent years, she was best known for translating Comte's ideas into English
  - But we know she deserved much more credit
- Known as **first female sociologist**
Jane Addams was another early sociologist and social reformer. She was born in 1860 in Illinois. She studied at the Women’s Medical College of Philadelphia, but had to drop out due to illness. After college, Addams took several trips to Europe to study different societies. It was on one of these trips that she saw the work being done to help the poor in London, and decided to devote her life to social justice.
Jane Addams and Hull House

- In 1889, Jane Addams and Ellen G. Starr founded **Hull House** in the slums of Chicago
  - This was a refuge for anyone who needed help. The poor, the sick, immigrants, the elderly, etc.
  - Addams understood the different social classes, especially the exploitation of workers and how poor immigrants adjusted to city life
  - Addams wanted to bridge the gap between the powerful and the powerless
Jane Addams and Hull House

- Because of her knowledge of society, and her passion for social reform, she was one of the leading people to gain the 8-hour work day and to help pass child labor laws
  - She was also a leading figure during the Women’s Suffrage Movement
- Because of her efforts, she was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1931, the only sociologist to receive it
8-hour work week

Speaking of an 8-hour work week, is this something that we still have today?

Think about the career(s) ideas you have in mind, what kind of schedules do they have?

Given all of that, how are today’s workers viewed, or portrayed?
Paving the Way

Because of what women like Harriet Martineau and Jane Addams were able to do, many women have now flourished in the field of sociology!
Women in sociology today

- **Dr. Juliet Schor**
  - Winner of the 2014 American Sociological Association's prize for advancing the public understanding of sociology
  - Known for her research on *consumer culture*
  - *Work-spend cycle*
    - our tendency to spend more and more, on things that we don't need and that won't necessarily make us happier
Women in sociology today

● Dr. Jenny Chan

  ○ Has been focusing her research on issues of labor and working class identity in iPhone factories in China
    ■ Has been one of the leading investigators and researchers in Apple factories to understand the plight of the workers
  ○ In 2018, she became the Vice President of Communications for the International Sociological Association’s Research Committee on Labour Movements
For this entry, you will be choosing a woman, or women, that have been influential in your life.

You will then write **2-3 paragraphs** about why you chose them, what they have meant to you, what they have done for you, how they have inspired you, or any other reason!

We need to take the time to appreciate the women in our lives, so if you have the chance, let them know you care!