

# Sociological Imagination

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# Learning outcomes

- Thinking sociologically
- How do the social worlds guide our life choices?

# Sociological Imagination



*From the moment he first saw Tonya step off the subway train, Dwayne knew she was "the one." As the two walked up the stairs to the street and entered the building where they were both taking classes, Dwayne tried to get Tonya to stop and talk. At first, she ignored him. But after class, they met again, and she agreed to join him for coffee. That was three months ago. Today, they are engaged to be married.*

# *Sociological Imagination*

- Why do couples like Tonya and Dwayne marry?
  - ✓ People marry because they fall in love.
- But is the decision about whom to marry really just a matter of personal feelings?

# *Sociological Imagination*

- Society has many “rules” about whom we should and should not marry: People are very likely to marry someone close in age, and people of all ages typically marry others in the same racial category, of similar social class background, of much the same level of education, and with a similar degree of physical attractiveness.
- People end up making choices about whom to marry, but society narrows the field long before they do.

# Life Choices

• Cindy Rucker, 29 years old, recently took time off from her job in the New Orleans public school system to have her first child.

• Although she is only 28 years old, Baktizhar Kahn has six children, a common pattern in Afghanistan.



Is childbearing simply a matter of personal choice?

# Life Choices

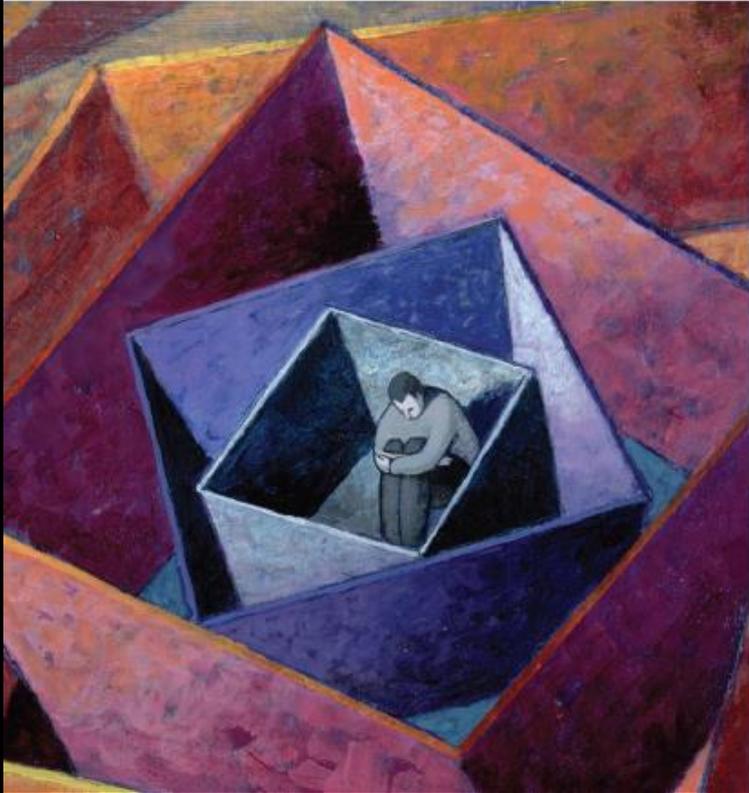


Kenya, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Peru, South Korea, and India

# Life Choices

*We can easily see the power of society over the individual by imagining how different our lives would be had we been born in place of any of these children from, respectively, Kenya, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Peru, South Korea, and India.*

# Assignment



**Think about the social forces that have shaped your own life – and consider how your life would be very different if you were born into another society/culture.**

# How your life would be different in another society?

Subject	At present	Imagination
• Identity		
• Costumes		
• Food habits		
• Spiritual practice		
• Friendship/relation		
• Freedom/mobility		

**Name of the society you imagine to belong:**