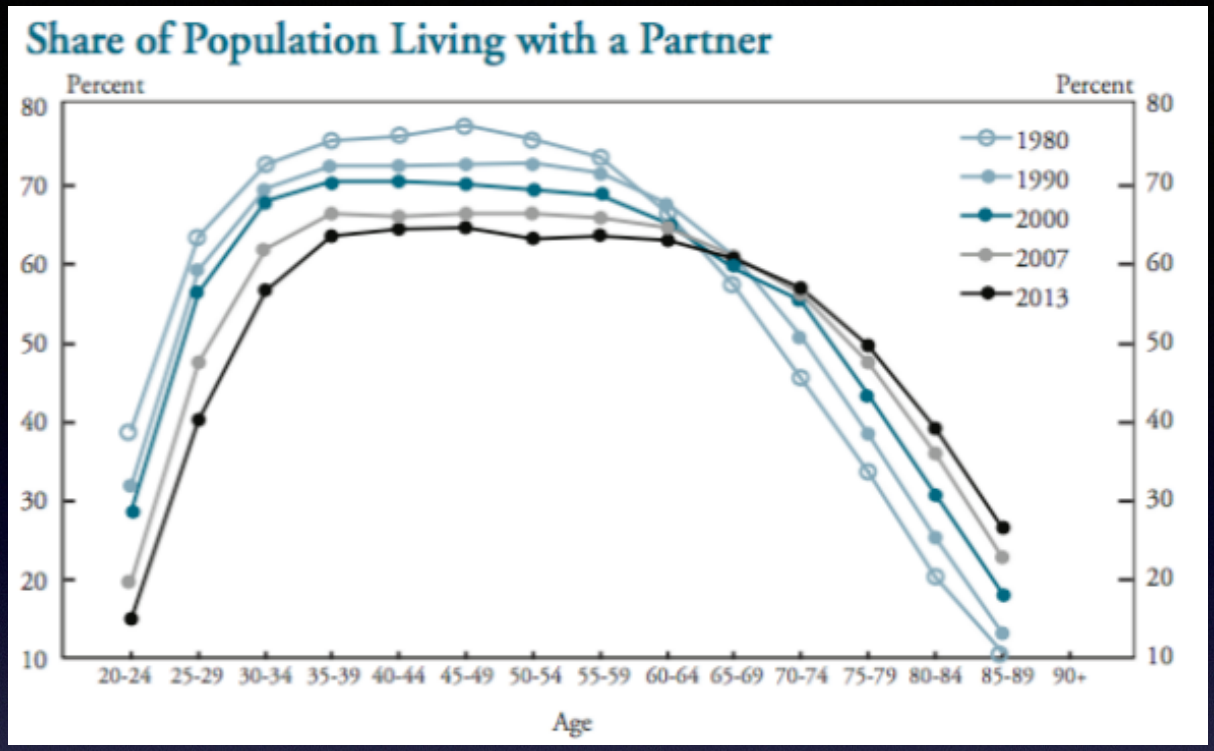
So what exactly are we going to study this semester?

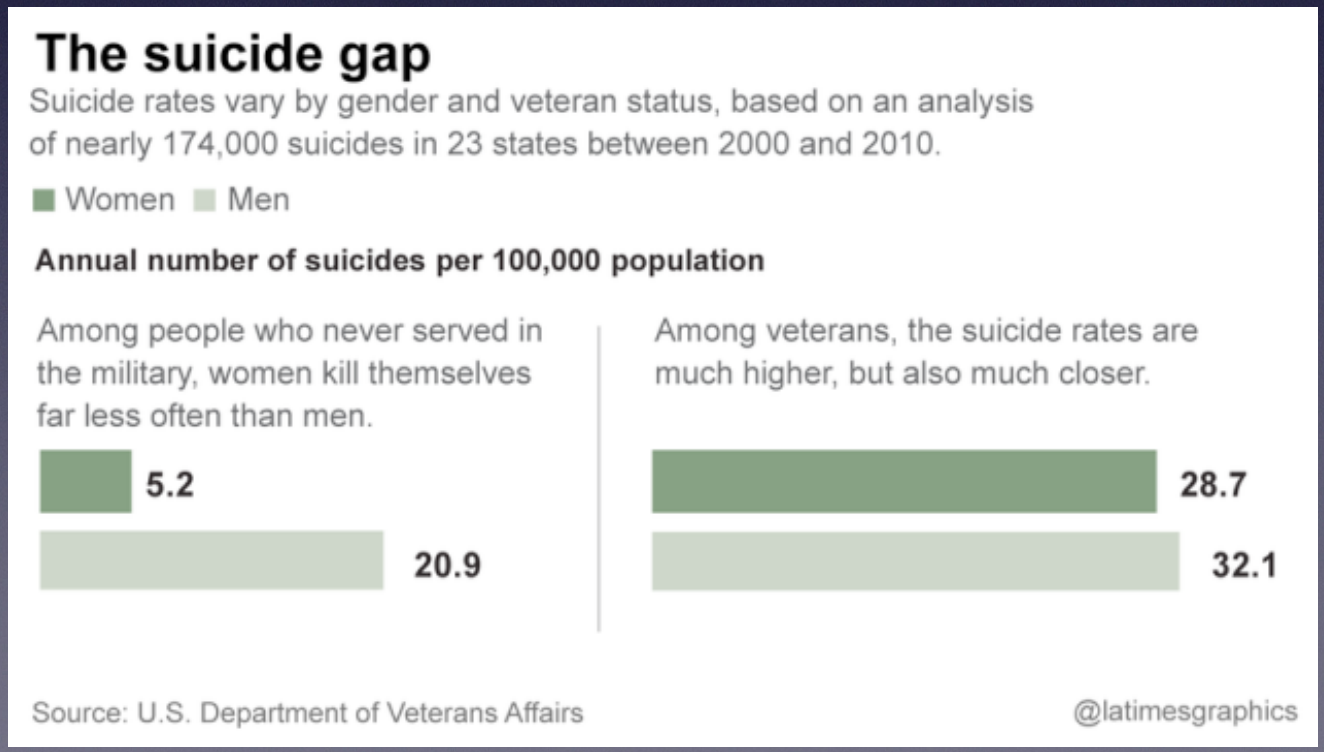
1. The human mind is easily shaped and influenced by others.

A. The world is almost always more complicated and complex that it appears, yet people seek simple and direct explanations. These will always be incomplete.

B. Humans look for evidence to confirm their beliefs but ignore evidence that contradicts their beliefs.

C. You were not born with your beliefs. You learned them from someone, and these people have a motive (sometimes good, sometimes bad) for teaching you to follow their beliefs/values/opinions.


Share of Population Living with a Partner
Percent
Percent
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
1980
1990
2000
2007
2013
20-24
25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
50-54
55-59
60-64
65-69
70-74
75-79
80-84
85-89
90+
Age

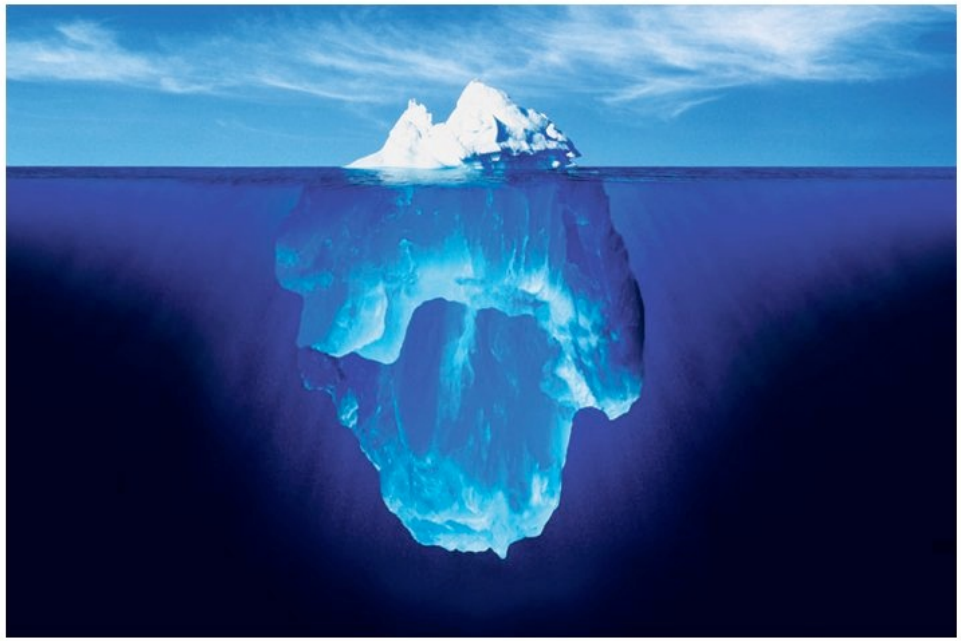

The suicide gap
Suicide rates vary by gender and veteran status, based on an analysis of nearly 174,000 suicides in 23 states between 2000 and 2010.
Women
Men
Annual number of suicides per 100,000 population
Among people who never served in the military, women kill themselves far less often than men.
5.2
20.9
Among veterans, the suicide rates are much higher, but also much closer.
28.7
32.1
Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
@latimesgraphics

But why?

2. The way our INDIVIDUAL lives, choices, and opportunities are influenced by SOCIETAL factors. Some SOCIETAL FACTORS include:

- government/laws/rules
- race
- sex/gender
- religion
- wealth/poverty
- crime
- family (nuclear family (mom, dad, siblings) and/or extended family)
- friends
- school/education
- the internet/social media
- culture (art, music, movies, tv, fashion, video games, dance, etc.)
- organized extracurricular activities (soccer, band, ballet, gymnastics, mock trial, etc.)
- town/neighborhood
- work (volunteer work, job, un-paid responsibilities

3. Develop your SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

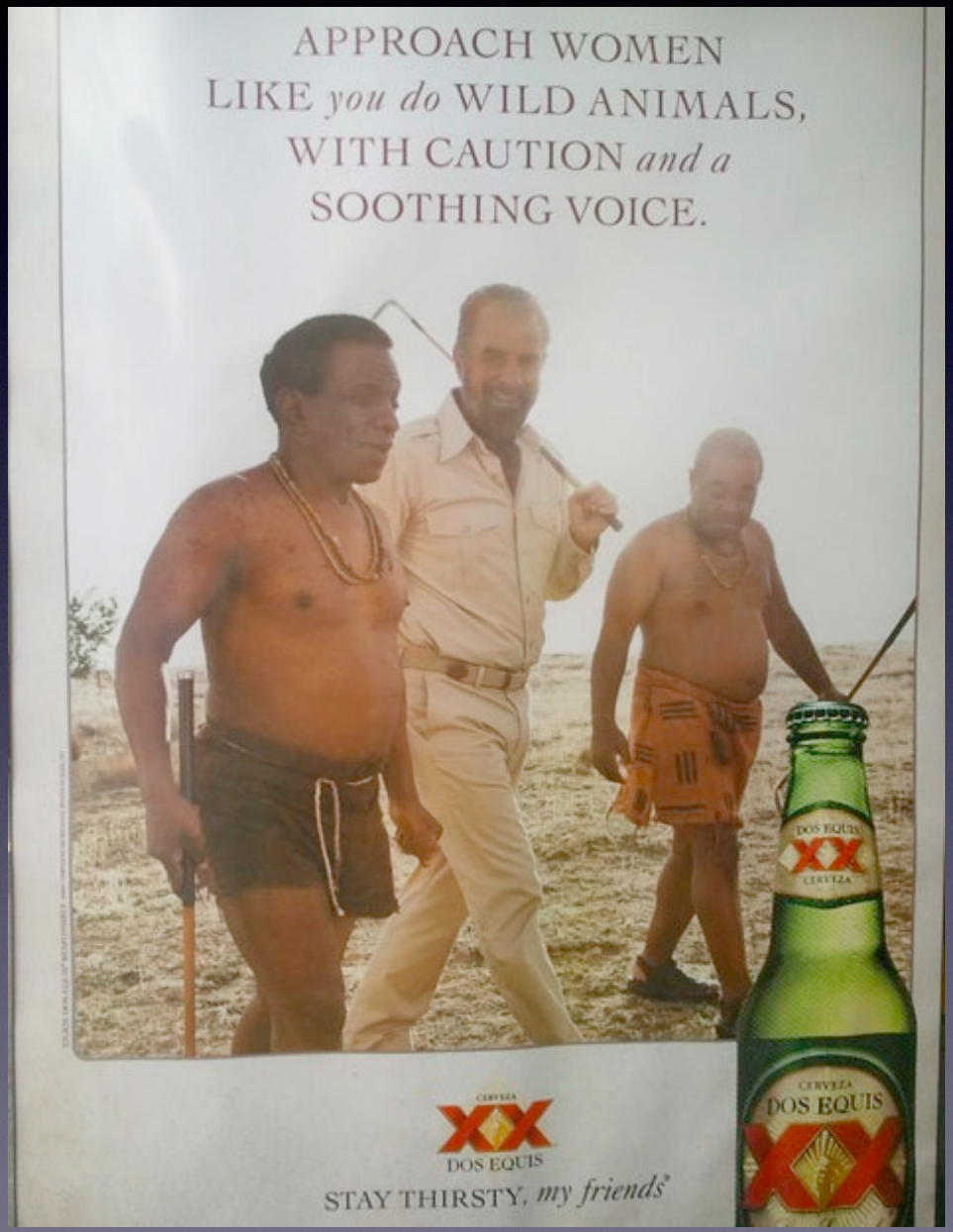


- the connection between personal experience and the broader social and political world
- Seeing the STRANGE in the FAMILIAR, and the GENERAL in the PARTICULAR.

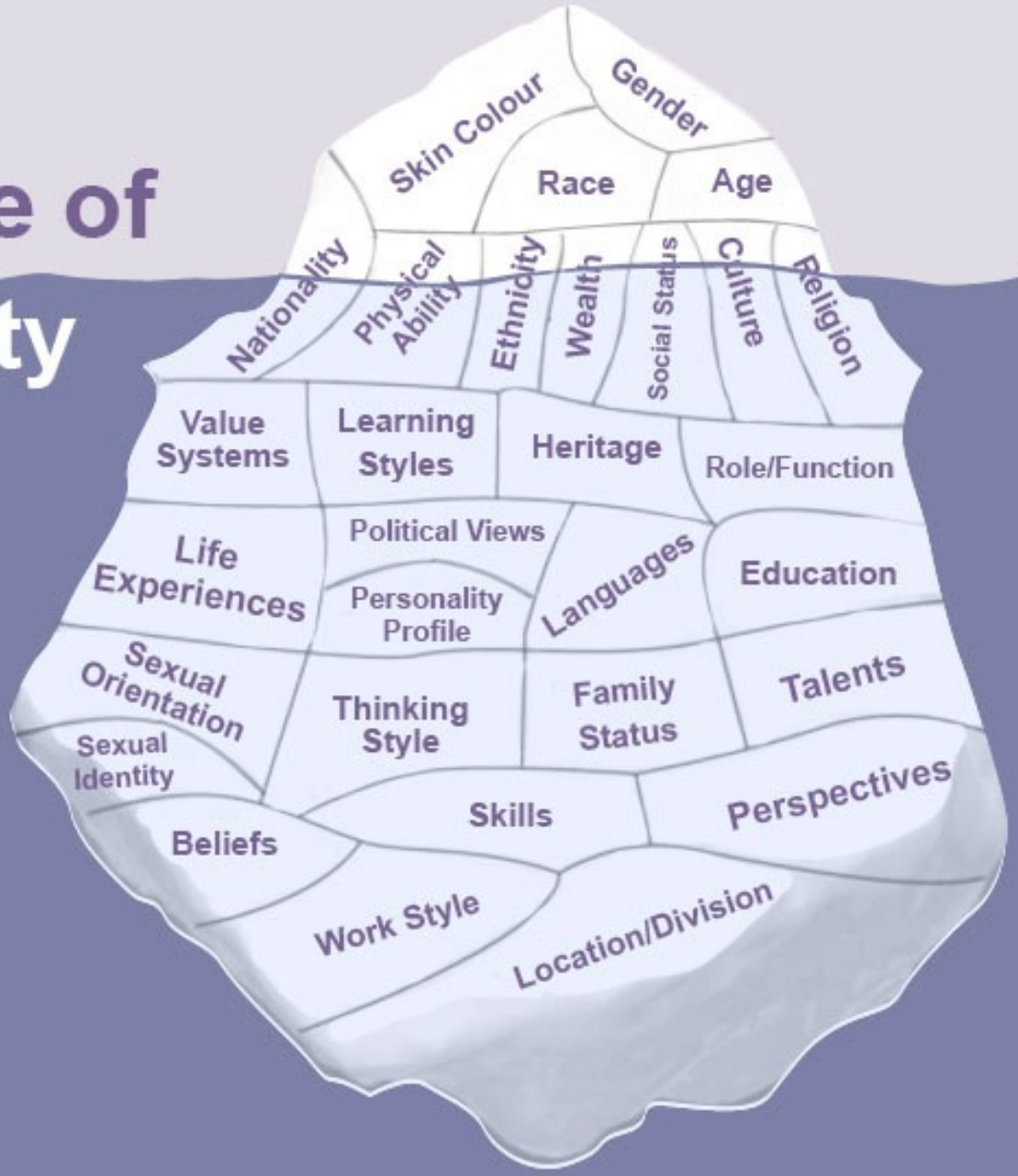
The Sociological Imagination

STRANGE in the FAMILIAR

GENERAL in the PARTICULAR



Waterline of Visibility



4. How our lives are impacted by the SOCIETAL CATEGORIES that we place ourselves in, and that OTHERS place us in.

- Why group people together in categories?

What are some ways that categorizing people may define them and effect their lives regardless of individual choices or action?

To the blog