

## Sociological Theory 4/4/06

### Gear Shift

- From macro → Micro
- Unit of Analysis in Micro
  - The individual

### Mead

- Central Concept
  - Concept of self & its construction in social relations
  - Processes of development
- Language
  - Central to Symbolic Interactionism
    - **Symbolic**
      - Humans communicate thru symbols
      - Capacity for & the need for symbols
      - Gesture – A type of Symbol
      - Ex. - The Middle finger here means one thing, and in other countries means something different
      - Ex. 2 – Showing the sole of your foot in America means nothing, yet it is an insult in Iraq
    - **Interactionism**
      - Having a sense of other vs. self
        - The self is social
        - Need to interact in order to develop self & processes
      - Roles
        - Have to understand all the roles in order to know what yours is
        - Must play first, then the game
          - Play = play at something, take on a role
        - More on roles...
      - Communication
    - **BIG IDEA** – symbols organize our interaction socially
- Self
  - Entity

- Object to self
  - Difference btw I & me – last 2 pages
    - Object – me
      - How the self sees itself in others...
    - Subject – I
      - Response of the self to others
- Reflexivity
  - The ability of the subject to be an object to itself
  - Rooted in social construction, Hegel(German idealism)
  - The self is “me”, & being conscious of it is the “I”
- Difference btw Consciousness & Selfhood
  - Consciousness
    - awareness of outside environment
    - can be aware of self
  - Selfhood
    - Cognitions
    - Emotions
    - Sensations
    - Agency
- More On Roles
  - 2 main applications
    - **dramaturgical**
      - people take specific roles from theatre
      - these roles define who they are and what they do
      - ex. – actors, scripts, stage directions, etc.
    - **Structural**
      - Society as architecture
      - Foundations, glass ceilings, etc.
        - Window cleaner, tenet, landlord
      - Where you are is relative to others & resource centers
        - top of the pyramid, center of the basement, etc.
      - sets of behaviors/attitudes that are associated to levels of position
        - location, location, location