

A large, dense crowd of people is shown from an overhead perspective. The image is mostly grayscale, but several individuals are highlighted with bright, solid colors: red, blue, yellow, green, orange, purple, and pink. These highlighted figures are scattered throughout the crowd, representing individual members within a larger group. The overall scene suggests a large gathering or event.

Group Sociology

Understanding Socialization

- Socialization refers to the preparation of newcomers to become members of an existing group and to think, feel, and act in ways the group considers appropriate. Viewed from the group's point of view, it is a process of member replacement.
 - Simply put Socialization is the process of preparing individuals to be part of a group



Sociological Definition of Groups

- At least two people who have one or more goals in common and share common ways of thinking and behaving
 - Will group together because of common thinking, or common thinking will develop over periods of interaction
- Groups form basis of understanding social interaction and process of socialization



Social Categories

- Groups can be formed around a number of perceived shared social characteristics
 - Ex. Seniors, Women, Minorities
- Often people will attach stereotypes or stigmas to people based on social category
 - Not at all true for all members of group
 - Ex. Senior Citizens are bad drivers (some might be but not all)



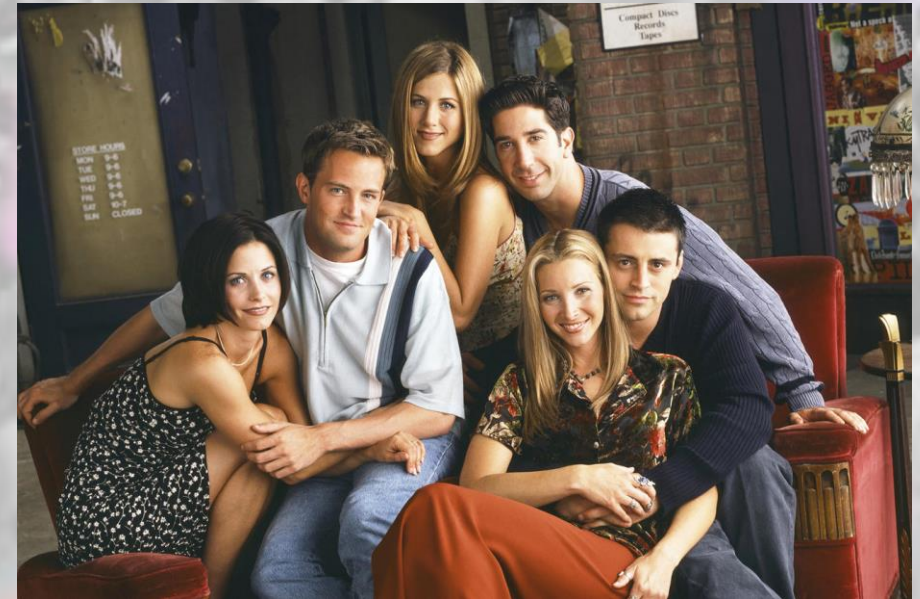
Social Aggregate

- A group that consists of members who share little else other than that they happen to be in the same place at the same time
 - Ex. A group of people who are on the same flight
- Random groups comprised of random members
 - Do not even really interact much other than being in the same general area as one another
 - Ex. Single Serving Friends



Primary Group

- The group that you have the most contact and investment with over long periods of time
 - Ex. Family
- Have the most in common with
 - Closest connections in beliefs, values, opinions, interests, goals
- Take each others behavior/opinions into account
 - Ex. “if I do this what will my parents think?”



Secondary Group

- A group you have less contact with or only for a period of time. Usually a group geared towards completing a specific goal or task.
 - Ex. Students comprised in a Sociology course with the common task of completing the class
- Have much less investment and less in common with other members than Primary Group
 - Share very little beliefs and values



Sub-Divisions of Groups

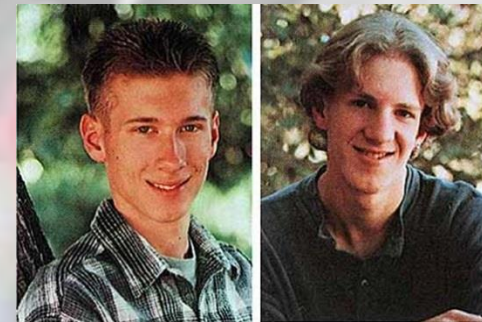
The In-Group

- Exclusive group demanding intense loyalty as part of membership
 - Form barriers to entrance
 - Exclusivity
 - Symbol of group membership
 - Specific behaviors expected



The Out-Group

- Group targeted by an in-group for opposition, antagonism, or competition
- Clash with in-groups
- Extremely dangerous when groups are violent.
 - Ex. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold



Reasons for Groups

- Cooperation
 - Combine efforts for a common goal
 - Best use of limited resources
 - Crisis situation
 - “How can we reach our goal?”
- Coercion
 - People forced to give in to others
 - Opposite of social exchange
 - One-way street – Group leaders benefit more than members

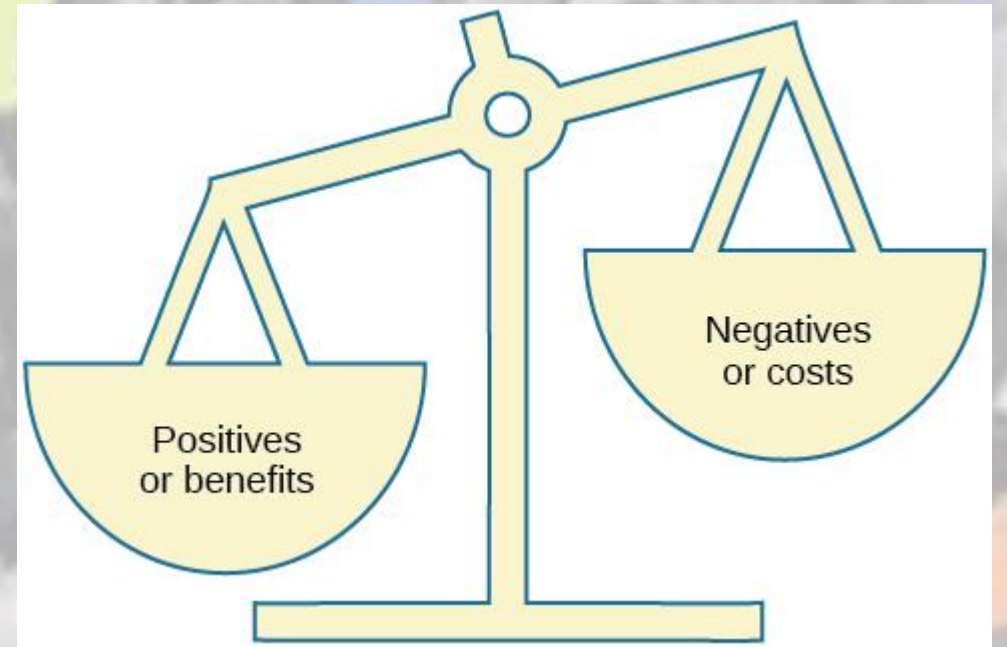


Picture Explanation: Czech woman crying while giving Nazi salute after German takeover or Czechoslovakia



Reasons for Groups

- Social Exchange
 - Voluntarily doing something for someone else
 - Usually Expect something in return
 - “What’s in it for me?”
- Reciprocity:
 - Returning the favor
 - Doing something for someone because of something they have done for you



Reasons for Groups

- Conflict
 - Work against each other
 - Defeating opponent is essential
- Benefits
 - Unity within group
 - Attention to inequities
 - Fosters change

