

JOHN SCOTT

Socialisation into the Upper Class Identity

- Family - exclusive lifestyle & experiences of the u-class mean they tend to socialise with other members of that class. This = tendency for the u-class to inter-marry and kinship connections develop between families.
- Education - children of u-class families go to top public schools and many go on to the most prestigious universities. Throughout their education valuable social contacts are made with each other & with people likely to end up in positions of power and influence.
- Social and Leisure Activities - Young members of the u-class are taken to exclusive social events such as Wimbledon, Royal Ascot etc. These provide a circuit where further connections.
- Work - Many of the richest people in the world live and evolve around work. They use exclusive social events to make business connections.

KING & RAYNOR, PIERRE BOURDIEU & ROBERTS

Socialisation into the Middle Class Identity

- Family - King and Raynor suggest that child-centeredness is a distinctive feature of the m-class family. Especially in the terms of passing on educational opportunities and attitudes required for educational success.
- Education - Pierre Bourdieu suggest that schools are essentially m-class institutions run by m-class teachers for the benefit of m-class pupils. The home experience of m-class children equips them with the 'right' values, way of speaking, knowledge etc for interacting with other m-class children and success at school.
- Work- Roberts argues that the m-class place a high value on the ideas on a 'career'. This means they try to achieve a secure job, which has opportunities for promotion and is reasonable well paid. To do this they will need to achieve as many qualifications as they can and are therefore highly motivated and encouraged by the parents to do well at school.

YOUNG & WILMOTT & BILLINGTON ET AL

Socialisation into the Working Class Identity

- Studies of traditional working class family life suggest that the gender roles were very segregated. It was important to a man's identity that he provided for his wife and children, men were clearly the heads of the households.
- **Family - Young and Wilmott** found that extended kinship networks were important. A range of relatives offered support especially in the terms of financial help and finding work.
- **Education – Billington** said children were often brought up to have very limited aspirations. Although some working class children benefited from education many left school at the age of 15/16 to go to work.

MIKE SAVAGE ET AL

Is Class Identity Still Important?

- His research suggests that class is still an important influence on people's lives and living standards but class identities have weakened.
- He looked at 178 people in the Manchester area.
- Most of them were quite comfortable talking about class within society. However when they were asked to identify themselves as members of a particular class they were hesitant.
- They preferred to describe themselves as 'ordinary' or as 'individuals' rather than see themselves as a product of class background. They felt their individuality was under threat if they were labelled in class terms.
- Most people recognise the relevance of class in the wider society but are not keen to express their own personal identities in class terms. So the typical attitude towards class identity is one of ambivalence (mixed feelings).