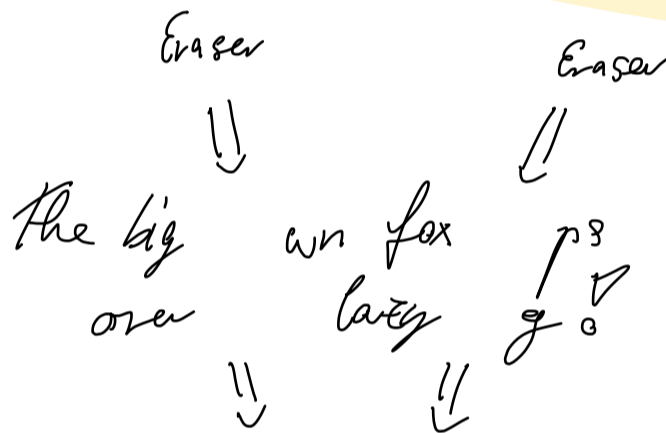


The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.



The big brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.



dragged

What Are Society and Culture?

Sociology is the study of groups and group interactions, societies to very large groups. A group of people who live in a defined geographic area and share a common culture is what sociologists call a **society**. Sociologists working from the **micro-level** study small groups and individuals, while those working at trends among and between large groups and societies. For example, sociologists might research the ways that language use has changed over time.

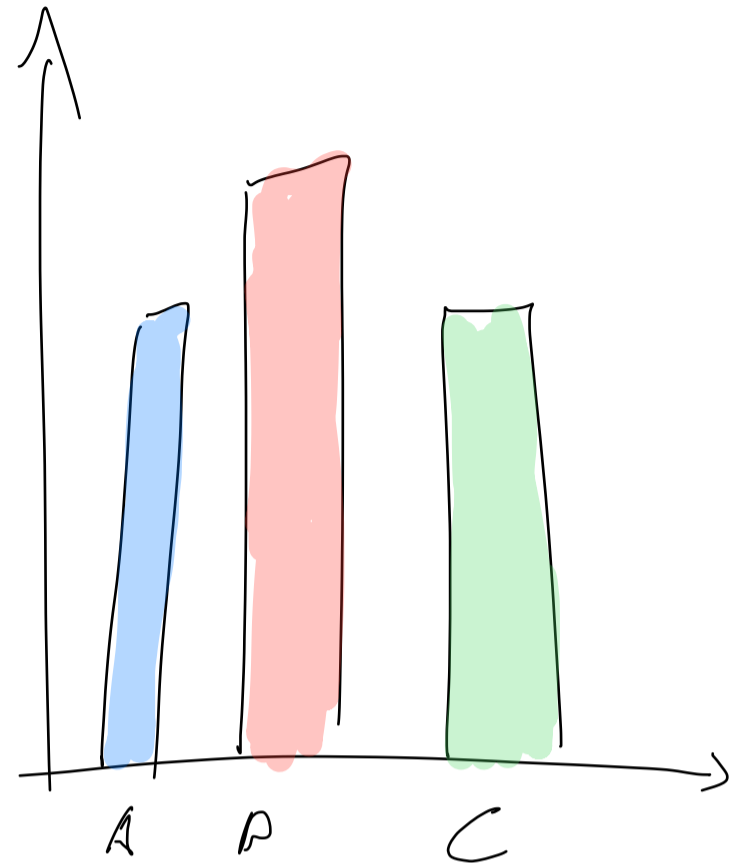
The term **culture** refers to the group's shared practices, values, and norms, from routine, everyday interactions to the most important parts of life by a society, including all of the social rules. Sociologists often study the concept of culture as a social structure. The pioneer sociologist C. Wright Mills described it as an awareness of the wider culture that shaped the person's choices and how people's behavior in relationship to history and social structure (1950).

One illustration of this is a person's decision to marry. In the United States, the feelings; however, the social acceptability of marriage relative to

Some text

Something about this graph

Cool!



All sociologists are interested in the experiences of individuals and how those experiences are shaped by interactions with social groups and society as a whole. To a sociologist, the personal decisions an individual makes do not exist in a vacuum. Cultural patterns and social forces put pressure on people to select one choice over another. Sociologists try to identify these general patterns by examining the behavior of large groups of people living in the same society and experiencing the same societal pressures.