

Socialization & the Life Course

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Socialization

- internalization of **culture**
- the process through which a child acquires the norms, values, beliefs, attitudes, and language characteristic of his or her group or society; **learning**, in a broad sense
- from childhood to adulthood; but it is a **lifelong** process

Socialization in Anthropology

- cultural transmission from one generation to the next: “enculturation”
- “culture and personality” orientation: cultural practices affecting child rearing, value transmission, and personality development (Mead)
- influenced first by psychoanalytic theory, then by social constructionist theories (such as symbolic interactionism) (Geertz)

Socialization in Psychology

- Aspects of individual development
 - For developmental psychologists, socialization = cognitive development, a combination of social influence and maturation.(Piaget)
 - For behavioral psychologists, socialization = learning patterns of behavior.
 - For clinical psychologists and personality theorists, socialization is character formation by early childhood experiences.

Primary Socialization

- the **Family**:
 - language
 - basic norms & skills
 - hierarchy
 - different expectations
- primary because it is the first and the most important stage (and the only one in simple societies)

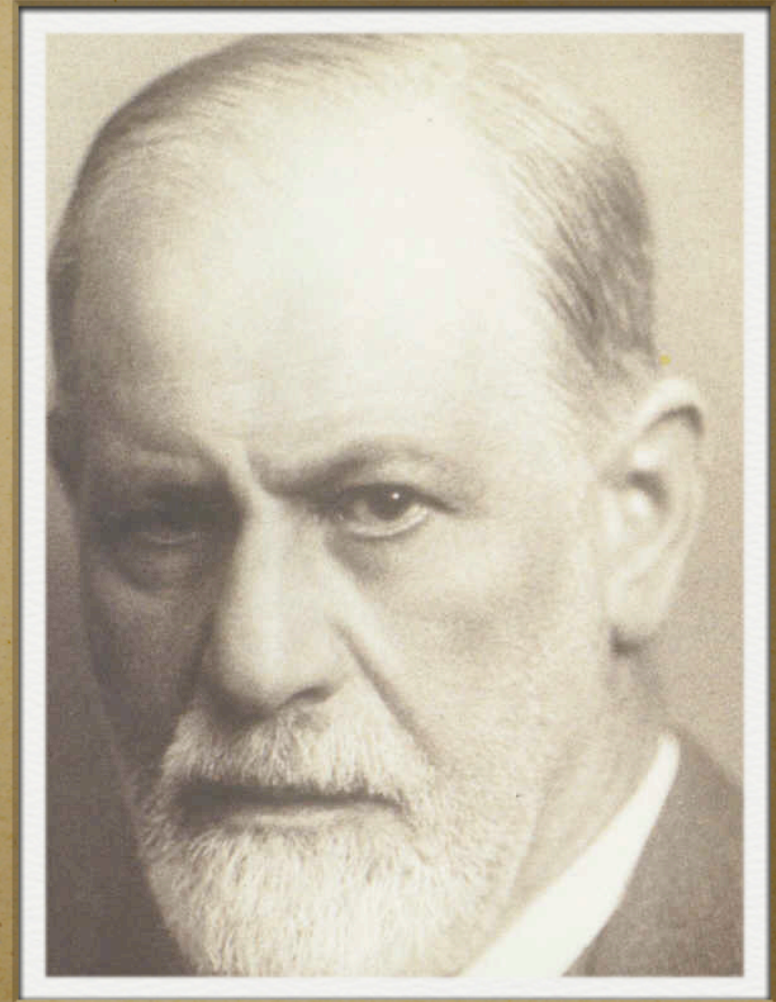
Secondary Socialization

- the School: how to cooperate with strangers; impersonal rules
- the Peer-Group: how to cooperate with peers; how to make rules
- the Media:
 - most time (after time spent in school)
 - adult world (before the age of consent)
- Others: the Workplace, the Army etc.

Sigmund Freud

1856 Vienna --
1939 London

Psychoanalysis



The Self: Freud

SUPEREGO	repository of cultural standards
EGO	balances conflicting needs of pleasure-seeking id and restraining superego
ID	demands immediate gratification

The Oedipus Complex

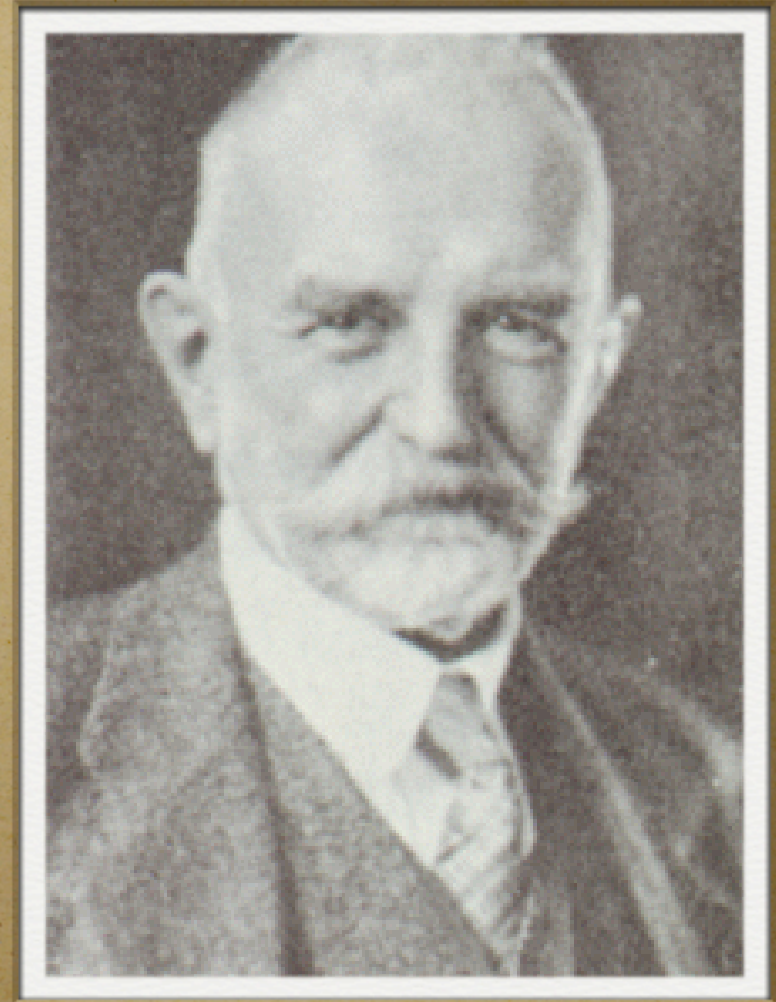
- mother: first love object
- father as rival
- incest taboo (& probably homosexuality taboo)
- crisis resolution: father as role model (masculine identity)
- getting the ID and desires under control: the father becomes part of the SUPEREGO as an authority figure

George H. Mead

1863 - 1931

Chicago

Mind, Self and Society



The Self: Mead

The I phase	The ME phase
subject	object
impulsive	determined
knowing	known
acts in world	attitudes of others

The Self: Mead

imitation	no ability to take the role of the other
play	one other in one situation
game	many others in one situation
recognizing the “generalized other”	many others in many situations

The Life Course

- aging: biological process, but the life course is a social construction: human experience organized by age



young	adult	old
preparation	work / mothering	retirement

- “childhood” and “youth”: recent inventions
- situated in historical time: birth cohorts, generations
- individualization of life course (Ulrich Beck)

Sociology of Youth

“La jeunesse n’est qu’un mot.”
(Pierre Bourdieu)

Transition

- dependent  independent
- irresponsible  responsible

Diversity

- social differences
 - gender
 - class
 - ethnic group
 - place of living
- generational experience

Biology / Sociology

- Storm and Stress (Stanley Hall, 1904)
- contradiction between biological capability and social restrictions: strain, stress
- function of youth culture: managing the stress

When?

- industrialization ➡ division of work ➡ adult roles need more preparation ?
- the separation of places of work and living ➡ from parental home to school
- change: in the context of family, school and work

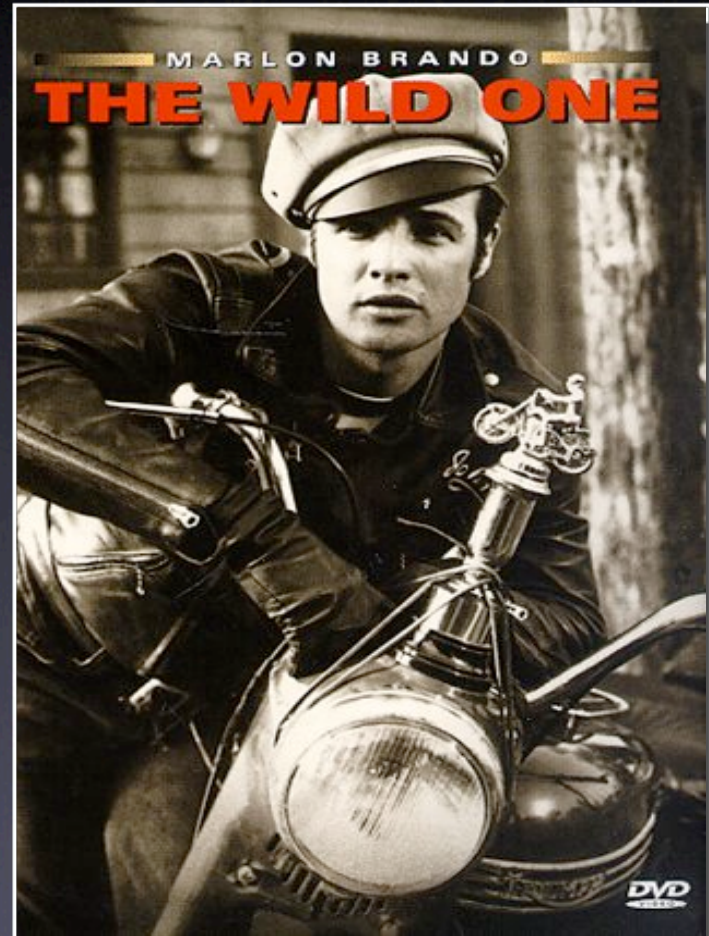
Youth Culture – UK

- Mark Abrams:
The Teenage Consumer (1959)
- parents could not tell their children how to be a teenager



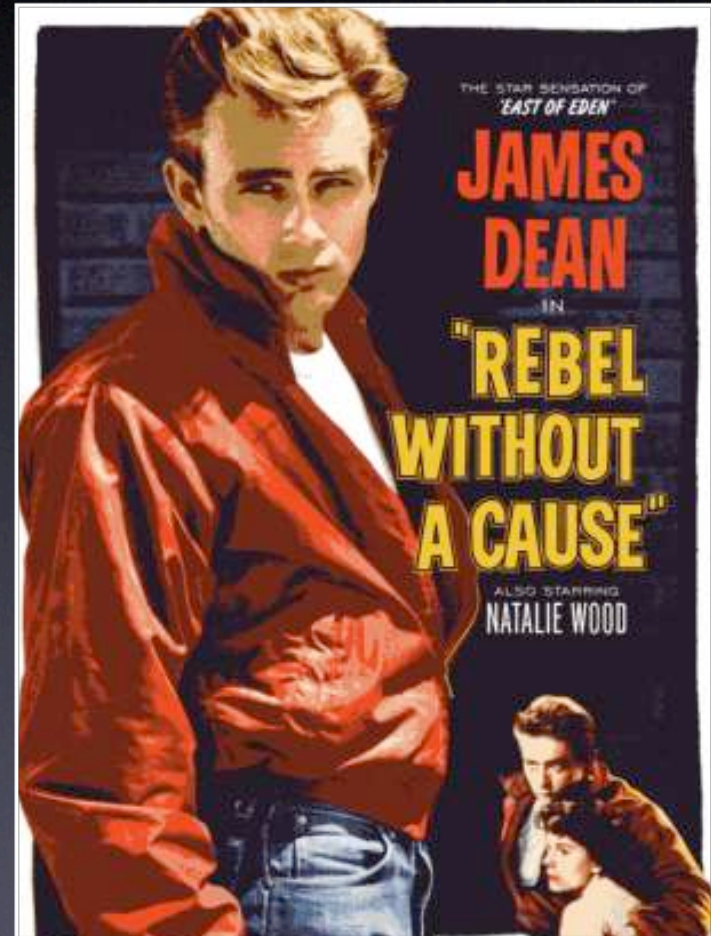
Youth Culture – USA

- James Coleman:
The Adolescent
Society (1961)
- corner boys /
college boys



Anxiety and Envy

- Youth: good and bad at the same time
- Youth becomes a symbol
- an ideological artefact



Student Movement & Counter-culture

- Student Movements
 - organization
 - target
- Civil Rights Movement
- Anti-War Movement
- Feminism



Function of Youth Culture

- Samuel Eisenstadt:
From Generation to Generation (1956)
- peer group
 - stability vs change
 - self-esteem vs powerlessness

