

Family Key Studies

	Perspective	Research method	Key findings	Connects to
Parsons	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	Two key functions of the family: 1. Primary socialisation – children are taught the shared norms and values of society 2. Stabilisation of adult personality – family relieves stress of life, like a 'warm bath'	Functions of families; functionalist perspective
Zaretsky	Marxist	Work of other sociologists	The family serves capitalism through: 1. Women's unpaid labour 2. Passing on of advantage in families eg inheritance 3. Unit of consumption	Functions of families; Marxist perspective; economic function of families
Delphy and Leonard	Radical feminist	Work of other sociologists	Family is patriarchal because: 1. Women are exploited economically – labour is used by their husbands 2. Family is hierarchical – men at the top 3. Patriarchal family reflects patriarchal society	Functions of families; feminist perspective
Oakley	Feminist	Work of other sociologists	Analyses the 'conventional family' finding: 1. Women are expected to do unpaid work 2. IDEA of the conventional family is powerful 3. People expect happiness, but nuclear family can be stressful 4. Middle class – more family diversity	Nuclear families; conjugal roles; family diversity; feminist perspective on families
Rapoport and Rapoport	NA	Work of other sociologists	Pioneers in researching family diversity. 5 types: 1. Organisational – structure of families 2. Cultural – cultural/ religious differences 3. Social class – class differences 4. Cohort – historical differences 5. Life course – differences in life cycle of the family	Family diversity; changes in family structures
Willmott and Young	Functionalist	Survey; Face-to-face structures interviews	Found the family was becoming more symmetrical – similar but not identical roles, equal contribution to household work, and shared decision making and friends. Home-centred. Principle of stratified diffusion: changes in family life start with higher social classes and trickle down	Changes in family structures; conjugal roles

Post
modernis
t

Education Key Studies

Study	Perspective	Research method	Key ideas	Connects with
Parsons	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education teaches the difference between particularistic and universalistic values - Role allocation and meritocracy 	Functionalist view of education
Durkheim	Functionalist	Work of other sociologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education teaches shared norms and values and builds social solidarity - Teaches children specialised skills for work 	Functionalist view of education
Bowles and Gintis	Marxist	Interviews and secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a correspondence or similarity between work and school - Education creates an obedient workforce to serve capitalism – hidden curriculum 	Marxist perspective on education
Willis	Marxist	Case study; Participant observation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studied the lads – an anti-school subculture – for two years - Found they were not obedient but their subculture was similar to WC workplaces 	Marxist perspective on education; social class and education
Ball	NA	Case study; participant observation and interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lower class students more likely to be in lower bands - Teachers had different expectations of different bands - Mixed ability classes – labelling still happened 	Social class and education; internal processes
Ball, Bowe and Gewirtz	NA	Interviews and secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parental choice and competition has increased inequalities in education - Middle class parents have more choice - Schools focus on image and results 	Social class and education; marketization
Halsey, Heath and Ridge	NA	Face to face survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey of 8000 men - 3 social classes: service, intermediate, working - Service class boy 11 times more likely to go to university than working class 	Social class and education