

Lecture Notes:

- ① How do you answer the question “who am I”?
 - 1 our physical **bodies**
 - 2 individual and social **traits**: innate or socially recognized characteristics, qualities, quantities, or attributes not easily separable from the individual and persisting over a long period of time
 - 3 **experiences**: mental constructions of life events to which we have attended and subsequently processed
 - 4 **beliefs**: assertions about the nature or reality of the social world
 - 5 **values/norms**: shared ethical ideals about how events should occur & people should behave, believe, or emote
 - 6 **attitudes**: learned and enduring tendency to perceive or act toward persons or situations in a particular way
 - 7 **positions**: membership positions are designated by the groups an individual belongs to or shares characteristics with and structural positions are indicated by their relationship to other places in the social structure
 - 8 **statuses**: the positive or negative honor, prestige, power, or esteem attached to a position or individual within a system of social stratification
 - 9 **roles** and relations: a relatively stable classification within a social system associated with specific behaviors, expectations, rights, and duties
 - 10 **goals**: planned or desired outcomes of behavioral interactions regarding the condition of personal or social traits, positions, statuses, roles, or access to social networks or resources
 - 11 **states**: transitory emotional, cognitive, or cathectic expressions
 - 12 **property**: material goods owned or to which we feel we have claim
 - 13 **names** or titles: symbolic appellations that refer to a specific individual and which have been given or earned
 - 14 who or what we are **not**
- **Self**: is the object and product of all of your actions and interactions; there would be no need of motivation for a personal identity were it not for society
 - identity includes “all things a person may legitimately and reliably say about himself — his status, his name, his personality, his past life,” thus “any generally satisfactory answer to the question, Who am I [Klapp 1969:5]?” or more formally, “an identity is a symbol that is used to designate one or more human beings [Biddle 1979:89].”
 - different cultures emphasize the relative importance of the **private**, **public**, and **collective** senses of the self
 - the Western sense of individual identity has radically changed through recent centuries [Baumeister 1986]
 - **self awareness** [Wolff 1932, Mead 1934]: the process of focusing attention inward by making the “self” the object of our focus and our active thought processes
 - **self categorization**: we label ourselves through **personal identity** (which asserts our uniqueness by differentiating ourselves from other in-group members) and **social identity** (which contrasts our shared, in-group similarities with out-group differences); thus we act or believe in ways that reinforce our chosen identities
 - **self esteem** is an evaluation of the self; it may be either **global** (pertaining to the self as a whole or in general) or **specific** (referring to some particular aspect of the self); it may also be either a stable **trait** or a temporary **state**

Key Ideas:

Self, identity, symbol, dramaturgy, identity formation.