

CREATIVE PIECE (KNITTING)



Knitting Piece Reflection

The sociological imagination is understanding the relationship between personal experiences and social forces. This concept helps in linking personal troubles to public issues by understanding the individuals' experiences in the context of society (Cumming, 2024). I knitted a quilt to represent the concept of sociological imagination. The quilt is composed of three squares, each one highlighting different dimensions of social identity and representing how individual lives are interwoven with broader social forces.

The first square represents **gender identification**. Its design is based on conventional colours which are associated with gender identities, like pink, blue and non-binary. I used pink to represent my gender identity. The square captures how societal gender norms and sexism influence personal development and social roles, by affecting career choices, family dynamics, and social interactions. For instance, women in some parts are restricted from making their life choices and are confined to roles that prioritize domestic responsibilities and obedience to male authority figures, which raises the issue of gender inequality on the societal platform.

The second square is incorporated with diverse colours to symbolize **racial and ethnic identity**. It illustrates how race and ethnicity influence personal identity and social experiences. The contrast between darker and lighter fabrics highlights the disparity between different races defined according to **social structures** (Da Costa, 2024). For instance, it represents how racial discrimination can impact job opportunities, social mobility, and access to resources.

The third square represents the **historical context** that shapes individual lives. I used white fabric for a historical vintage look, which symbolizes how past events and decisions influence the present, reflecting C. Wright Mills' idea that personal experiences are rooted in

historical context (Da Costa, 2024). For example, during post-World War II, significant changes in social mobility, housing and educational opportunities were observed, which contributed to the development of the modern middle class.

Creating this quilt has deepened my understanding of the sociological imagination by allowing me to think critically about how my social identities are influenced by larger social forces. By visually representing the intersectionality of race, gender, and historical context, I was able to apply sociological thinking to my everyday experiences and recognize the wider aspect of social forces in individual lives.

References

Cumming, S. (2020). *Sociology unlocked*. Oxford University Press.

Da, Costa, J.C.R. (2024). The Sociological Imagination. *Introduction to Sociology* [PowerPoint Slides]. Sheridan College.