

Socio-Cultural Perspectives

Social Class

Aims

- To become familiar with the concepts relating to the Class system in Britain
- To think about own circumstances and experiences.
- To consider how the Class system can have an impact within the Counselling room.

The class system in Britain

- History
- [Video](#)
- What are your thoughts and experiences relating to the class system in Britain?
- What about the twenty first century?

How do we measure class?

- Occupation
 - Income
 - Acquired wealth
 - Vulnerability to poverty
- Social Dimensions of Class
 - Family background
 - Accent
 - Education
 - Dress
 - Housing
 - lifestyle



Class and Capital

- Economic
 - Income and Wealth
- Social
 - Networks and group membership
- Cultural
 - Ownership of valued knowledge and know-how
- Symbolic Capital
- (Bourdieu, 1987)

Contemporary Ideas: Seven Classes

- Wealthy Elite
- Established Middle Class
- Technical Middle Class
- New Affluent Workers
- Traditional Working Class
- Emerging Sector Workers: the precariat
- Thoughts?



PREGARIAT: The poorest and most deprived class in Britain. With low levels of economic, cultural and social capital, everyday lives of members of this class are precarious.

TRADITIONAL WORKING CLASS: Contains more older members than other classes but also scores low on all forms of the three capitals. They are not the poorest group.

EMERGENT SERVICE WORKERS: Young and often found in urban areas, this new class has low economic capital but has high levels of 'emerging' cultural capital and high social capital.

TECHNICAL MIDDLE CLASS: A less culturally engaged new class with high economic capital. Small in numbers, they have relatively few social contacts.

NEW AFFLUENT WORKERS: Generally young and active, members have medium levels of economic capital and higher levels of cultural and social capital.

ESTABLISHED MIDDLE CLASS: Not quite elite but members of this class have high levels of all three capitals. They are a gregarious and culturally engaged class.

ELITE: This is the most privileged class in Great Britain who have high levels of all three capitals. Their high amount of economic capital sets them apart from everyone else.

What impact does class have on self esteem and self respect?



Statistics

- The wealth of the top 10% of the population is almost ten times as high as the lowest 10%
- Between 2012 and 2014 45% of the nation's wealth was held by the top 10% richest households.
- The poorest half only owned 8.7%
- What repercussions might this have?
- (Office for National Statistics, 2015)

Health

- The wealthiest populations have better health compared to those with low incomes, who are vulnerable to poverty.
- Evidence is continuing to grow demonstrating the links between low income and poor mental health.

How does this relate to counselling?



Is therapy out of touch with working class people?



Thoughts?

