

Chapter 02 - Producing Knowledge About Sports in Society: What is the Role of Research and Theory?

**Chapter 02**

**Producing Knowledge About Sports in Society: What is the Role of  
Research and Theory?**

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Knowledge produced in the sociology of sport is primarily based on
- A. the informed opinions of journalists and other experts.
  - B. social research and social theories.**
  - C. statements made by people in sports.
  - D. personal theories and data collection.

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*Topic: Chapter Introduction*

2. Social theories are useful and practical because they
- A. justify our personal biases and enable us to put those biases into action.
  - B. prevent us from making decisions that could get us into trouble.
  - C. enable us to make sense out of life and learn from our experiences.**
  - D. often impress other people who lack formal education and training.

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*Topic: Chapter Introduction*

3. Sociological theories are different from our personal theories in that they
- A. don't allow us to make predictions.
  - B. are based on the insights of people who have special analytical abilities.
  - C. combine the observations of men and women and old and young.
  - D. are developed by using systematic research and logic.**

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*Topic: Producing Knowledge in the Sociology of Sport*

4. In the chapter it is noted that personal theories, as opposed to sociological theories,
- A. have little practical value.
  - B. reproduce social worlds in their current forms.
  - C. are based on the immediate experiences of individuals.
  - D. enable people to anticipate general social events.

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*Topic: Producing Knowledge in the Sociology of Sport*

5. Sociologist Mike Messner decided to initiate his research on gender and sports after witnessing events at
- A. his son's soccer season opening ceremonies.
  - B. a Los Angeles Lakers game in which Kobe Bryant was playing.
  - C. a park where adult teams played flag football.
  - D. his daughter's first softball game of the season.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

6. The process of producing knowledge in the sociology of sport, as well as other scientific disciplines, is a five-stage process that begins with observation and ends with
- A. the analysis of data.
  - B. a review of past research on the same topic.
  - C. the publication of research results.
  - D. conclusions based on data.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

7. As Messner began his investigation of gender and sports, he formed research questions around

- A. issues related to culture, social interaction, and social structure.
- B. his concerns as a father of a talented girl who played softball.
- C. the ways that gender equity had been defined in the United States.
- D. the policies of elite sport teams at the University of Southern California.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

8. Theories that explain what is known about the ways that people express their values, ideas, and beliefs are called

- A. structural theories.
- B. action theories.
- C. cultural theories.
- D. interactionist theories.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

9. Theories that used concepts such as role model and identity are

- A. interactionist theories.
- B. cultural theories.
- C. structural theories.
- D. psycho-social theories.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

10. The theories most likely to be used in research on the process of developing and maintaining athletic identities are

- A.** interactionist theories.
- B. Freudian theories.
- C. cultural theories.
- D. opportunity theories.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

11. The theories that explain what is known about patterns of relationships that influence opportunities to play sports are

- A. opportunity theories.
- B. action theories.
- C. interactionist theories.
- D.** structural theories.

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12. The theories most likely to use concepts such as values, symbols, ideology, and beliefs are

- A. structural theories.
- B.** cultural theories.
- C. psycho-social theories.
- D. performance theories.

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13. When Messner used cultural theories as a guide for collecting and analyzing data in his research project, he focused primarily on

- A. the way soccer players performed gender.
- B. the number of teams coached by men or women.
- C. team names and colors.
- D. the ways that sports are a reflection of society.

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14. When sociologists study socialization as it occurs in sports, they are most likely to be guided by

- A. structural theories.
- B. transmission theories.
- C. gender theories.
- D. interactionist theories.

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*Topic: Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study*

15. Messner and other sociologists use either quantitative or qualitative methods when they do research. Which of the following statements about these two methods is **false**?

- A. Quantitative methods are used to study general social patterns in a social world.
- B. Qualitative methods are useful for discovering meanings that inform actions.
- C. Quantitative methods are used primarily when the sample population is small.
- D. Qualitative methods involve the use of interpretive procedures and tests.

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16. Social scientists generally collect data through the use of surveys, observations, and **A.** text analysis.  
B. photographs and videos.  
C. personal insights.  
D. forensic methods.

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17. In Messner's studies of gender and sports he used  
A. fieldwork to gather all of his data.  
**B.** both quantitative and qualitative methods.  
C. participant observation to collect data.  
D. video equipment to record the actions of players and coaches.

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18. When sociologists do ethnographies, data are collected in the field through  
A. surveys combined with narrative analysis.  
B. in-depth interviews combined with a deconstruction of narratives and images.  
C. the use of quantitative methods.  
**D.** observations and in-depth interviews.

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19. When Messner and his colleagues analyzed local network sports news and ESPN Sports Center coverage, they  
**A.** used data collected through participant observation.  
B. deconstructed narratives and images from the broadcasts.  
C. focused on information collected through in-depth interviews with broadcasters.  
D. used data collected through nonparticipant observation.

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20. When Messner collected and analyzed data on the organization of the AYSO leagues and teams he found that they were organized in ways that

- A. made people very aware of gender.
- B. eliminated the influence of gender.
- C. created highly gendered experiences.
- D. gave women formal authority over men.

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21. Messner's research findings enabled him to explain that gender consists of

- A. meaning, performance, and organization.
- B. a collection of traits that identify a person's status in life.
- C. patterns of action related to sex hormones.
- D. the sexual orientations of human beings.

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22. The purpose of publication in the research process is to

- A. force scholars to develop their writing skills.
- B. provide people in society with scientific information about the world.
- C. create standards that can be used to evaluate scholars.
- D. allow other scholars to critically review the quality and accuracy of research.

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23. In the chapter it is noted that the commonly made statement that "sports are reflections of society"

- A. is not supported in any of the research done in the sociology of sport.
- B. applies to race and gender issues, but not to other social issues.
- C. ignores the capacity of people to act as agents of cultural production.
- D. is likely to inspire people to want to change sports.

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24. The author explains that sports are more than reflections of society because they are sites where

- A. people have important personal and social experiences.
- B. society and culture are created and reproduced.**
- C. social differences are meaningless.
- D. there is no social inequality.

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*Topic: Reflect on Sports; Sports Are More Than Reflections of Society*

25. The author points out that knowledge produced by research in the sociology of sport can be used to

- A. improve our sport performances.
- B. inform the decisions we make about sports and sport participation.**
- C. understand more fully the strategies used by coaches.
- D. create training programs that will prevent serious injuries.

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*Topic: The Impact of Sociology of Sport Knowledge*

26. Knowledge and theories in the sociology of sport enable us to

- A. discover ultimate truths about the role of sports in society.
- B. view sports from multiple perspectives.**
- C. predict how athletes and teams will perform under pressure.
- D. eliminate the causes of serious injuries in sports.

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*Topic: The Impact of Sociology of Sport Knowledge*



27. Which of the following questions would NOT be asked when using a critical approach in a sociological study of sports?

- A. Who has power in sports and how do they use it?
- B. What is the most efficient way to organize spectator sports?**
- C. Who is disadvantaged by the prevailing ideas and beliefs associated with sports?
- D. Who is advantaged by existing forms of organization in sports?

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*Topic: Using a Critical Approach to Produce Knowledge*

28. When Messner used a critical approach in his research on gender and sports, he was interested in

- A. how sports can be used to challenge exploitive practices in society.**
- B. how he could help children adjust to the sex segregation of their teams.
- C. providing sport administrators with the tools to be more efficient.
- D. the ways that youth sports could generate revenues for worthy causes.

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*Topic: Using a Critical Approach to Produce Knowledge*

29. Critical feminist theory is used as a guide by Messner and many others in the sociology of sport. It is based on the assumption that knowledge about social life requires that we understand

- A. the biological differences between males and females.
- B. how gender and gender relations operate in our lives.**
- C. the role that women play in creating social inequality.
- D. how ideology can be used to defuse the power of men in society.

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*Topic: Reflect on Sports; Critical Feminist Theory Today*

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30. Feminism is less visible today than in previous decades because
- A. gender is no longer influential in social life.
  - B. most people don't want gender equity in society.
  - C. younger scholars have rejected feminist goals.
  - D. many people take it for granted without identifying it by name.**

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*Topic: Reflect on Sports; Critical Feminist Theory Today*

31. The author explains that he uses a critical approach when studying sports in society. As a result, many of the discussions in *Sports in Society* emphasize
- A. fairness and equity issues.**
  - B. personal development and self-esteem.
  - C. social progress depends on the motivation of leaders.
  - D. the need for clear rules and ethical standards.

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*Topic: Using a Critical Approach to Produce Knowledge*