**Literature review map**

Plan out your research with this helpful literature review map, apply these strategies to your own work by filling out your answers to the questions below.

**Themes**What central themes have you identified in the field of research?

**Research chronology**

Show how the research field has developed over time.

Early 1900s-1950s: New theories beginning to develop in relation to feminism and class. Still created and theorized by the more ‘privileged’ in society though.

Pre and early 1900s - Classical theory looking at feudalism, capitalism and other structural issues. Particularly regarding divisions of labour, economics, class etc.

1950s – 1990s: Further waves and developments criticizing the role and responsibilities of institutions, politics, economic practices etc.

1990s-present day: Postcolonial theory, postmodern theory, intersectional-focuses, more aim to ‘do’ rather than just theorize (whether that be through mass protests, petitions, volunteering, open conversations, conferences etc). Realization of the importance from other disciplines to include qualitative and new methodological approaches along with the quantitative reasoning.

**Debates and disagreements**

Disclaimer: The theories in the arrows do not argue the same (all can work against and together with one another in different aspects). Some are also more structural, economical or philosophical.

Social Constructionism

Essentialism

Reductionism

Feminism

Structuralism

Critical realism

Empiricism

Naturalism

Capitalism

Socialism

Utilitarianism

Feudalism

Existentialism

Communism

Interpretivism

Positivism

What are the main debates and disagreements in this field of research?

Methodology

Social Network Analysis

Methodology

Methodology

**The Problem**

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Creative methods (i.e. material and visual methods).

Ethnography.

Mixed methods including qualitative case studies and interviews

Methodology

Pierre Bourdieau – Power dynamics through the concepts of ‘field’ and ‘habitus’.

Michel Foucault – Power dynamics and influence on knowledge, particularly institution versus individual including medicine and the body.

Zygmunt Bauman – Consumption, class, work (modern and further development of Marx).

Who are the key researchers in the field? What was their major contribution?

**Key researchers**



Bell Hooks – Gender debate on the intersectional experience and inclusivity of ethnicity within gender studies.

Judith Butler – Queer theory, performativity.

Gurminder K Bhambra – Postcolonialism and Eurocentricity.

Simone De Beauvoir – Woman as ‘the other’ to a man. Opinions of a woman’s oppression.



Émile Durkheim – Collective consciousness and institutions; suicide, mental health and psychology

Karl Marx – Division of labour, class consciousness, communism, capitalism and materialism and bourgeoise.

Max Weber – Bureaucracy, power dynamics, interpretivism, Protestant Ethic.

Frankfurt School – Building upon and developing Marx and other classical Sociology ideas further.

Auguste Comte – Positivism.



Disclaimer: There are a lot of researchers and theorists in Sociology depending on which field you look at. I have narrowed it down to the few that are common spoken about but also criticised.

What gaps or weaknesses are there in the research field?

**Gaps in the research**

Though these are now being covered by many theorists, criticisms and gaps include:

* Considering intersectional perspectives including ethnicity, gender, sex, disability, income.
* Perspectives of Intersex in an application and practical sense rather than just theoretical
* More practical application of the theory (though this depends on how Sociology is taught).
* Accessibility of Sociology (language/terminology, key concepts, epistemologies and ontologies. Very often the materials can be inaccessible to those who are written about and who the resources aim to empower – yet can ironically prolong a power boundary.
* Building on from the practice of Sociology the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary angles to be emphasized more and the importance of these (i.e. not just keeping to Sociology and what is taught but exploring the areas that Sociology criticizes or looks further at and integrating Sociology within other fields).