

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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