

Functionalism

through Parsons and Merton

Dr. Asha V,
Professor of Sociology,
School of Distance Education,
University of Kerala.

Functionalism

through Parsons and Merton



Introduction



Postulates



Talcott Parsons



R K Merton



Decline of Functionalism



Introduction

What is Functionalism?

“

A theoretical perspective that views society as an organised, interrelated, interdependent and evolving system with each of its parts contributing to its stability.

”

The Origin of Functionalism

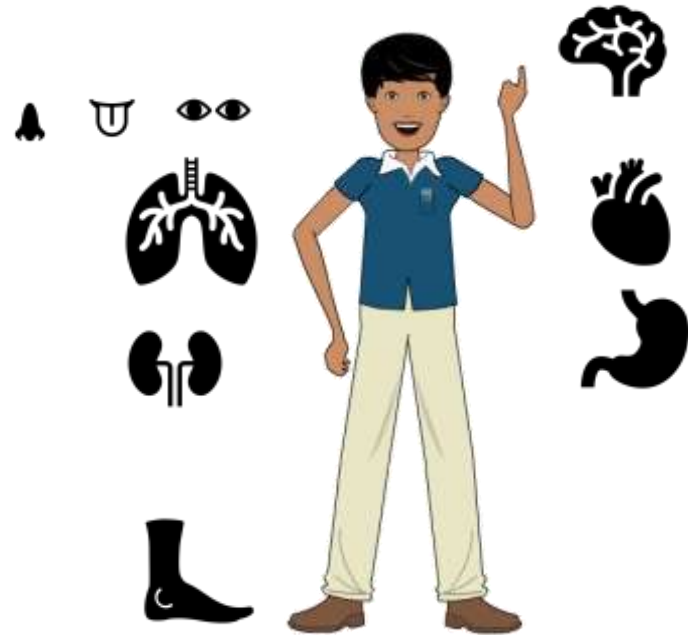
- Since the days of Henri de Simon and August Comte

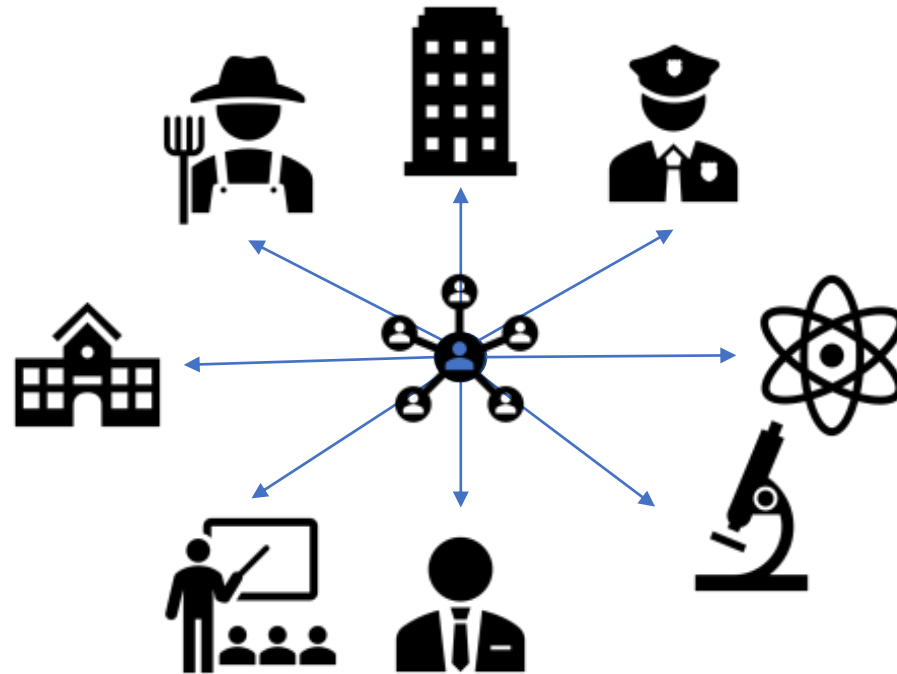
- Carried forward by Spencer and Durkheim

- Further followed by the likes of Parson and Merton

- Prominent during the 40s to early 60s

Began as a organismic analogy





Interrelated parts

Each has its own function

Contributes to whole

- Each has its own function

Contributes to whole

- Interrelated parts



August Comte



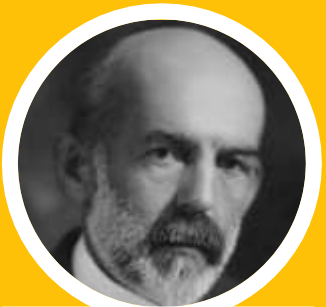
Emile Durkheim



Herbert Spencer



Max Weber



Charles Cooley



Vilfredo Pareto



George Simmel



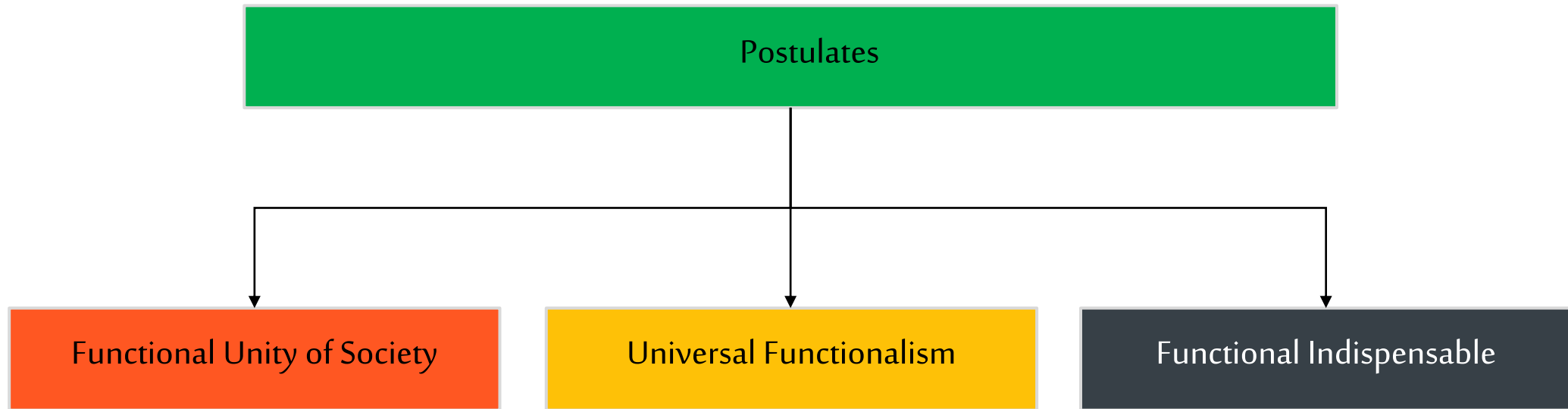
RK Merton



Talcott Parsons

P ostulates

Postulates of Functionalism



- Based on biological analogy

- There is unity between part and whole

- Emphasis on unity between the parts - Brown

- Each part is essential - Malinowski

- Every standardized social or cultural form has positive functions.

- All continuing cultural and social patterns have contribute to constructively



Ideas and
Thought



Material
Objects



Customs
and
Practices



Religions
and
Beliefs

- If a social pattern is well established, then it must be meeting basic needs.

- Hence they are all indispensable



Thank you..