

Theory Contrasting

Characteristic	Functionalism	Conflict	Interaction
What is society?	Society is a system of interdependent and interactive parts- macro system	Society is composed of groups with differential power, wealth and prestige- groups	Society exists in face-to-face interactions of everyday life- systems of interaction
Is society real?	Society exists independent of and external to individuals- yes	Society is external to individuals and is most constraining to groups with the least power- yes	Society only exists when people are in social interaction no
What holds society together?	Shared values among individuals and groups values and norms	Dominate groups using their power to impose their values on others dominate group	The daily reinforcement of shared values through social interaction values and norms
What produces stability in society?	Since society is a system, it is form of stability- society	Dominate groups need social arrangements to stay as they are, since they work to their advantage- dominate group	Reciprocated exchanges- social consensus
How is social evolution viewed?	negatively	positively	positively
What largely controls individual behavior?	Social structure	Group membership	Individuals' understandings of society
What theoretical level seats controlling processes or variables	macro	meso	micro
Does it study human behavior directly?	no	no	no
Does this theory offer a solution?	yes	no	yes