

I am currently thinking about the relationship among social structure, social problems, and social policies in modern societies, with special attention to population aging. Modern life can be seen as a movement from fate to choice. The implications are profound (and frightening) because we sometimes have to choose among competing moral values. I am curious about how these choices are (or are not) resolved. This topic reflects a long-standing interest in the relationship between social structure and a variety of issues, such as homicide, divorce, political participation, and poverty. It also reflects my interest in sociological theory and the origins of sociology. All of the classical theorists were responding, in different ways, to the rise of modern societies.