## Structural Functionalism

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| Core Idea: | Society is a system of interrelated parts that work together to maintain stability; deviance can serve functions. |
| Key Figure: | Talcott Parsons |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | The CIA's role in national security was seen as functional in Cold War society — even when activities violated norms. |
| | MKULTRA was framed as a way to protect social order from perceived Soviet destabilisation. |
| | Deviance here was functional for elite power structures, reinforcing U.S. dominance. |
| Analytical Point: | Highlights how deviance may be tolerated or institutionalised if it is perceived as contributing to societal stability. |

## Conflict Theory

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| Core Idea: | Society is in constant conflict between groups competing for resources and power; law serves the powerful. |
| Key Figures: | Karl Marx, C. Wright Mills |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | U.S. state power was leveraged to control knowledge and technology, preventing the public from accessing truth. |
| | The Cold War arms race extended to the "mind control race," with science weaponised for geopolitical dominance. |

## Conflict Theory (cont)

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| | Victims were drawn from marginalised groups — illustrating how power shapes whose rights can be violated. |
| Analytical Point: | Shows MKULTRA as part of elite control, where law enforcement and scientific institutions served ruling-class interests. |

## Symbolic Interactionism

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| Core Idea: | Society is constructed through social interactions and shared meanings; deviance is defined through labeling |
| Key Figure: | Herbert Blumer |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | "Mind control" was not just a technical goal, but a cultural concept — infused with Cold War fears, spy narratives, and media depictions. |
| | Internally, scientists and agents redefined illegal acts as "research" or "operations," changing the moral meaning of their actions. |
| | The label "national security" altered public perception when elements of MKULTRA surfaced. |
| Analytical Point: | Language and framing shaped how participants and the public understood the program. |

## Power/Knowledge (Foucauldian Analysis)

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| Core Idea: | Knowledge and power are intertwined; control of knowledge produces control over populations. |
| Key Figure: | Michel Foucault |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | CIA controlled both the production of knowledge (research) and its secrecy, dictating what could be known about human psychology. |
| | The human body and mind became sites of discipline through chemical, sensory, and psychological control. |
| | Surveillance of subjects paralleled Foucauldian "panopticism" — subjects altered behaviour under observation. |
| Analytical Point: | MKULTRA represents biopower in action, where the state governs bodies and minds directly. |

## Social Construction of Science

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| Core Idea: | Scientific facts are socially produced through negotiations, politics, and cultural context. |
| Key Figures: | Bruno Latour, Karin Knorr-Cetina |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | Research results were shaped by CIA goals — "truth" was filtered through operational usefulness. |
| | Funding decisions prioritised experiments with intelligence applications, not peer-reviewed merit. |

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Page 1 of 2.

## Social Construction of Science (cont)

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| | The boundary between legitimate science and pseudo-science blurred under secrecy. |
| Analytical Point: | Demonstrates how institutional power determines what counts as valid knowledge |

## Deviance and Social Control

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| Core Idea: | Societies maintain order by defining and regulating deviance through norms, sanctions, and control mechanisms. |
| Key Figures: | Howard Becker (Labeling Theory) |
| | Émile Durkheim |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | The CIA engaged in norm violations (e.g., unethical experimentation), yet avoided sanctions through secrecy. |
| | The state itself became an agent of deviance, redefining "legal" in ways that benefited operations. |
| | Whistleblowers and journalists who exposed MKULTRA were sometimes labeled as unpatriotic or conspiratorial. |
| Analytical Point: | Shows how deviance is relative to power — the same acts by ordinary people would be criminalised. |

## Structural Violence

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| Core Idea: | Social structures can harm individuals by preventing them from meeting basic needs. |
| Key Figure: | Johan Galtung |

## Structural Violence (cont)

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| MKULTRA Relevance: | Victims suffered long-term psychological and physical harm due to experiments. |
| | Targeting psychiatric patients, prisoners, and the homeless exploited pre-existing social inequalities. |
| | Harm was invisible to the broader public for decades — a hallmark of structural violence. |
| Analytical Point: | MKULTRA perpetuated harm through institutional design, not individual malice alone. |

## Secrecy and Social Organisation

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| Core Idea: | Organisations can embed secrecy into their structure, shaping internal culture and external perception. |
| Key Figures: | Georg Simmel |
| | Gary Marx (on secrecy in social control) |
| MKULTRA Relevance: | Use of front organisations, code names, and compartmentalisation created a "need-to-know" hierarchy. |
| | Information silos prevented internal dissent. |
| | Public accountability was structurally impossible by design. |
| Analytical Point: | Secrecy wasn't an accident — it was an organising principle of MKULTRA. |