

Title: Creating a Kafkaesque Society: A Functionalist Analysis of Social integration vs. Dehumanization among Socially Marginalized Groups in the U.S.

Presenter: Yoon Hajoon, Fullerton College

Mentor: Kelly Nelson-Wright

Socially marginalized groups in the United States, such as immigrant minorities, face relentless racial stereotypes and prejudices. These obstacles impede the process of cultural assimilation and social integration, and often result in methods through which they can achieve higher levels of social integration. The most common ways to attain higher levels of social integration among these members can be divided into two major types: 1) pursuing a government occupation with conformity to regulations and laws, and 2) pursuing academic success via educational achievement. Although these two types are commonly used because they can negate racial stereotypes and prejudices through an elevated social status, members of socially marginalized groups may face challenges imposed by the conformity and education itself and therefore fail to achieve higher levels of social integration. This failure prompts these members to search for alternative methods, by which they can reach higher levels of social integration. From a functionalist perspective, this paper firstly investigates and identifies social patterns manifested by these alternative methods and analyzes their manifest and latent functions, explicating the underlying reasons behind the perpetuation of the identified social patterns. Secondly, the paper analyzes the correlation between the identified manifest and latent functions to demonstrate that solidarity and stability are reinforced by these manifest and latent functions. Lastly, the paper investigates the hypothetical correlation between higher levels of social integration and dehumanization within the theoretical paradigm of functionalism.

Works Cited

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