

Sociology as a Way to Understand the Social World: Using Suicide as an Example

This first is a brief discussion on the speaker's understanding of sociology, theory, and methodology. Professor Zhang Jie uses suicide as a vehicle to elaborate on the sociological theory developments and methodology applications. You will learn how Durkheim developed his Social Integration Theory on suicide and then how the current Strain Theory of Suicide has been conceptualized and tested. The new model of suicide theory explains the increases of suicide rates in the US and the decreases of suicide rates in China in the past 30 or so years. The Strain Theory of Suicide also informs college students as well as the general populations of some possible approach to stay away from suicidality.