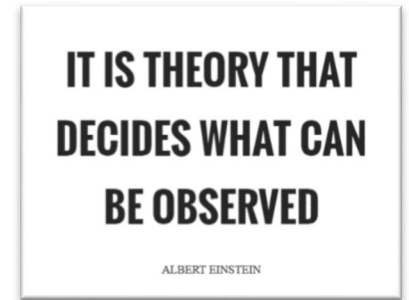


THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Family Studies is an interdisciplinary study that integrates anthropology, sociology, psychology, and other disciplines, such as economics, politics, and religion.
- A study of human behavior, whether of individuals or families, benefits from an interdisciplinary approach that combines theoretical perspectives; what people learn from the research helps them to decide how to live their own lives.
- Theories are not facts – just attempts to explain evidence. When applied to a particular study, they can be used to predict what will happen. Since human behaviour is influenced by decisions, theories in the social sciences define patterns and trends (not rules), as well as probabilities (not absolutes).
- Theories suggest **what** we look at, and **how** to examine it, as each theory contains an underlying assumption about how the social world works; this, in turn, guides one's research and methods.



<i>Theory</i>	<i>Key Qualities</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Related Research</i>
Functionalism			
Systems Theory			

Symbolic Interactionism			
Exchange Theory			
The Life- Course Approach			

Conflict Theory			
Feminist Theories			
Ecological Systems Theory			