

Throughout the course so far, we have examined many ideologies that have shaped the meanings, practices, and processes of family. There is one personal example that I have thought of a variety of times so far this semester that closely relates to course concepts. The example is that of my grandma's experience of getting married and starting a family. My grandma was around 20 when she got married to my grandpa and moved from Greece to Canada to start a family and have a better life. The timing of marriage has shifted to a later age today, as in the twentieth century it was much earlier. Before my grandma got married, her parents were encouraging her and her sisters to look for a husband to get married and start a family. They were portraying marriage as the main goal for my grandma to fulfill. This displays the idea of heteronormativity, as the encouragement was to solely look for a husband, which implies and assumes my grandma and her sisters' sexuality is straight.

By portraying marriage as a central goal to my grandma, her parents encouraged her to believe that she needed to get married to a man in order to start a family. As well as displaying heterosexuality, this ideology also displays structural functionalism. From a structural functionalists' perspective, the formation of a nuclear family, where the father is the economic provider and the mother is the emotional support provider, will produce family harmony. This ideology is exactly what my grandma's parents were displaying, through their encouragement of my grandma to find a husband, get married, and have kids. They were implying that the nuclear family was the only functional family formation. Therefore, my grandma was only exposed to one family type, unaware of the many other types of family formations, such as same-sex families, cohabitation, lone-parent families, families with adopted children, and more.

The impact of SNAF, is also very relevant to my grandma's example. My grandma was unknowingly viewing social relations from a SNAF viewpoint, as that was the sole ideology presented to her at the time. The ideologies that SNAF represent exclude families from society, as in my grandma's case, families that deviated from the nuclear family were not presented to her at all, implying that they are abnormal. My grandma's example also represents ideologies

from the materialist and conflict perspective, as the fact that my grandma was not encouraged to further her education but to look for a man to get married to, reinforces the ideology that men are more powerful than women. My grandma would not have been able to move to Canada and start a family and a new life if she didn't get married to a man, as that would have been frowned upon by her parents, displaying the power of men and the powerlessness of women. As well, my grandma's parents' ideas reflect Rutherford's idea of masculine domesticity, as they were implying that she would not be able to start a family without a man to perform specific functions, such as being a father and supporting the family economically. Overall, my grandma's experience and process of starting a family was heavily influenced by her parents' ideologies, which ultimately shaped the meanings, practices and processes of her starting a family.