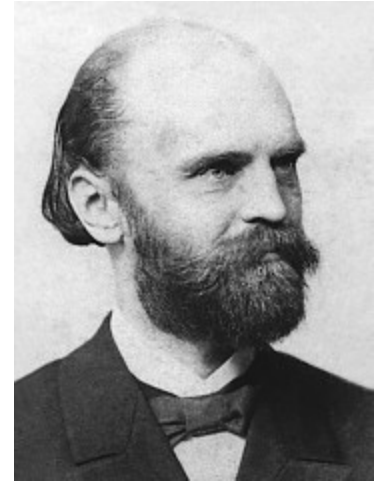


Comparison of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft

Ferdinand Tönnies (1855-1936)

- He was appalled by the rise of an industrial city in his native Germany during the late 1800s.
- Tönnies believed the city marked a dramatic change from the ideal of a close-knit community to that of an impersonal mass society.



Gemeinschaft "Community"	Gesellschaft "Society"
• Rural life typifies this form • People sharing a feeling of community that results from similar backgrounds and life experiences. • Social interactions are intimate and familiar. • People maintain a spirit of cooperation and unity of will. • Tasks and personal relationships cannot be separated. • People place little emphasis on industrial policy. • Informal social control predominates. • People are not very tolerant of deviance. • Emphasis is on ascribed statuses. • Social change is relatively limited.	• Urban life typifies this form. • People have little sense of commonality. Their differences appear more striking than their similarities. • Social interactions are likely to be impersonal and task specific. • Self-interest dominates. • The task being performed is paramount; relationships are subordinate. • Privacy is valued. • Formal social control is evident. • People are more tolerant of deviance. • Emphasis is on achieved statuses. • Social change is very evident, even within a generation.