**Social differentiation:**

Social differentiation is the dissimilarity made between social clusters and persons on the foundation of biological, physiological, and socio-cultural factors such as sex, age, race and nationality. Social differentiation scrutinizes the economic and political relations that affect the construction of social categories.

**Social differentiation** is a major topic in the sociological classics, such as Simmel, Durkheim, and Weber. Often discussed in connection with developmental analyses (increasing differentiation), the explanation of modern individualism as a result of role differentiation, and the so-called rationalization of various spheres of life, such as the economy, religion, politics, etc. Sociological [systems theory](http://faculty.washington.edu/cbehler/glossary/glossary.html#systems theory) argues that all forms of social differentiation are the result of system differentiation within the encompassing system of society. Luhmann: "Few forms of differentiation have been able to survive in long-term systems: above all, differentiation into similar units (segmentation), the differentiation of center/periphery, the differentiation conforming/deviant (official/unofficial, formal/informal), [hierarchical differentiation](http://faculty.washington.edu/cbehler/glossary/glossary.html#hierarchical differentiation), and [functional differentiation](http://faculty.washington.edu/cbehler/glossary/glossary.html#functional differentiation). Apparently, the only forms of differentiation able to survive are those that can mobilize processes of deviation-amplification to their own advantage and keep themselves from being leveled out again".

**Social integration:**

Social integration is the blending and unifying of [social groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_groups), most commonly seen in the desegregation of [races](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_%28human_classification%29) throughout history. Integration in [sociology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology) and other [social sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_sciences) is more precisely the movement of [minority groups](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minority_groups) such as [ethnic minorities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_minorities), refugees and underprivileged sections of a [society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society) into the mainstream of societies. Social integration requires proficiency in an accepted common language of the society, acceptance of the laws of the society and adoption of a common set of values of the society. It does not require [assimilation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assimilation_%28sociology%29) and it does not require persons to give up all of their culture, but it may require forgoing some aspects of their culture which are inconsistent with the laws and values of the society. In tolerant and open societies, members of minority groups can often use social integration to gain full access to the opportunities, rights and services available to the members of the [mainstream](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mainstream) of society. Major agents of social integration are cultural institutions such as churches and civic organizations. Mass media content also performs a social integration function in mass societies.

The term "social integration" first came into use in the work of French sociologist [Emile Durkheim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89mile_Durkheim). He wanted to understand why rates of suicide were higher in some social classes than others. Durkhiem believed that [society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society) exerted a powerful force on individuals. He concluded that a people's beliefs, values, and norms make up a collective consciousness, a shared way of understanding each other and the world.

Social integration is a term that can be considered when members are being transparent in all of their various work, personal, faith and local community interactions. Recent research also shows that immigrants should be independent and proactive in order to achieve better social integration in their host countries. The [United Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) has a Social Integration Branch, which is a part of the [Division for Social Policy and Development](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_for_Social_Policy_and_Development) (Department of Economic and Social Affairs). The UN Alliance of Civilizations[]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_integration#cite_note-6) initiative works on Migration and Integration as a key for intercultural understanding. An Online Community on Migration and Integration[]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_integration#cite_note-7) shows Good Practices from around the world.