It is possible to define social science paradigms as specific models and frames which can be used and followed by researchers when they make conclusions regarding the world around them.[[1]](#footnote-1) Social science paradigms are usually applied to research when it is necessary to support researchers’ conclusions.[[2]](#footnote-2) These paradigms provide researchers with opportunities to discuss questions from several theoretical perspectives.[[3]](#footnote-3) In their practice, sociologists are inclined to refer to such paradigms as the conflict paradigm, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism.[[4]](#footnote-4) The purpose of this paper is to discuss the conflict paradigm, symbolic interactionism, and structural functionalism in detail with the focus on their similarities and differences.

**Principles of the Conflict Paradigm**

The conflict paradigm was developed by Karl Marx. In his works, Marx has claimed that people’s behaviors and interactions with the public in different environments are usually determined by their intentions to dominate or, on the contrary, to follow other people. When some people prefer to dominate, and other people are ready to follow them, it is almost impossible to speak about a social conflict.

1. . Michael Bell et al., *Universities Online: A Survey of Online Education and Services in Australia* (Canberra: Department of Education, Science and Training, 2002), 33. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. . John Carpenter, "Alternative Cancer Treatments for Stage I, II and III Cancer Patients," *Cancer Tutor*, accessed January 25, 2017, https://www.cancertutor.com/ruleofthumb/. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. . David Davies, "From the Further Education Margins to the Higher Education Centre? Innovation in Continuing Education," *Education Training* 39, no. 1 (1997): 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. . "Effects Teacher Certification and Teacher Commitment on Teacher Performance," *International Journal of Scientific Research and Management* 4, no. 11 (2017): 36. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)