

This video outlines the motivations behind a book focused on the dynamics of denial, particularly concerning torture in the U.S. and broader social implications. The author reflects on their decade-long research into denial, learning from teaching courses on the sociology of denial that revealed how denial functions in everyday life, organizations, and political contexts.

Key points include:

1. **Denial and Its Impact**: Denial can manifest on micro (interpersonal), meso (organizational), and macro (political/cultural) levels, with varying strategies and implications. While micro-level denial can sometimes facilitate smooth social interaction, organizational and political denial can obstruct accountability and exacerbate social issues.
2. **Teaching and Research Experience**: The author draws from prior research on congressional discourse regarding torture to understand denial's linguistic and rhetorical strategies. They analyze how euphemisms and justifications are employed to downplay serious issues, particularly concerning torture and misconduct.
3. **Identifying Denial**: The book aims to equip readers with the tools to recognize denial, understand its functions, and discuss strategies for addressing it. The concluding chapter emphasizes strategies for intervention, encouraging readers to consider when and how to act against denial in various contexts.
4. **Consequences**: Denial, especially at larger scales, can have profound and harmful social, political, and cultural consequences, allowing serious issues such as climate change and misconduct to persist unchallenged.

Overall, the author promotes awareness of denial as a critical social phenomenon, advocating for informed engagement and potential actions to combat it.