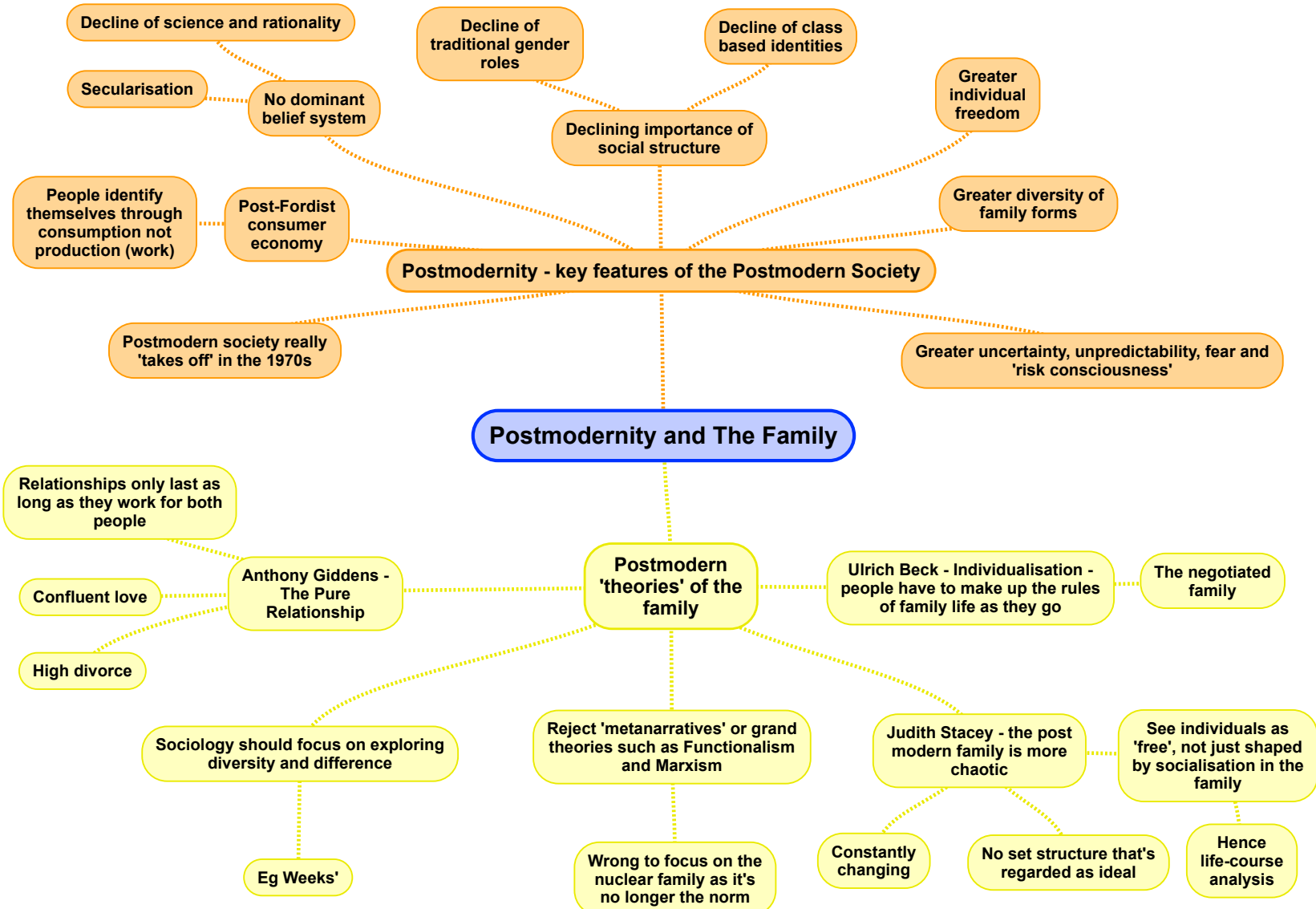
Decline of science and rationality
Decline of traditional gender roles
Decline of class based identities
Secularisation
No dominant belief system
Greater individual freedom
Declining importance of social structure
People identify themselves through consumption not production (work)
Post-Fordist consumer economy
Greater diversity of family forms
Postmodernity - key features of the Postmodern Society
Postmodern society really 'takes off' in the 1970s
Greater uncertainty, unpredictability, fear and 'risk consciousness'
Postmodernity and The Family
Relationships only last as long as they work for both people
Anthony Giddens - The Pure Relationship
Confluent love
High divorce
Postmodern 'theories' of the family
Ulrich Beck - Individualisation - people have to make up the rules of family life as they go
The negotiated family
Sociology should focus on exploring diversity and difference
Eg Weeks'
Reject 'metanarratives' or grand theories such as Functionalism and Marxism
Wrong to focus on the nuclear family as it's no longer the norm
Judith Stacey - the post modern family is more chaotic
See individuals as 'free', not just shaped by socialisation in the family
Constantly changing
No set structure that's regarded as ideal
Hence life-course analysis