



Crime and Deviance Knowledge Organiser



Theories of Crime and Deviance

Functionalism

CRIME = POSITIVE FUNCTION IN SOCIETY

Durkheim believed we needed crime...He called this the **COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE**

It gives us an understanding of which actions are acceptable and which are not (BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE + ADAPTATION & CHANGE).

Durkheim argued that too much crime is bad for society, it would result in

Anomie.

X Durkheim argues that a certain amount of crime/deviance is healthy for society – but does not indicate how much is the right amount.

Merton: Strain Theory, Blocked Opportunities and Working Class Innovation

•Merton argued crime increased when there was a strain (or gap) between society's success goals (achieving material wealth) and the available opportunities to achieve those goals through legitimate means (having a well-paying job). Merton called this imbalance between goals and the ability to achieve them 'anomie'.

Albert Cohen: Status Frustration and Working Class Subcultures

•Cohen put more emphasis on cultural factors (values and status) rather than material factors in explaining working class crime. He argued that working class boys strove to emulate middle-class values and aspirations, but lacked the means to achieve success. This led to **status frustration**: a sense of personal failure and inadequacy.

Marxism

Marxist criminologists see power being held by the Bourgeoisie and laws are a reflection of Bourgeois ideology. The legal system (lawyers, judges and the courts) and the police all serve the interests of the Bourgeoisie. These institutions are used to control the masses, prevent revolution and keep people in a state of false consciousness.

Traditional Marxism

3 key concepts: Criminogenic capitalism, State and law making, Ideological functions of crime and law.

X Crime still exists in non-capitalist societies

Feminism The feminist theory of crime argues that society is patriarchal and the control of women by men discourages female deviance. Sociologists in the past have paid little attention to female deviance, instead tending to focus on male deviance. Feminists also point out that female victimisation was ignored due to the invisibility of women, identified by Newborn. The feminist view is that male dominance in society was reflected in mainstream theories of crime, known as 'malestream' sociology.

⇒ Sex Role Theory

⇒ Chivalry Thesis

X can be accused of seeing women's behaviour as determined by external forces– underplays the importance of free will & choice in offending

Realism

Left and Right Realism: Causes- Key Concepts

(SOCIETY) (INDIVIDUAL)

Relative Deprivation Biological Differences

Marginalisation Underclass

Subcultures Welfare Dependency

Solutions- Key Concepts (INDIVIDUAL)

THE ISLINGTON CRIME SURVEY RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH TO POLICING ZERO TOLERANCE

TACKLING STRUCTURAL CAUSES TARGET HARDENING

X The theory is too soft (LR) (too harsh = RR) on the criminal as it doesn't explain how the criminals should be dealt with.

The Social Distribution of Crime

Age

⇒ Status frustration– lack of independence and caught in transition. Lack of responsibilities can lead them to drift into deviant and criminal behaviour.

⇒ Peer pressure

⇒ Edgework– thrill seeking and risk-taking. Getting a buzz from committing a crime displaying deviant behaviour.

⇒ Socialisation– Some young people are inadequately socialised and have learned behaviour as a norm or value.

⇒ Police stereotyping

⇒ Media moral panic/folk devil

⇒ Subcultural Theory



Class

⇒ Labelling

⇒ Inaccurate statistics–w/c targeted by police

⇒ Socialisation

⇒ Material deprivation–may commit crime to obtain the things others have

⇒ Education–W/C more likely to be in the bottom sets/streams so may look for other routes to get what they need e.g. crime

⇒ Anomie-mismatch between goals and the means to achieve the goals.

⇒ White collar crime is not as easily identifiable as crimes committed at lower levels.



Gender

Men are much more likely to commit crimes than women (although female crime has been rising faster than male crime since the late 20th century). Men and women also appear to commit different types of crimes (men are much more likely to commit violent crimes, for instance, accounting for 90% of murderers).

⇒ Sex Role Theory - Fewer opportunities

⇒ Marginalisation - Socialisation

⇒ Control Theory

⇒ Bias Against women– treated too harshly

⇒ Chivalry Thesis– may be treated differently in CJS



Ethnicity

⇒ Inaccurate statistics

⇒ Labelling-racism and stereotyping within the police practice. More ethnic groups are stopped and searched. Institutional racism within the police– most police officers are white and may label particular groups (Stephen Lawrence murder)

⇒ Linked to their social class, higher levels of crime in the ethnic groups could link to the fact they are also possibly experiencing poverty and this leads to crime.

⇒ Media reinforcing views– reporting in the media on particular groups can generate mistrust and hostility.



Interactionism

3 Principles of Interactionist Theory of Crime and Deviance = Relative, open to interpretation and socially constructed

Howard Becker—the act done by the person was not deviant, rather that the **labelling** caused it to be (e.g. The Outsiders)

Cicourel (1968) – The Negotiation of Justice—Typifications lead police to focus on 'typical' offenders in 'typical' areas.

Edwin Lemert (1951) – Primary and Secondary Deviance- Argues that primary deviance is not important...but that **secondary deviance (as a result of the reaction from society) is important. (Self-fulfilling prophecy)**

X Interactionists also ignore why certain people are labelled as deviant and other people aren't

Postmodernism—Postmodernists believe that society is diverse, fragmented and ever changing, therefore the term 'crime' is a social construction based on a narrow set of legal definitions. Therefore what we perceive crime to be is often an outdated metanarrative of the law. This highlights that crime can often limit a person simply expressing their identity.



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Punishment:

PREVENTION

Rehabilitation = one key purpose of punishment is to *rehabilitate* the offender; to ensure that they reform their ways and do not go on to commit more crime in the future.

Deterrence = significant punishments can act as a deterrent to other people considering committing the same crime.

Incapacitation = some punishments, such as prison sentences, directly prevent crime in the sense that the criminal is not able to carry out further crimes because they are physically prevented from doing so. COMPENSATION / RESTORATION

Fines – some crimes are punished by paying a fine or financial compensation to cover the cost of the damage they have caused.

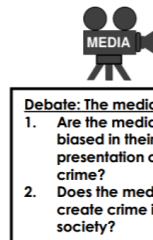
Restorative justice – This can include meeting their victims as well as carrying out activities that restore things to how they were prior to the crime.

RETRIBUTION

For many in society, not least the victims of crime, punishment is about the criminal *paying* for their crime and for justice to be seen to be done. The criminal has caused harm and therefore some harm should be done to them in response.

Right realists emphasise the deterrence role of punishment: if criminals make a rational choice to offend and see people are punished severely for their transgressions, they should make a rational choice not to offend.

Left realists emphasise restorative justice and the idea that a key role of punishment is to make amends for the harm caused.



Debate: The media:
1. Are the media biased in their presentation of crime?
2. Does the media create crime in society?

1. Are the media biased in their presentation of crime?

- When individuals do not have direct knowledge or experience of what is happening, they rely on the media to inform them.
- The media set the agenda in terms of what is considered to be important.
- The editors filter what they see as newsworthy (news value) they tend to include and emphasis elements of a story for their audience. Stories they are more likely to report (news value) are stories involving children, violence, celebrities, if the event has occurred locally, easy to understand and if graphic images are involved.
- 46% of media reports are about violence or sexual crimes, yet these only make up for 3% of crime recorded by the police (Ditton & Delphy 1983)
- Deviancy amplification is usually used to describe the impact of the media on the public perception of crime.

2. Does the media create crime?

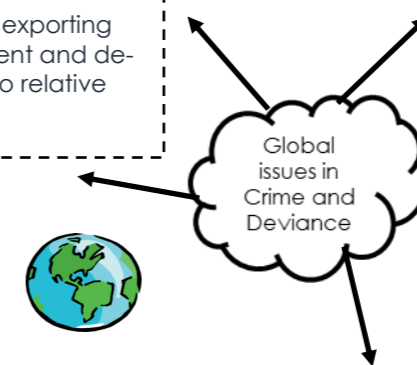
- Media content can have a negative impact on the behaviour of young people, particularly children.
- It is suggested that some people may imitate violence and immoral or antisocial behaviour seen in media. The media are regarded as a powerful secondary agent of socialisation.
- Video games are often blamed as a link between increased aggressive behaviour and crime.

Globalisation Causing Crime = It is argued that globalisation has led to many companies exporting their manufacturing jobs to developing countries leading to unemployment, underemployment and de-skilling in countries like the UK and the USA which, in turn, according to left realists, can lead to relative deprivation which, they suggest, is a significant cause of crime.

Victimisation = why some groups in society are more likely to be victims of crime and whether certain characteristics make people more or less vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime.

The Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) provides a rich and detailed data set of victimisation. Although the research method can be criticised, it provides a more complete picture than police statistics and does facilitate quantitative analysis of the patterns and trends of victimisation.

CSEW data released in 2017 showed that **men** were slightly more likely to be victims of crime than women; and that **young** people (both men and women) were most likely to be victims. Furthermore, people of **mixed race** were the most likely ethnicity to be victims (more than twice as likely as white people, who were the least likely to be victims of crime among larger ethnic groups). Furthermore, **long-term unemployed** people and **students** were the most likely people to be victims of crime. People in **urban** areas were more likely to be victims than those in rural areas; and people in **more deprived areas** were more likely to be a victim than those in more prosperous areas. Having a **significant disability** also appeared to increase the risk of victimhood. This was particularly the case for children under 15 where 11.9% of those with a longstanding illness or disability had been victims of a crime in that previous year, compared with 4.8% of those without. And most significantly, for children with a disability were those who had been recent victims of **bullying**: 18.1% compared with 2.8% without.



State crimes are crimes committed by governments. This can include corruption, e.g. **kleptocratic** regimes robbing their populations, or human rights abuses, including very extreme acts such as the Rwandan genocide or ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia.

State crimes include (but are not restricted to):

- Corruption
- Discrimination
- Funding terrorism
- Funding organised crime
- War crimes
- Torture
- Assassination
- Genocide



Eugene McLaughlin (2001) divided these into four types of state crime:

- crimes by the security and police forces
- economic crimes
- social and cultural crimes

Green crime refers to crimes committed against the environment e.g. illegal pollution; breaking laws relating to animal cruelty or protection of wildlife, etc.; but there are other activities that are within current laws, but significantly damage the environment: e.g. legal logging activity in rainforests.

Some sociologists argue that **globalisation** is also an important factor in green crime.

Ulrich Beck's work on a **global risk society** (1992); he points to issues like global warming and the way they pose a risk to the whole world. He argues that many of these risks are **manufactured risks** that have been created by the way we organise contemporary society.

Primary and Secondary Green Crime—Green criminologist, Nigel South (2008) talks about **primary** and **secondary** green crime:

PRIMARY GREEN CRIME

Crimes that are committed directly against the environment or acts that cause harm to the environment, e.g.: Pollution, Animal cruelty Deforestation

SECONDARY GREEN CRIME

Further crime that grows out of flouting rules relating to the environment, e.g.:

- Violence against environmental groups (e.g. the French attack on the Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior)
- Bribery / organised crime to avoid environmental regulations



Crime Prevention

Situational crime prevention **focuses on the settings where crime occurs, rather than on those committing specific criminal acts.** The emphasis is on managerial and environmental change that reduces opportunities for crimes to occur (Clarke, 1997).

- ⇒ Situational Crime Prevention (right realist) - reduces opportunities for crime = 'target hardening'
- ⇒ Environmental Crime Prevention (right realist) - improves the environment to remove an 'anything goes mentality' = 'zero tolerance'
- ⇒ Social and Community Crime Prevention (left realist) - addresses social and economic conditions of potential criminals = educational programmes