

1 Deviance

2 Deviance

- Defined as the recognized violation of cultural norms.
 - This includes formal violations of society which we know as CRIME.
 - What all deviant actions or attitudes have in common is some element of DIFFERENCE that causes us to regard another as an "outsider."

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- However, not all deviance involves action or even choice.
- All of us are subject to SOCIAL CONTROL
 - These are attempts by society to regulate people's thought and behavior.

4 Biological Context

- Early interest in criminality focused on biological causes.
- At best, biological theories offer a very limited explanation of crime.
- Today, genetic research seeks possible links between biology and crime.

5 Personality Factors

- Reckless and Dinitz:
 - Containment theory suggests that strong moral standards and positive self-image can keep boys from becoming delinquent.
 - This centers on the belief (which is backed up by research) that most serious crimes are committed by people who are psychologically normal.

6 Social Foundations of Deviance

- Deviance like conformity, is shaped by society.
- There are three social foundations of deviance:
 - Deviance varies according to cultural norms
 - People become deviant as others define them that way
 - Both norms and the way people them, involve social power

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8 Structural-Functional Theory & Deviance

- It is viewed as a necessary element of social organization.
 - Durkheim believed that deviance performs four essential functions
 - Affirms cultural values and norms
 - Responses clarify moral boundaries
 - Responses bring people together
 - Encourages social change

9 Structural-Functional con't

- Merton's Strain Theory

- The "strain" between our culture's emphasis on wealth and the limited opportunity to get rich, in turn gives rise to deviant behavior
 - Ex.
 - Theft
 - Sale of drugs
 - Al Capone (crimes committed by the poor)

10 S-F con't

- Merton- con't
 - Conformity lies in pursuing conventional goals through approved means.
 - Four responses where the individual fails to do this:
 - **Innovation**- the use of unconventional means to achieve a culturally approved goal (street crime- wealth)
 - **Ritualism**- obsessive rule following to feel respectable
 - **Retreatism**- reject cultural goals and means to success; drop out (alcoholics, drug addicts and street people)
 - **Rebellion**- reject as above, but form countercultures and alternatives to the existing social order (radical survivalists)

11 S-F con't

- Cloward and Ohlin: extend Merton's theory and propose the crime results more from the opportunity and readily accessible illegitimate instead of just limited legal ones.
- **RELATIVE OPPORTUNITY STRUCTURE**- frames the individual choice of conformity or deviance.

12 S-F con't

- Deviant subcultures:
 - Cloward/ Ohlin building on Merton's theory, they proposed that deviant attempts at gaining success bring about the rise of three delinquent subcultures.
 - Criminal- street gangs in large cities
 - Conflict- armed street gangs (violence stems from frustration and a desire for respect)
 - Retreatist- groups which drop out due to failure in one of the above groups

13 S-F con't

- These subcultures each have their own set of mores and folkways which make them distinct.

14 S-F con't

- Miller characterizes deviant subcultures as:
 - **Trouble**- arising from frequent conflict with teachers and police
 - **Toughness**- value placed on physical size, strength, agility (ability to endure a lot of pain)
 - **Smartness**- the ability to succeed on the streets (outsmart or "con" others)

15 S- F con't

- Miller-con't
 - **A need for excitement**- a search for thrills through risk taking and danger
 - **A belief in fate**- people lack control over their lives and outcomes have been

predetermined

- A desire for freedom- often expressed as hostility toward authority figures

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- Merton's Theory explains some types of criminal deviant behavior better than others, although it ignores the fact that all people do not seek and achieve legitimate success in terms of wealth or in conventional ways.
- The general argument that deviance reflects the opportunity structure of society falls far short of its goal.

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- Assumptions which lead to inaccuracy include the belief that everyone shares the same cultural standards of judging right and wrong.
- It also focuses too much attention of the behavior of the poor and also, falsely implies that everyone who breaks the rules will be defined as deviant.

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19 **Symbolic-Interaction approach**

- Labeling Theory:
 - Deviance and conformity result from how others respond to our actions
 - (Not from how people act)

20 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**

- Primary deviance
 - Refers to passing episodes of norm violation
 - When you behave in a way which is different than what is expected.
 - Ex.
 - Dress differently than peers
 - Stealing (petty theft or Grand theft Auto)

21 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**

- Secondary deviance:
 - When an individual repeatedly violates a norm and begins to take on a deviant identity.

22 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**

- Stigma: a powerful negative social label that radically changes a person's self-concept and social identity.
 - Sometimes attached to formal rituals- degradation ceremonies (criminal prosecution)
 - Often deepened by retrospective labeling- interpreting someone's past to make it consistent with the present deviance.
 - Some will participate in projective labeling (using a deviant identity to predict future beh)

- 23 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**
- Labeling and Mental Illness:
 - Szasz states that mental illness is often used too quickly to describe behavior which is simply different and unliked.
 - Most medical professionals believe we should think critically about how we define "difference."
 - Mentally ill are not to blame for their deviance
 - General public should avoid using labels which they are not trained to use
- 24 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**
- Medicalization of Deviance: transforming moral and legal issues into a medical condition.
 - This amounts to swapping one set of labels for another
 - In moral terms with judge behavior a "good" or "bad."
 - Scientific objectivity of medicine passes no moral judgment (sick or well)
- 25 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**
- Medicalization- con't:
 - How a deviance is defined (morally or medically) has three important consequences:
 - **It affects who responds to deviance** (police v. specialists, counselors, psychologists, physicians)
 - **It affects how people respond to deviance** (punishment v. treatment)
 - **It affects whether the deviant is regarded as being personally competent**
- 26 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**
- Sutherland's **Differential Association** Theory: suggests that all deviance is learned in groups.
 - It depends on the amount of contact with others who encourage—or reject—conventional behavior.
 - Ex. Akers, et al Drug and Alcohol use among young adults
 - Young people embraced delinquent behaviors to the degree that they are rewarded.
- 27 **Symbolic-Interaction; con't**
- Hirschi's **Control Theory**: social control depends on imagining the consequences of one's behavior.
 - Conformity arises from four types of social controls:
 - Attachment
 - Commitment
 - Involvement
 - Belief
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- Labeling Theory is most applicable to minor forms of deviance.
- 29 **Social-Conflict**
- Links deviance to social inequality. Who or what is deviant depends on who holds the power in society.
 - The norms reflect the interests of the rich and powerful and may be unfair.
 - This paradigm falsely assumes that laws benefit only the rich.

- It implies that crime arises only in societies that treat their members unequally.

30 Deviance and Social Diversity

- Hate Crime: a criminal act against a person or a person's property by an offender motivated by racial or other bias.
 - Generally expresses hostility toward someone based on race, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical disability.

31 Con't

- Deviance and gender: this is an important variable affecting labeling and other aspects of deviant behavior.
 - Strain Theory: Strain results from the cultural idea of equality clashing with the reality of gender-based inequality.
 - Labeling Theory: we commonly use different standards to judge the behavior of females as opposed to males.

32 Crime

- Involves two components (parts); the act itself, and the criminal intent.
- Two major types of crime:
 - Crimes against the person- direct violence or the threat of violence against others.
 - Crimes against property- involve theft of property against others.

33 Crime

- Victimless crime: violations of law in which there are no readily apparent victims.
 - Ex. Illegal drug use, prostitution, gambling
 - Is there really "victimless crime?"
 - What about drug users who begin to steal to support their drug habit?
 - What about the drug or alcohol use by a pregnant woman?
 - This is more accurately describes the offenders and victims as one and the same.

34 The Criminal Justice System

- This is society's formal response to crime.
- The key elements include:
 - Police
 - Courts
 - Punishment

35 Criminal Justice- con't

- Police
 - Serve as the primary point of contact for the general public with the Crim. Jus. Sys., and look at any situation in terms of six factors:
 - How serious is the alleged crime?
 - What is the victim's preference with regard to making an arrest?
 - Have they arrested the suspect before?
 - Are bystanders present?
 - What is the suspect's race?

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- Courts: Here guilt of innocence of the accused is determined.
 - Presently, about 9 out of 10 criminal cases are resolved through negotiation in which the sentence is reduced in exchange for a plea of guilty by the defendant. (plea bargain)

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Punishment: Four basic reasons to punish

- Retribution: an act of moral vengeance
- Deterrence: attempt to discourage criminal behavior
- Rehabilitation: reforming the offender for the future
- Societal protection: keeping offenders from committing crime by temporarily locking them up.
- Recidivism- the continuing pattern of criminal behavior by criminals regardless of the consequences.