

<p>Labelling theory Interactionists say there is no such thing as the typical offender– anyone may be a criminal. The main difference between an ordinary person and a criminal is that a criminal has been labelled a criminal!</p> <p>Master status: The main thing that people see when they meet a person, often related to how they live their life. The way people see us has a powerful effect on how we see ourselves and how we act. Criminals are more likely to reoffend when they are given a negative label – deviant career.</p> <p>Howard Becker – self-fulfilling prophecy. Stage 1: Publicly labelled as deviant – rejected from social/family group. Stage 2: This may encourage further deviance, e.g. addicts may steal to finance their habit. Stage 3: Officially classed as deviant – similar effects occur, e.g. convicted criminals find it hard to get a job. Stage 4: Deviant career may emerge – individuals may join an organised deviant group – the individual accepts their deviant identity. Stage 5: The label may become a master status – overriding all other forms of relationships outside deviant group</p>	<div> <div>Crime & Deviance</div> <div> <p>Functionalism & Crime</p> <p>Durkheim argued that some crime was important for society to function properly – reminds us what is right and wrong – boundary maintenance. Also safety valve, jobs and social change.</p> <p>Merton’s Strain Theory: The American Dream. Everyone aspires to a great lifestyle, nice house/car, etc. Most people achieve this through hard work. But not everyone can achieve such a dream. Pressure to achieve despite lacking the means to do so creates a strain on society and anomie - when there are no longer any norms guiding behaviour, e.g. riots of summer 2024.</p> <p>The pressure to succeed makes people turn to crime – people respond in 5 ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conformity: Pursing cultural goals through socially approved means. Ritualism: Using the same socially approved means to achieve less elusive goals (more modest and humble). Innovation: Using socially unapproved means to obtain goals, e.g. dealing drugs, robbing a bank or committing fraud to achieve financial security. Retreatism: Rejecting both the cultural goals and the means to obtain it, then find a way to escape it, e.g. using drugs or alcohol, or becoming homeless. Rebellion: Rejecting the cultural goals and means, then work to replace them, e.g. becoming a terrorist or belonging to an extreme group. <p>Evaluation: His theory only accounts for economic crime, and not all working class people turn to crime!</p> </div> </div>	<p>Marxism & Crime</p> <p>Argue that crime happens because of capitalism and consumerism – humans are not naturally greedy and selfish but capitalism makes them that way. Capitalism is criminogenic.</p> <p>Capitalism: Economic system where means of production is privately owned and operated for profit.</p> <p>Consumerism: Preoccupation of people and society over the acquisition of goods. Advertising (media owned by ruling class) – makes working classes believe they need to own lots of nice things (relative deprivation). Makes people greedy and want more than they can afford. When some people can’t get the goods they want they will inevitably turn to crime.</p> <p>Corporate crime: Crime committed by big businesses (often linked to negligence/often not prosecuted). These crimes benefit the company (not individuals like white-collar crime). Many corporate crimes are never brought to justice, e.g. pollution caused by factories – companies often cover up their crimes or ignore the rules about pollution. Southern Water: Fined £90 million in 2021 for illegal dumping of sewage.</p> <p>White-collar crime: Financially motivated, non-violent crime. Called white-collar because of the white shirt and tie usually worn by middle class workers who carry it out. E.g. MPs expenses scandal.</p>
<p>Media & Crime - Moral Panics</p> <p>An over-the-top reaction to an issue which makes people question whether society is falling apart.</p> <p>Cohen argued that the way the media reports crimes often leads to moral panics and mass hysteria. And that media sensationalises aspects of behaviour.</p> <p>Stage 1: Something or someone is defined as a threat to values or interests. Stage 2: This threat is depicted in an easily recognisable form by the media. Stage 3: There is a rapid build-up of public concern. Stage 4: There is a response from authorities or opinion makers. Stage 5: The panic calms down or results in social changes.</p>		<p>Working class people are more likely to be arrested and convicted for their crimes.</p> <p>White-collar and corporate crime is usually committed by people of high social status – these people are less likely to be suspected of committing a crime</p> <p>Corporate crime seen as unimportant for police and the courts. Corporate crime usually involved a large network of people working together to keep their crime secret</p> <p>Punishment: Companies can receive fines – but paying is not a problem. White-collar offenders can afford top lawyers</p>

<p>Gender & Crime Socialisation affects the likelihood of crime. Boys: Socialised to be active, dominant and aggressive, and are also influenced by testosterone. Girls: Encouraged to be quiet, obedient, kind and cautious.</p> <p>Heidensohn – lack of opportunity for crime. Women less likely to commit crime than men. Patriarchal social control: Girls are given less freedom than boys by their parents, so it’s unlikely that they will turn to crime. Fear: Women often fear sexual violence (exacerbated by media reporting of rape) so may be frightened to leave their home. Gossip: If women act outside of the female social norms they may be gossiped about or labelled – this is a deterrent. Supervision: Women are often more closely supervised at work, as they are not normally bosses, so less opportunity for white-collar crime. Home life: Women have more domestic/childcare duties, so have less time to commit crime.</p> <p>Carlen – Women conform through the promise of 2 deals: Class deal: Working hard = decent standard of living & Gender deal: Conforming to the conventional domestic gender role = material and emotional rewards of family. When these break down women may turn to crime. E.g. some of the women in the study had been abused by partners or spent time in care, and most had always been in poverty despite working.</p> <p>Pollack – Chivalry thesis. Chivalry: Medieval knights code, e.g. rescuing damsels in distress. Argued female crime is underestimated. Police/judges are usually men so are socialised to protect women – unwilling to arrest, charge or convict them. Men often felt sorry for women who had broken the laws or rules. Women were particularly good at hiding their crimes, e.g. poisoning or child abuse/neglect. BUT, Demonisation of women: Some feminists have argued that women might actually be treated worse. Image of women: Women who fit traditional gender stereotypes (good housewives and mothers) are more likely to be treated leniently. Whereas women who commit crimes that go against these roles are treated harshly, particularly those involving children.</p>	<p>Albert Cohen – Status frustration: Anger or dissatisfaction at your position in society. Working class boys had cultural deprivation – lack the skills to achieve. At the bottom of the official status hierarchy. Unable to achieve a higher status by legitimate means (education). So, resolve their frustration by rejecting mainstream middle-class values – form and/or join a delinquent subculture. In these subcultures they can earn an alternative high status from criminal acts. *90% of prisoners in the UK are male, and the majority are working class.</p> <p>Charles Murray – New Right view ‘Culture of poverty’: Poor subcultures = crime and delinquency. The poor have their own way of life. Criminal behaviour is seen as normal. Crime is worse than in the past due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collapse of the family •Failing education system •Weak law enforcement <p>Informal social control Unwritten rules of behaviour (social norms) control most of our behaviour and sanctions are used to reward or to punish. Carried out by the agents of socialisation (families, schools, media, religion).</p> <p>Formal social control Involves official institutions to keep society in order. Police/courts/prison system: In place to keep social order, punish those who break the law and protect the rest of society from them.</p> <p>Functionalists: Social control is a good thing – helping keep society in order. Marxists: Social control is used to control the workers while not used against the ruling classes. Feminists: Social control benefits men and keeps women under control (e.g. gossiping about someone).</p>	<p>Ethnicity and crime</p> <p>Scapegoat: Person or group made to bear the blame for something they didn’t do. Over-representation in crime stats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Black people are 3 x more likely to be arrested than white people in the UK •12% of UK prisoners are black (compared to 3% of population) •25% of UK prisoners are from ethnic minorities (compared to 12% of population) •Black people are 3 x more likely to be murdered than white people in the UK <p>Institutional racism: Black people are also likely to be assumed to be gang members so treated more harshly. Stephen Lawrence case: Police wrongly made assumptions Stephen being in a gang and ignored vital evidence – so his killers were not brought to justice until nearly 20 years later.</p> <p>Victims of crime</p> <p>Poorer people: Working class are more likely to be victims of crime – particularly from violence/ burglary (easier targets than the wealthy who have better security, or live in safer areas).</p> <p>Men: More likely to be the victims of physical assault – particularly by strangers.</p> <p>Women: Twice as likely to be the victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence. Hate crime: Directed at race, disability and sexual orientation on the increase.</p>
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