

## Key Ideas

## Theories

**Positivist:** Search for causes of crime:

- Individual (biological, chemical, genetic, social)
- Society (factors that create criminal tendencies in different individuals)
- Structural Functionalism: Durkheim: The functions of crime.
  - ✓ Boundary marking for acceptable / unacceptable behaviour (laws)
  - ✓ Public marking of boundaries (judicial process, media)
  - ✓ Social solidarity / social integration
- Too much crime = dysfunctional = social disorganisation (anomie)
- Merton (Strain Theory): Explanation for economic crimes
- Socialisation (into society's values: "success" (the "American dream"))
- Responses to disjunction between "ends" and "means" (anomie):
  - ✓ Conformity, Innovation, Ritualism, Retreatism, Rebellion.
- Ecological (Area Studies): Chicago School (1920's): Social Disorganisation
- Social Darwinism (Park)
- Concentric Zone Theory (Shaw and McKay)
- Cultural Transmission Theory
- Differential Association (Sutherland and Cressey): cf. White-collar crime
- UK Areas studies: Mays (Liverpool 1950's), Morris (Croydon 1957)
- Rex and Moore (Birmingham 1967): "Housing classes"

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Crime and Deviance

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**Subcultural:** Also related to Education: Pupil Subcultures

- Reactive (or "oppositional": A.Cohen - Status Frustration)
  - Willis: Learning to Labour
  - Hargreaves: Social Relations in a Secondary School
  - Independent:
  - Miller (Focal concerns of working class youth)
  - Anomie and Subcultures:
  - Woods (anomie and pupil subcultures)
  - Legitimate and Illegitimate Opportunity Structures (Cloward and Ohlin: Criminal, Conflict and Retreatist subcultures).
  - Delinquency and Drift (Matza): "Guilt" and Techniques of neutralisation.
  - Feminism (be aware of varieties / differences)
  - Patriarchy
  - Women as oppressed group / sex class
  - Legal and status equality
- See: Social Distribution of Crime
- Elderly = fear of violence

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**Interactionist (Social Constructionism):** How is reality socially constructed?

- Deviance is not a quality of behaviour. It is a quality of how people react to that behaviour (Becker). Deviance = relative concept.
- Anti-positivist (there can be no universal causes of crime)
- Labelling Theories: (Becker, S.Cohen, Lemert)
- Mead: Self development: The "I" and the "Me"
- Cooley: The "Looking Glass" Self.
- Power / Ideology
- Meanings and Negotiation
- Master labels (Becker)
- Deviants as "victims of a labelling process"
- Primary and Secondary deviation (Lemert)
- Deviancy Amplification System (Wilkins)
- Examples: Cohen (Folk Devils); Young (Cannabis users); Hall (Mugging)
- Folk devils / Moral panics
- Moral entrepreneurs (individuals / interest groups - media)
- Deviant career
- Labels: stickiness, rejection of, negotiation and re-negotiation.

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**Critical Theories**

Traditional / Instrumental Marxism:

- Criminals as underclass ("social scum": appropriators of surplus value)
- Law: reflects interests of ruling class:
- Economic contracts / regulations
- Social Order
- Power (how laws are created and selectively applied)
- Ideology: how ideas about law, Order, crime etc. are manipulated.
- Class struggle

Neo-Marxism: Subcultural:

- Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies:
- Resistance (symbolic): Hall and Jefferson. P.Cohen (Mods)
- Hegemony (bourgeois)
- Style (and its meaning)
- Ethnic and gender subcultures in addition to class and youth (e.g. McRobbie and Garber)

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