



Crime & Deviance !!!!!



1. Theories of crime and deviance

Key questions:

1. What is crime and deviance?
2. Why do people commit crime?
3. What happens if a person is labelled as a criminal?
4. Are crime statistics valid?

Key information

- Definitions of crime and deviance, social construction and biological explanations.
- Functionalism - Durkheim & Merton
- Subcultural strain theory
- Labelling theory
- Marxism and Neo-Marxism (white collar crime)
- Left and Right Realism

Crime

Any act which breaks the laws of society, such as murder or rape.

Social control is enforced by agencies such as police and the courts.

Deviance

Behaviour which moves away from conventional norms and values such as burping and farting in public.

Deviant not criminal

Burping, not queuing

Criminal not deviant

Speeding, parking on yellow lines

Deviant and criminal

Rape, murder, paedophilia

Biological explanations

Early criminologists like *Cesare Lombroso* sort to find physical criminal characteristics like long arms or sloping foreheads. Sociologists find such 'born bad' determinism dangerous and prefer to *normalise crime* by reminding us that we all commit crime and there are social factors which influence our behaviour.

Definitions and explanations

Crime as socially constructed

If what is considered to be crime and deviance changes it can't be inherently wrong but must be culturally specific. This means crime and deviance is *socially constructed* i.e. created and defined by the people of that society and not universal.

Crime and deviance as relative

Crime and deviance is *relative* (changing) in relation to time, place and culture. What one society may see as a crime another may not, such as polygamy (many wives). Other examples are homosexuality and suicide.

Durkheim - Key ideas

1. Crime is inevitable and necessary to society.
2. Crime has positive functions.
3. The perfect amount of crime will keep society healthy and avoid anomie (Normlessness)

Crime and society

Society is only healthy when social order is maintained through the police and courts. We need a small amount of crime to remind us of what we believe in. Only a small minority will be self-interested and commit crime.

Positive functions of crime

1. *Re-marking social boundaries* - affirms social norms and values.
2. *Media coverage* - as a warning to others.
3. *Social bonds* - strengthened as we unite in disapproval.
4. *Safety Value* - a little bit of deviance reduces more serious problems - Prostitution - Kingley Davis.
5. *Malfunctioning society* - theft, drug use and truancy alert us to other social problems in society.

Functionalism on crime

Criticisms

- What is the perfect amount of crime?
- Explaining the functions of crime doesn't explain what caused them in the first place.
- Murder maybe functional for society but what about the victim?

Society of saints

Imagine there was no crime or deviance, even the most slight slip like coughing without putting your hand over your mouth would become a crime.

Merton - Key idea

People engage in deviant behaviour when they are unable to achieve socially approved goals.

Deviance is the result of the strain between

1. The goals of society - American Dream

2. Your legitimate means of achieving them



Strain produces frustration which creates a pressure to deviate, what Merton calls the strain to anomie.

Five adaptations

1. Conformity
Most of America not criminal or deviant

Deviant adaptations

Innovation

Criminal behaviour as an adaptation

Retreatism

Habitual drug users and alcoholics

Ritualism

People in dead end jobs.

Rebellion

Karl Marx and Martin Luther King

Explanation

lower class and ethnic minorities are more likely to commit criminal acts because of their position in the social structure.

<i>TYPE</i>	<i>Goal of Success</i>	<i>Means</i>	<i>Type</i>
Conformity (Normal)	Accepts	Legitimate	Most people
Innovation (Criminal)	Accepts	Illegitimate	Gangsters (Tony Montana)
Ritualism (Deviant)	Rejects	Legitimate	People in dead end jobs.
Retreatism (Deviant)	Rejects	Illegitimate	Habitual drug user or drunk
Rebellion (Deviant)	Rejects for alternative	Illegitimate	Karl Marx, Martin Luther King,

Criticisms

- Why don't all lower class people turn to crime?
- Can only account for utilitarian crime (money) what about gang violence, rape and Graffiti?
- What about other factors like class, gender, ethnicity and sexuality?

Subcultural group

A group with its own distinctive norms and values, sometimes although not always deviant.

Contemporary examples

The *Street gangs* living in the Favelas of Rio and the gangs of South Africa show that often criminal groups are not rejecting societies norms and values but are in fact conforming to their own.

Walter Miller - Lower class subcultures

Not a strain subculture, each social class doesn't feel any strain but just has different *focal concerns* which lead to different criminal activity. The lower class experience a lack of excitement at work which leads to the desire to look for excitement in things like joy-riding.

Albert Cohen - Status frustration

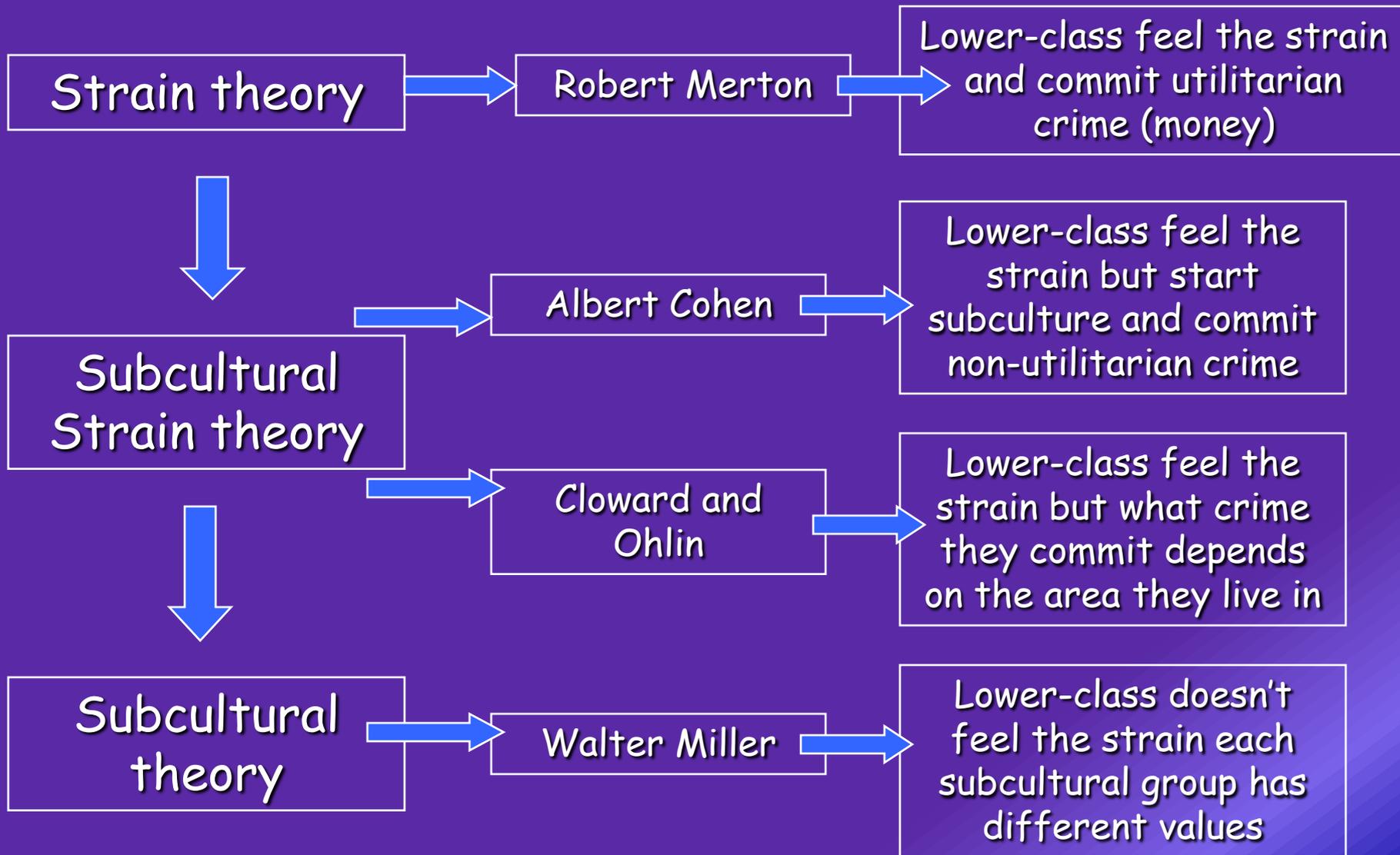
A Subcultural strain theory which argues lower class people are frustrated because they want to be successful but lack the qualifications and skills to do so. They solve this frustration by rejecting society and creating their own norms and values in a gang. Here they achieve status through *non-utilitarian crimes* like violence and graffiti.

Subcultural strain theories

Cloward and Ohlin - Opportunity structures

A Subcultural strain theory like Cohen but more concerned about the *different types of crimes* groups commit. They conclude where you live dictates the type of criminal activity available to you. *Criminal subcultures* are available in areas of criminal hierarchy. *Conflict subcultures* arise due to low social cohesion and high population turnover. *Retreatists subcultures* are the result of being unsuccessful in society and the other two subcultures.

Overview



Interactionism

Doesn't focus on the structures of society but how people and society interact and how this affects criminal behaviour.

Howard Becker

Focuses on the process of a person and act getting labelled as deviant. He argues that no act is *intrinsically deviant* but relies on its context to determine its acceptability. Examples: nudity, injecting oneself even murder.

Labelling process

1. *A label is attached* by police and courts.
2. *Label becomes a master status* - overrides other status as sibling, friend etc.
3. *The labelled person accepts the label* - because how we see ourselves relies on how others see us.
4. *Self-fulfilling prophecy* - whether the label was true or not we act in accordance with it. This confirms peoples beliefs about the label being true.

Deviancy amplification spiral

This idea says that sensationalist reporting by the newspapers distorts the act of crime or deviance and increases public awareness. Public pressure is put on the police and courts to act. This creates a *moral panic* where certain acts or groups are seen as a threat to social order.

Interactionism - Labelling theory

Stanley Cohen

Cohen studied how the media has often demonised youth culture. This happened to *mods and Rockers* in 1964 who were seen as modern day *folk devils* who threatened social order. His research found that actual acts of deviance were minimal.

Blue collar crime

Crimes committed by manual factory workers (*working class*), these are street crimes like theft which are in public view.

White collar crime

Crimes committed by office workers (*middle/upper class*) like fraud, these are often hidden from public view.

Corporate crime

Crimes carried out *on behalf* of a company such as tax evasion or toxic waste dumping.

Occupational crime

Crimes carried out *at the expense* of companies like fraud.

Case study - Enron

False accounting and reports of high profit allowed president **Kenneth Lay** to borrow \$74 million from a company before it was made bankrupt. 20,000 creditors were owed an estimated \$67 billion, most received less than 20 cents for every dollar they were owed. 19,000 people lost their jobs and savings.

White collar crime

Case study - Guinness affair

False claims of success led to high share prices and company directors making millions. **Gerald Ronson** received a one-year sentence in Ford (open prison) and was released on parole after serving about 6 months. He is still a successful businessman and one of Britain's 100 richest people.

White collar crime

Very difficult to prosecute due to problems of who is responsible and who is a victim. Much white collar crime is not dealt with criminally but *administratively* by external agencies like the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the Trading Standards Agency. Only serious cases go to court.

Key idea

The Law and the criminal justice system is another tool used by the ruling class to serve their interests and maintain a position of power.

Criminogenic Capitalism

Crime is inevitable in Capitalism. The working class commit utilitarian and non-utilitarian crimes because of poverty, constant advertising, alienation and a lack of control. Even the ruling class feel the pressure to commit crime and get ahead.

The state and law making

- All laws serve the ruling class.
- Most law is based on protecting private property.
- The working class and ethnic minorities are punished harshly while the crimes of the powerful go unnoticed.

Weaknesses

- Very deterministic, not all working class commit crime.
- Switzerland and Japan are capitalist but have low crime rates.
- Prosecutions against companies and the ruling class do happen.
- Left Realists say most working class crime is committed against working class people not the state.

Marxism on crime

Strengths

- Shows a link between law and the interests of the ruling class.
- Highlights selective enforcement.

Ideological functions of law

Laws don't just punish but perform functions to keep *capitalism stable*. Health and safety laws keep the working class able to work. Seeing crime as a working class problem diverts it away from capitalism. Seeing criminals as disturbed also disguises the true nature of crime.

Neo-Marxism on crime

A fully social theory of deviance - combining Marxism and labelling theory

Ian Taylor, Paul Walton and Jock Young (1973)

1. The wider origins of the deviant act.
2. The immediate origins of the deviant act.
3. The act itself.
4. The immediate origins of social reaction.
5. The wider origins of social reaction.
6. The effects of labelling.

Policing the crisis - Stuart Hall

1. The 1970's was a period of considerable social crisis in Britain, the result of an international downturn in capitalist economies.
2. This turmoil was shown in a number of inner-city riots, conflict in Northern Ireland and a high level of strikes. The government was searching for a group that could be **scapegoated**, to draw attention onto them and away from the crisis.
3. Mugging - which according to the police was more likely to be carried out by those from African-Caribbean backgrounds.
4. Media outrage at the extent of muggings, linked to racism amongst the Metropolitan police.
5. The need to find scapegoats and the ease with which young men from African-Caribbean's backgrounds could be blamed.
6. A sense of injustice amongst ethnic minorities against the police led to much hostility between them and further arrests.

Key ideas

- The root cause of crime is biology and poor socialisation as people make a rational choice to commit crime.
- The solution is more **formal social control** such as harsher prison sentences, zero tolerance policies and more CCTV.

Biology

Wilson and Hernstein suggest some people are innately more strongly predisposed to commit crime than others. Especially those who have personality traits like aggression, risk taking and low impulse control.

Charles Murray (1990)

Argues most crime is committed by the **underclass** (unemployed). A recent upsurge in lone-parent families has led to poor socialisation and encouraged these people to be **welfare dependant**.

Criticisms

- Doesn't explain white collar crime or domestic violence.
- Ignores issues like poverty.
- Scapegoats the underclass.
- Overstates the role of rationality.
- Crime displaced to other areas.

Right Realism

Tackling crime

Make crime less attractive to criminals by (**formal control**): -

- Zero tolerance - harsh sentences '*broken window*'.
- Target hardening - make it difficult to access private and public buildings.
- More surveillance - CCTV.

Rational Choice theory

Ron Clarke (1980) suggests that people rationalise their choice to commit crime by weighing up the **cost vs benefits**. If the benefits (money) outweigh the costs (prison) then they will commit crime.

Key ideas

- The root cause of crime is Relative deprivation, marginalisation and exclusion in modern society.
- The solution is more *informal social control* such as better housing, more job opportunities and more democratic policing.

Criticisms

- Doesn't explain white collar crime or domestic violence.
- Minimum wage and housing conditions have never been better.
- M/C could be relatively deprived and individualistic, yet don't commit as much crime.
- Impossible to get rid of relative deprivation.

The offenders

Young and Lea argue that most crime is committed by W/C against the W/C. This is due to discontent caused by *relative deprivation* (judging your status by that of others) and *individualism* (being self-interested).

Marginalisation

Marginalised groups are those who *lack clear goals or representation*. Young W/C are powerless and unrepresented which leads to violence and rioting.

Left Realism

Tackling crime

Make things better for people by (*informal social control*):

- Giving them housing conditions to be proud of.
- Better job opportunities.
- A better relationship between police and public, being more democratic will help the flow of information.

Modern society and exclusion

A lack of jobs for the W/C and being out priced of the property market has left many socially excluded. Jock young says we live in a '*bulimic society*' where we are exposed to a large variety of consumer products which the W/C cannot purchase.

2. The social distribution of crime

Key questions

1. Do crime statistics give a true picture of crime?
2. Are people from different age groups, classes, ethnicities and gender groups treated equally when it comes to crime?
3. Is there any link between location and criminal activity?

Key information

- Crime statistics - police, BCS and self-report study.
- Gender and crime
- Ethnicity and crime
- Age and social class
- Location - Environmental criminology

Official statistics

Compiled from government departments like the *police and courts*.

Recorded crime

A crime, which has been recorded by the police as a crime. (Only 40% of reported crime is then recorded due to discretionary powers of the police).

Lack of crime reporting

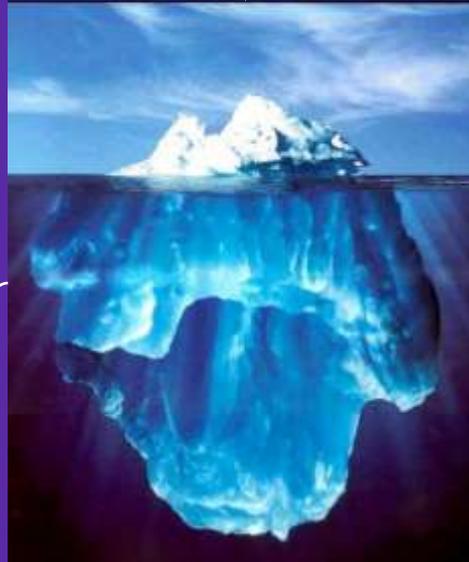
Crimes may not be reported due to:-

- fear of reprisal.
- Lack of awareness (fraud).
- Fear it may not be taken seriously.
- Crime is too trivial.

Reported crime

A crime, which the public has reported to the police. (90% of all crime the police deal with is reported to them by the public).

Crime statistics



Inaccurate picture of crime

- White collar crime dealt with administratively.
- Only serious crimes from incidences is recorded.
- Rules for counting always change.
- Lack of recording makes clear up rates look higher.

Official crime statistics are the tip of the iceberg, BCS and self-report studies show there is more crime than what can be seen on the surface. This is known as the dark figure of crime (what is recorded vs. reported).

British Crime Survey

A *victim study* which asks people if they have been a victim of a crime and the circumstances of that crime. It was conducted every two years from 1982 -2000 then every year since.

The study is based on a representative sample of adults living in private households in England and Wales. In 2002 over **36,000 surveys** were conducted. Certain crimes are excluded due to low reporting such as murder, drug possession or dealing, fraud, offences against businesses.

Self-report studies

Anonymous questionnaires which ask respondents if they have committed a crime over the past year.

They are usually based on *self-completed questionnaires or interviews* which contain a list of offences.

Respondents are asked to highlight which they have committed. Self report studies show us that most people commit crime at some point in their lives so *crime is normal*.

Trends and patterns

- BCS says 10.7 million crimes committed, OS (4.7 million).
- The majority of crime is property related.
- Violent crime accounts for 1/5 of all crime
- Overall crime peaked in 1995 and has declined ever since.
- Men aged 16-24 most likely to be a victim of violence.

BCS and Self-report studies

BCS: includes unreported and unrecorded crime but only 75% is comparable with police statistics.

Self-report: Mainly street crime (working class) excludes hidden crimes like domestic violence. Only gives a small picture of criminal activity.

Key facts

- Girls and women appear to commit less crime.
- 4/5 convicted offenders in Britain are male.
- Women more likely to be convicted of theft and property offences.
- Men more likely to be convicted of violence and sexual offences.

The Chivalry thesis

This argues that most police, judges and magistrates are men and **men are socialised to be chivalrous to women**. Roger Hood found women are 1/3 less likely to be jailed than men in similar cases.

Feminism

They argue the criminal justice system is **patriarchal** and is biased against women when they step outside gender roles. Women are judged more harshly for having promiscuous sex and being bad mothers rather than the seriousness of their crimes. This is what happens in rape cases where the victim's sexual activity is always on trial.

Gender and crime

Explanations for female criminality

Feminist - Control theory

Women commit less crimes because **men control women** through domestic roles, fear of being a victim and financial dependence.

Functionalist - Sex role theory

The way girls are **socialised** to be quiet and demure doesn't encourage them to behave aggressively or break the law.

Liberation thesis

Freda Alder (1975) argues that if feminists are right and women only commit less crime because of patriarchy then greater equality should see a rise in women offenders. This equality will bring about more female offenders for violence and white collar crime.

Women demonised in the media

Myra Hindley

Sentenced to 30 years in prison for her part in the murder and torture of 5 children along with Ian Brady. The media widely reported her true crime as not having any motherly instincts as a women. Newspapers still to this day publish a sinister picture taken of her 30 years ago because it portrays her as a cold sadistic killer.

Maxine Carr

Was convicted and sent to prison for providing a false alibi for boyfriend Ian Huntley who murdered Holly wells and Jessica Chapman in 2002. Maxine had nothing directly to do with the murders but many protested for reintroduction of the death penalty outside the court. The media had a definitive role in demonising Maxine Carr by producing sensationalist stories of her past.

Gender and crime

Postmodernity and masculinity

Others have suggested that previously jobs in manufacturing allowed men to express their masculinity. An increase in service sector jobs like bouncers allows men to express their masculinity through violence, drug dealing and racketeering.

Why do men commit crime?

James Messerschmidt (1993) makes a link between male offending and masculinity. He says all men want the dominant *hegemonic masculinity* which is achieved through domination of work, women and sexuality. He argues that lower class men and ethnic minorities lack the resources to achieve this masculinity so commit crime in order to achieve it.

Key facts

Official statistics say black people are:

- 7 times more likely to be stopped and searched.
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ times more likely to be arrested.
- 5 times more likely to be in prison than their white counterparts.
- Victim studies say black people are more likely to be identified as offenders & most crime is *intra-ethnic* meaning it takes place among rather than between ethnic groups.
- Self-report studies conclude that black people have similar rates of offending to whites if not lower.

Ethnicity and the criminal justice system

2. Stop and search

Lots of stop and search is perhaps due to racism and the targeting of ethnic minorities.

Ethnicity and crime

4. Prosecution & conviction

Crown prosecution Service more likely to drop cases against ethnic minorities. Black and Asian defendants are less likely to be found guilty.

1. Policing

Many allegations of oppressive policing from minority ethnic communities are made.

3. Arrests and cautions

More likely to be arrested and cautioned perhaps due to a mistrust of police and not admitting to the offence.

5. Sentencing and Prison

Custodial sentences more likely to be given to black offenders. Blacks and Asians over-represented in prisons and more likely to be given longer sentences.

Explaining differences in offending

Left realism

Ethnic minorities commit more crime because racism in wider has caused them to be *marginalised*, coupled with *economic exclusion* such as high unemployment and poor housing. Left realists don't believe that racism in the police can account for higher crime because black people have a higher offending rate than Asians.

Stephen Lawrence

The death of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 by a white gang caused outcry as police botched the investigation. The inquiry called the *Macpherson report* declared institutional racism in the police.

Neo-Marxist - Paul Gilroy

Black people commit more crime because they resent the *cultural experience of colonialism* i.e. being taken over and having black slaves sent to Britain to work. This experience causes resentment in young black males which makes them commit crime.

Ethnicity and crime

Victimisation

Police recorded 61,000 racists incidents while the BCS reports 184,000 many go unreported. People from mixed ethnic backgrounds were more likely to be victims of crimes.

Neo-Marxist - Stuart Hall et al (Policing the crisis)

➤ Combines Marxism and Labelling theory.

➤ Economic conditions in the 1990's were bad, government look for a scapegoat.

➤ Young black muggers are labelled and a moral panic is created about their behaviour in the media.

➤ Young black males commit no more crime than any other group but labelling and the economy makes it seem like they do.

Key facts

- Young, working class are more likely to commit criminal acts than older, middle class.
- A typical prisoner in the U.K will be under 30 and working class.
- Offending rises steeply from 10-18 then declines sharply after 24.

Functionalism - Age and class

Functionalists like Merton say young working class people commit crime because they strive for success but lack the necessary educational skills and qualifications. They want the goal of success but must achieve it illegitimately. (Innovation)

Subcultural theory - Age and class

Young working class people join gangs because they are frustrated at their status in mainstream society. They solve this by rejecting mainstream norms and values, joining a gang and achieving a status through non-utilitarian crimes.

Labelling theory - age and class

Young working class people especially boys are more likely to be stopped and searched and labelled as criminals by the police and courts.

Age - class and crime

Left realism - Age and class

Most crime is committed by working class people against working class people. Perhaps because *relative deprivation, individualism* and that fact we live in a *bulimic society* (the idea that we are exposed to consumer products but cannot consume them).

Right realism - class

Right realists like Charles Murray believe that single parent families fail to socialise their children effectively due to a lack of male role models, they also grow up to be welfare dependant.

Marxism

The working class are no more criminals than anyone else, however the law protects the bourgeoisie so the working class become easier to criminalise. The working class get harsher punishments compared with those who commit white collar crimes.

Blue collar crime

Crimes committed by manual factory workers (*working class*), these are street crimes like theft which are in public view.

White collar crime

Crimes committed by office workers (*middle/upper class*) like fraud, these are often hidden from public view.

White collar crime

Very difficult to prosecute due to problems of who is responsible and who is a victim. Much white collar crime is not dealt with criminally but *administratively* by external agencies like the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the Trading Standards Agency. Only serious cases go to court.

Social class and crime

Case study - Guinness affair

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Key ideas

- There is a link between where offenders live and crimes committed in that area.
- **Environmental criminology** is concerned with mapping the spatial distribution of offenders and offences.

Shaw and McKay

Did a study of delinquency in Chicago (1927-33). They divided the city of into five zones, drawn at two-mile intervals, radiating outwards in concentric circles from the CBD (Central Business District).

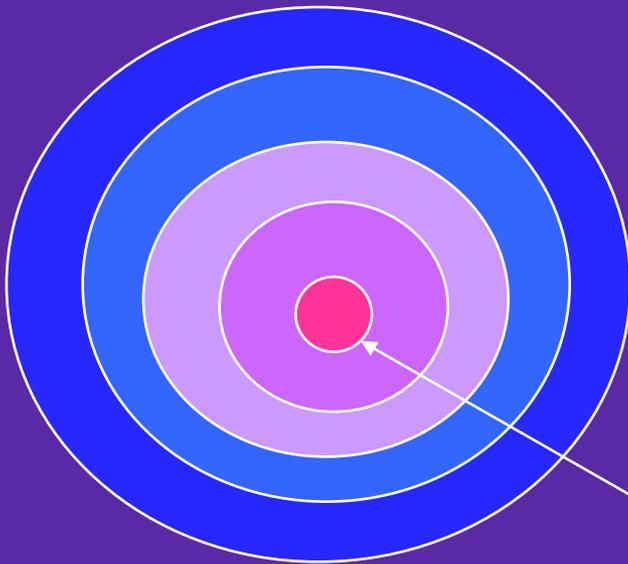
They found the delinquency living rates declined from zone 1 to 5. They argue that zone 1 has the highest rate of delinquents because it is characterised by a high population turnover and mixture of different cultures. They called this the **zone of transition**

Location - Environmental Criminology

The least delinquents live in Zone 5 - 1.8 % mainly commuter zone with expensive houses.

The most delinquents live in Zone 1 - 9.8% - deteriorating housing and factories, high population turnover

They concluded that the zone of transition had **social disorganisation** (low social cohesion and little sense of community) making it a breeding ground for deviants.



Area offending rates in Britain

Studies in Britain contradict Shaw and McKay and the idea of determining crime by location.

Some studies show higher numbers of offenders living in council housing estates rather than city centres (Morris 1957). One study of two council estates separated by a road showed one had 300% more offenders living there than the other (Bottoms, Mawby and Xanthos 1989).

Explanations

Opportunity theory

Crimes will be committed in locations where targets are *attractive* to criminals meaning it has a high monetary value and can easily be transported and sold. Coupled with *accessibility* meaning if physical access is easy and chances of being observed are low.

Location - Environmental Criminology

Cognitive mapping (1984)

Patricia and Paul *Brantingham* argue that we have cognitive maps inside our heads which outline our perception of the geography of our local area. These maps contain places we are familiar with such as home, school or work, places of entertainment etc.

Routine activities theory

Argues that crimes are likely to happen in particular places because of three things: There are likely offenders in the area, attractive targets and an absence of capable guardians like property owners.

They say most offenders commit crimes in areas they are familiar with; because of an offender's awareness of space, and opportunities for crime.

3. Crime in contemporary society

Key questions:

1. Has crime become global?
2. How does the media report criminal activity?
3. What are green crimes and how are they dealt with?
4. What rights due all human beings have?
5. How can we stop state crimes when we have no world police?

Key information

- Globalisation and crime
- Mass media and crime
- Green crime
- Human rights
- State crimes

Globalisation

Definition: The way in which we seem to live in an increasingly 'shrinking world', where societies are becoming more interconnected and dependant on each other.

Transnational crime

Greater communication and travel have made the drugs industry extend *beyond national boundaries*. Often involving many countries the supply comes from south America (Colombia) and its demand from western countries.

Risk consciousness

Increased terrorism has increased our awareness of the international risks we face and increased security at our national borders, airports, ports and train stations.

Global crime (1 trillion)

- Arms trafficking
- Smuggling immigrants
- Trafficking women and children
- Sex tourism
- Cyber-crimes - identity theft and child porn
- Drugs trade
- Money laundering

Globalisation and crime

Changing crime

Hobbs and Dunningham say crime is now longer local but *'Glocal'* meaning it involves networks of people across the globe. Gleeny (2008) argues even the mafia has gone global, it has franchised its businesses to different parts of the globe - *McMafia*

Increased crime

Ian Taylor (1973) Marxist argues that *globalisation has allowed capitalism to create more crime* by exploiting workers abroad and creating fraud on a larger scale. manufacturing products abroad has led to a lack of jobs and opportunities for the working class, which leads them to crime.

The media and crime

- The media over-represent violence and sex crimes - this make us think its happening more and that most killers are strange psychopaths - in most cases the perpetrator is know to the victim.
- The media portray criminals and victims as *older and more middle-class*.
- Media coverage *exaggerates* police success in clearing up cases.
- The media exaggerates the *risk of victimisation*, especially women.
- The media *overplay* extraordinary crimes but underplay ordinary crimes.

News as socially constructed

'The news is not discovered but manufactured' says *Cohen* and *Young*. What they mean is what gets coverage depends on what has happened, who is involved, when and where. Crime by its very definition is abnormal and ticks most of these news worthy boxes.

Fictional crime

Our ideas of crime don't just come from the news. Fictional representation of crime comes from books, films and TV shows. They tend to match the incorrect stereotypes of the media.

Mass media and crime

Can the media cause crime or fear?

Most studies show media violence has at most a *small and limited negative effect on audiences*. Studies do show those that watch TV for longer periods of time are more likely to be *fearful of becoming a victim*.

How could the media cause crime?

- Imitation - copycats.
- Desensitisation.
- Learning criminal techniques.
- Desire for unaffordable goods.
- Glamorising offending.

New media - new crime

Cinema, television, computer games and the internet have all been blamed for corrupting the young. The internet has grown so quickly its brought about cyber crime. Defined as computer-mediated criminal activities conducted through global electronic networks.

Cyber-crime

- *Cyber-trespass* - includes hacking and spreading viruses.
- *Cyber -deception and theft* - identify theft, illegal downloading.
- *Cyber-pornography* - illegal porn involving children.
- *Cyber-violence* - bullying by text, threatening e-mails, cyber stalking.

Stanley Cohen

Cohen studied how the media has often demonised youth culture. This happened to *mods and Rockers* in 1964 who were seen as modern day *folk devils* who threatened social order. His research found that actual acts of deviant acts were minimal.

Mass media and crime

Deviancy amplification spiral

This idea says that sensationalist reporting by the newspapers distorts the act of crime or deviance and increases public awareness. Public pressure is put on the police and courts to act. This creates a *moral panic* where certain acts or groups are seen as a threat to social order.

Key ideas

Defined as crimes against the environment such as toxic waste dumping and deforestation. Green crime is linked with *globalisation* as the world is one single eco-system. Ulrich Beck reminds us that many environmental issues are *manufactured* rather than natural.

Traditional criminology

If pollution that causes global warming is legal and no real crime has been committed then traditional criminology is not interested.

Green criminology

Less bound by laws but by *harm* caused to the environment or people. Green criminology is a much wider field and so called *Transgressive Criminology* - goes beyond traditional criminology.

Environmental/ Green crime

Secondary crimes

Crimes that result from flouting rules aimed at preventing an environmental disaster.

- *State violence against oppositional groups* - despite opposing terrorism states have used the method themselves.
- *Hazardous waste and organised crime* - illegal dumping.

Primary crimes

Crimes that result directly from the destruction of the earth:-

- Crimes of air pollution.
- Crimes of deforestation.
- Crimes of species decline and animal rights.
- Crimes of water pollution.

Harm

Anthropocentric is a human centred approach which assumes humans have the right to dominate nature for their own ends. The *Ecocentric* view sees humans and their environment as interdependent, so harming one is harming another. Green criminology takes the ecocentric approach.

Human rights

The right to life, liberty and free speech.

Civil rights

The right to vote, to privacy, fair trial and education.

Problem

States create laws which make their actions legal and free them from criminal charges.

Solution

Herman and Schwendinger (1970) argue we should define crime as a violation of human rights rather than law breaking. States that deny humans their rights are then seen as criminals. This new approach has been called *Transgressive criminology* as it transgresses (goes beyond) the traditional boundaries of criminology (criminal law).

Human rights

The social conditions of state crimes

Three features which produces state crimes:-

- **Authorisation** - obedience.
- **Routinisation** - pressure to continue.
- **Dehumanisation** - Enemy is a monster.

Stanley Cohen - The spiral of state denial (1996)

Three ways dictators deny human rights violations:-

- Stage 1: '*It didn't happen*', this works until the media uncover evidence that it did.
- Stage 2: '*If it did happen, it is something else*'.
- Stage 3: '*Even if it is what you say it is, its justified*' we had to do it.

New problem

Not everybody agrees on human rights. Is freedom from poverty a human right? Could states be charged as criminals for not making its members wealthy?

Definition

Crimes or deviant activities perpetrated by or with permission of state agencies.

Examples:-

- **Genocide** (deliberate and systematic destruction of an ethnic, national or religious group).
- **War crimes**
- **Torture**
- **Imprisonment without trial**
- **Assassination**

Case studies

Pol Pot - Leader of the Communist party in Cambodia. Slave labour, malnutrition, poor medical care resulted in the death of 21% of the population (1.7 -2.5M).

State crimes

Eugene McLaughlin (2001)

Four types of state crime:-

- **Political crimes** - corruption or censorship (controlling what the media says).
- **Crimes by security and police forces** - Genocide and torture.
- **Economic crime** - violations of health and safety.
- **Social and cultural crimes** - institutional racism.

The problem of national sovereignty

States are the **supreme authority** within their borders.

The problem is the state is the source of law meaning it decides what crimes are, manages the criminal justice system and prosecutes offenders, meaning it can evade its own law.

Abu Ghraib

A prison in Baghdad Controlled by US led coalition forces. Accusations of abuse in 2004 - 11 soldiers charge and convicted for mistreatment.

Nazi Germany

Hitler started the T4 - euthanasia program from 1939 - 1941. 275,000 terminally ill and mental patients were killed.

4. Crime

control, prevention, punishment, victims and the criminal justice system

Key questions

1. How can we prevent crime from happening?
2. Does our way of punishing really work?
3. What can we learn from victims of crimes?
4. What is the role of the criminal justice system?

Key information

- Crime prevention policies - 'broken window'
- Punishment of crimes & the prison system
- Victimology - the study of victims
- The role of the Criminal Justice system

Situational crime prevention

Ron Clarke (1992) argues for a pre-emptive approach which targets specific crimes (petty) by altering the immediate environment of crime. As a right realist he believes *target hardening* and *more CCTV* will increase the risk of being caught and lower the rewards.

Marcus Felson (1998)

This approach was used with the Port Authority Bus terminal in NYC. They reshaped the environment to *design out crime* with large open spaces, it was successful.

Problem - Displacement

This approach doesn't solve the causes of crime in the area. Often *criminals find different areas*, change the type of crime they commit or choose a different victim.

Crime control and prevention

The results

This approach has found great success in NY. A 'Clean Car Program' was instituted on the subway in which trains with graffiti on them were taken away immediately. As a result graffiti was largely removed from the subway.

Environmental crime prevention

Wilson and Kellings argued for an approach called '*broken window*'. The term broken windows stands for various signs of disorder and lack of concern for others found in neighbourhoods.

They argue that leaving broken windows unrepaired such as graffiti, begging etc sends out a signal that no one cares and can *tip* the area into social disorder. A way to prevent this is more police on the streets enforcing *zero tolerance* towards any social disorder and repairing things that are broken or deteriorating .

Social and community crime prevention

A *left realist* approach to crime prevention it gets to the *causes of crime* by improving unemployment and housing.

Perry pre-school project

Research conducted in 1962 by *David Weikart* in Michigan. The project provided high-quality pre-school education to three- and four-year-old African-American children living in poverty and assessed to be at high risk of school failure.

These students were given extra sessions on *decision making and problem solving*. Parents implemented the programme at home.

The results

By age 40 they had significantly fewer lifetime arrests for violent crime, property crime and drugs, while more had graduated from high school and were in employment. For every dollar spent on the programme, \$17 were saved on welfare, prison and other costs.

Crime control and prevention

Evaluation of all policies

- Displacement transfers the problem elsewhere.
- None of the following can help reduce white collar or state crimes.
- Do criminals make the rational choice to commit crime?
- Only social and community gets to the causes of crime.

Reduction

The aim is to reduce crime by *detering* others, *rehabilitating offenders* and *incapacitation* meaning taking away their ability to re-offend. This approach is *instrumental* as punishment is a means to an end, i.e. crime reduction.

What is the purpose of punishment?

Retribution

Meaning pay back, based on the idea that offenders deserve to be punished and society is entitled to take its revenge. This approach is *expressive* as it expresses societies outrage.

Restorative

This approach tries to restore things as they were by making offenders meet their victims to see the personal affect their crime has had on their lives.

Do Prisons work?

- Two -thirds of prisoners commit *further crimes* on their release from prison.
- In 1993, the UK prison population was 44,000. Today it is over 83,000.
- David Garland (2001) argues the USA and the UK to a lesser extent are moving into the era of *mass incarceration*.

Punishment

Do prisons work?

Transcarceration means when somebody enters prison or youth offending they are more than likely to re-enter it again at some point be it with social services or mental health institutions.

Prison - key facts

- 8.75 million people in prisons across the world.
- The *U.S* has the highest prison population compared with population
- The *U.K* has the highest prison population in Europe.

Durkheim

The function of punishment is to uphold *social solidarity* and *reinforce shared* values. It also allows people to express their outrage at rituals like trials and re-set boundaries. Traditional close knit societies had a strong sense of right and wrong so had *Retributive justice* as punishment was severe, cruel and public. Modern societies have *Restitutive justice* which like restorative justice tries to restore broken relations and offer compensation.

Marxism

Society is divided into two classes, *ruling class* exploit the *working class*.

Marxists ask how does punishment serve the ruling class? They argue that harsh punishments are part of the *Repressive State Apparatuses (RSA)* which keep the working class in their place. Prison is similar to the slave labour of capitalism, especially similar to strict discipline of factories in 20th century.

Panopticon

A prison designed by *Jeremy Bentham*, its design means inmates don't know if they are being watched. The idea of surveillance turns into *self-surveillance*, it becomes internalised. This move towards self surveillance and self discipline is reflected not just in prisons but all aspects of social life says Foucault.

Sociological perspectives on Punishment

Michel Foucault - Postmodernism

Sovereign power - punishment before the 19th century was a public spectacle with hangings and stockades, its was a way of asserting the monarchs power over its citizens. *Disciplinary power* - punishment after 19th century was not just about governance over the body but the mind or soul, this is done through surveillance - *Panopticon*.



Definitions

A person who suffers physical, mental or psychological harm, economic loss or impairment of their rights.

Victim is a concept like crime that is *socially constructed*, who is and isn't a victim changes depending on the context.

Failure to label

They are also interested in the way the state has the power to *attach or deny a label as a victim*. If the police decide not to press charges then you are denied the status of victim and any compensation.

Problem: While it highlights the role of the powerful it denies the role victims themselves have in their own victimisation.

Positivist Victimology

It tries to identify why certain people are victims of crimes. Early work focused on *victim proneness* meaning finding social and psychological characteristics that made them more vulnerable than non-victims.

Victimology: The study of victims

Critical Victimology

Based on Marxism and Feminism it wants to highlight *structural factors* like poverty or patriarchy which put the powerless at greater risk of being a victim.

Hans Von Hentig (1948) identified 13 characteristics such as female, elderly or mentally subnormal. They imply that *victims invite victimisation* by the way they are.

Problem

This approach has been called *victim blaming* as it doesn't count for the motives of the perpetrator.

Class

The poorest groups are most *likely to be victims* of all crimes. Homeless people are 12 times more likely to experience violence than the general population.

Women who have been raped but whose cases have failed in court are also victims of the legal system.

Patterns of victimisation

Age

Younger people are most at risk of crimes *like assault, theft, sexual harassment*. Infants under one are at most risk of being murdered.

Victimology: The study of victims

The impact of victimisation

Research has found that a variety of effects such as disrupted sleep, feelings of helplessness, increased security-consciousness and difficulties in socialising. Crime can also create fear in communities, these are referred to as *indirect victims*.

Fear

The media has a large part to play when stirring up fear but statistically speaking men are more likely to be victims of violence yet some women fear going out late at night.

Ethnicity

Minority ethnic groups most at risk of *all crimes*. Ethnic minorities most likely to feel under-protected yet over controlled.

Gender

Males most at risk of violent attacks especially by strangers. 70% of homicide victims are *male*.

Repeat victims

Once you have been a victim once you are very likely to be again. Suggests people were victims for a reason, perhaps even targeted.

Common law

British law not originally decided upon and written down but based on a series of judgements made by judges based on a series of facts. The courts must follow the decisions of the **precedent** (previous case).

Courtroom

- Judges seats - often 3
- Clerk & stenograph (typist).
- Witness stand
- The bar - behind which the prosecution and defence solicitors and barristers sit
- The dock - The accused
- Public viewing area

Murder isn't written in law anywhere but based on **precedents** made years ago.

Oldest statute law in England and Wales goes back to 1297 originally part of the Magna Carta and its about seeking damages.

The role of the criminal justice system

Types of law

- Criminal - murder, rape.
- Tort - negligence, nuisance, defamation, trespass.
- Contract - sales & purchasing.
- Trusts - Property and inheritance.

Structure of the courts

1. European courts of Justice
2. House of Lords
3. Royal Courts of Justice
4. Crown Court
5. Magistrates courts

Criminal

These are cases that have broken the law of the land and brought about by the state such as murder or rape.

Civil

These are cases that have broken the law but are brought about by people such as compensation against injury or land disputes.

Stages of the criminal justice system

1. Reporting

A crime is committed and reported to the police.

2. Investigation

The police will investigate the scene and question witnesses. They will either charge the suspect, release them or give them a warning.

3. Crown Prosecution Service

The *CPS* must decide whether a case is likely to get a conviction in court.

4. Magistrates court

Over 95% of cases are dealt with by the magistrates court. Because it's usually less serious crimes there is a limit to the punishment that can be imposed (6 months in prison).

5. Crown court

More serious cases are passed to the crown court which is served by a *judge and jury*. The jury will decide if the accused is guilty at which point the judge will decide upon the *sentence*.

6. Prison

With shorter sentences prisoners remain in the local area while longer sentences, prisoners could be sent anywhere. They must be treated with fairness and humanity and be given productive activities.

7. Probation service

Works to monitor prisoners after their release. They help with employment and housing and advise the courts of a risk of re-offending.

8. Mental health

Those deemed to be without their mental faculty when committing a crime are often sent for assessment and incarceration at hospitals like Broadmoor or Ashworth, many will never be released.

5. The study of suicide

Key questions

1. Is suicide just a psychological issue?
2. What social factors may cause suicide?
3. How do we define suicide?
4. Should we include people who have attempted suicide?

Key information

- Positivism - Emile Durkheim
- Interpretivism - Maxwell Atkinson
- Realism - Steve Taylor

Emile Durkheim (1897)

Objective: To look beyond the individual act and towards the **social factors** which cause suicide. He took a **positivist methodology**, as he wanted to establish Sociology as a science. He collected **suicide statistics** from across Europe.

Findings

- Suicide rates were higher in Protestant countries than Catholic ones.
- Suicide rates for any given country remained more or less constant over time.
- Rates were higher for childless and unmarried people.
- Rates **rose** during times of economic depression and prosperity and **fell** during times of war and political uncertainty.

Social Facts

For Durkheim social facts exist in the world. **Integration and regulation are social facts** i.e. forces in the world that constrain our behaviour. If Durkheim could discover these facts he would establish sociology as a science.

The study of suicide

Types of suicide

- **Altruistic** - Too much integration (Japan, Seppuka).
- **Egoistic** - too little integration (individualistic).
- **Fatalistic** - Too much regulation, you can't change things (China).
- **Anomic** - Too little regulation, norms and values

Explaining findings

Durkheim concluded that suicide must be the result of the extent to which we are integrated and regulated into a group. **Integration** is the extent to which a person is bound by a society by norms and values (Japan). **Regulation** is the extent to which a society has control over its members (China)

Maxwell Atkinson (1978)

Took an *interactionist (Ethnomethodology)* approach because he believes suicide is an expression of individual meaning rather than an act based on social forces.

Criticises Durkheim

Atkinson's work shows that Durkheim *didn't find anything objective* about suicide just the corners theory (subjective). He highlights that using statistics is flawed as we will never have access to those cases that were suicide but categorised as death by misadventure because the death didn't match the corners theory.

Suicide as socially constructed

Atkinson believed suicide had *no objective reality*. It's societies that define suicide as something specific, the definition itself is varied. Atkinson wanted to find out what this definition was and how it was constructed.

The study of suicide

Secondary cues

- History of mental illness.
- Disturbed childhood.
- Recent loss or divorce.
- Financial problems.
- Lack of friends.
- Problems at work.

Atkinson examined the ways in which *coroner's classified deaths*. It was based on the observations of inquests, interview with coroners and examinations of coroner's records. Atkinson claimed that coroners have a '*common-sense theory*' of suicide- meaning if the facts fit the theory then a verdict of suicide is likely.

Primary cues

- Suicide note.
- Type of death - hanging.
- Place and circumstance of death - garage, windows and doors closed.

Steve Taylor (1988)

As a *realist* Taylor rejects Atkinson's view that suicide is socially constructed, he argues it's a real problem that requires a real solution.

Problems

Case studies are *unrepresentative*. He fails to find out what *causes* uncertainty or detachment.

Durkheim & Atkinson

Taylor agrees with Durkheim that we should look for the underline structural causes of suicide but believes *case studies* are more appropriate than statistics.

Wider definition

A wider definition of suicide is needed in order to explain the broad spectrum of suicidal behaviour, he therefore defines suicide as '*any deliberate act of self-damage, or potential self-damage where the individual cannot be sure of survival*'.

The study of suicide

Categories

- *Thanatation suicide* - Uncertainty about the world and detached from people.
- *Appeal suicide* - uncertainty about the world but attached to people/person (jilted lover).
- *Submissive suicide* - certain about your future but detached from people (terminal illness).
- *Sacrifice suicide* - Attached to people and certain about future, but unliveable.

Taylor said Suicide stems from an *imbalance in individuals sense of their own identity and their relationship with others*, this combines both personal thoughts and feelings and their position in wider society.

6. Sociological methods and the study of crime

Key questions

1. What areas of crime are of interest to Sociologists?
2. What is the best way of studying crime?
3. What problems do researchers face?
4. What factors influence the type of methodology a research will use?

Key information

- Crime as a research context
- Official statistics, BCS and self report studies.
- Questionnaires and crime
- Interviews and crime
- Observations and crime
- Experiments and crime
- Secondary sources - statistics and documents
- P.E.R.V.E.R.T

Researching Domestic Violence

Difficult to study due to being *under represented* in statistics. The act itself has few public witnesses and many victims choose to *not report* the incident to the police. Greater confidentiality is needed for that take part in the research for *fear of further abuse*.

Researching violent crimes

Few observational opportunities unless a researcher manages to *infiltrate a gang*. Great danger can be posed to any researcher who explores this and high crime areas. Victims of violent crimes are *unlikely to want to be interviewed*, unless by the police.

Crime as a research context

Researching Young offenders

Studying these groups maybe be difficult to observe and interview due to *suspicion* (police officer in disguise and the age, class, gender and ethnicity of the researcher. Researchers must be aware of the *vulnerability* of this group and their use of language, literacy and cognitive skills

Researching Criminal justice

The police maybe open to research but aware of public scrutiny. Studies of senior officers is rare. Although courts are public places, judges, jurors and lawyers are often beyond study. Prisons are closed environments where researcher safety is paramount. Prisoners often co-operate due to boredom but are no stranger to deception.

Researching corporate crime

Likely to be *under-reported* in statistics and by the media. The crimes themselves have *low visibility* and are often difficult to investigate, they may even go beyond national borders. Perpetrators are *powerful and organised* and enjoy political protection.

Official statistics

Compiled from government departments like the *police and courts*.

Recorded crime

A crime, which has been recorded by the police as a crime. (Only 40% of reported crime is then recorded due to discretionary powers of the police).

Lack of crime reporting

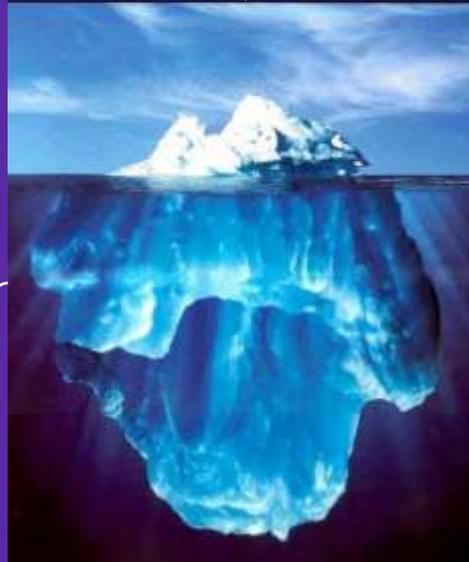
Crimes may not be reported due to:-

- fear of reprisal.
- Lack of awareness (fraud).
- Fear it may not be taken seriously.
- Crime is too trivial.

Reported crime

A crime, which the public has reported to the police. (90% of all crime the police deal with is reported to them by the public).

Crime statistics



Inaccurate picture of crime

- White collar crime dealt with administratively.
- Only serious crimes from incidences is recorded.
- Rules for counting always change.
- Lack of recording makes clear up rates look higher.

Official crime statistics are the tip of the iceberg, BCS and self-report studies show there is more crime than what can be seen on the surface. This is known as the dark figure of crime (what is recorded vs. reported).

British Crime Survey

A *victim study* which asks people if they have been a victim of a crime and the circumstances of that crime. It was conducted every two years from 1982 -2000 then every year since.

The study is based on a representative sample of adults living in private households in England and Wales. In 2002 over **36,000 surveys** were conducted. Certain crimes are excluded due to low reporting such as murder, drug possession or dealing, fraud, offences against businesses.

Self-report studies

Anonymous questionnaires which ask respondents if they have committed a crime over the past year.

They are usually based on *self-completed questionnaires or interviews* which contain a list of offences.

Respondents are asked to highlight which they have committed. Self report studies show us that most people commit crime at some point in their lives so *crime is normal*.

Trends and patterns

- BCS says 10.7 million crimes committed, OS (4.7 million).
- The majority of crime is property related.
- Violent crime accounts for 1/5 of all crime
- Overall crime peaked in 1995 and has declined ever since.
- Men aged 16-24 most likely to be a victim of violence.

BCS and Self-report studies

BCS: includes unreported and unrecorded crime but only 75% is comparable with police statistics.

Self-report: Mainly street crime (working class) excludes hidden crimes like domestic violence. Only gives a small picture of criminal activity.

Positivist

Generally used by positivists due to their ability to generate *statistical data* that is reliable, representative and generalisable

Quantitative

Large amounts of statistical data

Primary

This data has not been collected before

Sample

Not all of the population can be studied so researchers select a sample of it to study

Written questionnaires

Respondents are asked to complete and return by post or e-mail.

Interviews

Either face-to face or by telephone.

Social Surveys Questionnaires

Sampling techniques

1. *Random* - people selected by chance
2. *Systematic* - every 5th, 10th or 100th person is chosen.
3. *Stratified* - a sample that reflects societies diversity
4. *Quota* - researchers have a quota (amount) of requirements to fill

Closed questions

The respondent must choose their answer from a limited range of possible answers like yes, no or don't know.

Open questions

These allow the respondent to answer freely in their own words.

Hypothesis

A theory or idea to test

Pilot study

A trial run to test for problems with questions

Operationalising concepts

Putting concepts like God or class into categories (*pre-set answers*) that can be easily analysed

Advantages

1. **Quick, cheap and easy** to gather.
2. **Reliable** - can be replicated.
3. Can test a hypothesis.
4. **Detached and objective** way of collecting the data.
5. **Representative**; due to the large amount of data that can be gathered, especially if a good sampling method is used.
6. **Fewer ethical issues** as questions aren't in depth and people can refuse to answer.
7. No issue of **deception as informed consent** has been gained.

Social surveys - Questionnaires

Disadvantages

1. The data is **limited and superficial**.
2. Postal questions have a **low response rate**, in some studies it is as low as 40%.
3. **Very inflexible** as hypothesis cannot be changed or adapted.
4. **A lack of validity** means Questionnaires don't give us any real insight into people's behaviour.
5. Using closed questions constrains people's answers.

Practical issues

- Quick and cheap.
- Criminals are unlikely to volunteer their identity or location.
- Government departments want results quickly.
- Questions more likely to be able less serious crime.
- Self report studies are questionnaires.

Ethical issues

Post or e-mail questionnaires *pose fewer ethical concerns* because returning the questionnaire is giving consent. However talking to under 16's about crime is crucial but parents consent is needed.

Reliability and Representativeness

Difficult to get lists of criminals to make questionnaires *representative*. Those more involved in crime are *less likely to respond* to self report studies. Some disagreement from sociologists over the list of crimes in self report studies which makes them *difficult to replicate*.

Questionnaires to investigate crime

Validity

Validity is likely to be *low* due to respondents lack of memory about criminal events or their exaggeration to seem tough. Questionnaires often impose on respondents what is important rather than discovering something new.

Detachment and objectivity

Most large-scale crime research is developed through consultation with criminologists and governments. Therefore topics and questions will be *dictated* rather than decided upon.

Positivist

Generally used by positivists due to their ability to generate **statistical data** that is reliable, representative and generalisable

Quantitative

Large amounts of statistical data

Primary

This data has not been collected before

Problems

Highly unethical due to the amount of emotional harm caused and deception. Study not representative or generalisable

Laboratory experiments

Conducted in a controlled environment.

(Milgram, Stanford)

Field experiments

Conducted out in the field where variables can't be controlled.

(Sissons - Hawthorne)

Experiments

Philip Zimbardo - Stanford prison experiment (1971)

A lab experiment designed to show behaviour of inmates and the role of authority figures. Volunteers were given roles as either prisoner or guard. The experiment got out of hand as prisoners suffered sadistic and humiliating treatment at the hands of the guards

Stanley Milgram Experiment (1961)

A lab experiment conducted to test our obedience to authority. Volunteers were asked to administer electric shocks while being encouraged to do so by a scientist. Results showed people were highly influenced by an authority figure.

Problems

Highly unethical due to the amount of emotional harm caused and deception. Study not **representative or generalisable**

Sissons

A field experiment conducted at Paddington station to see whether people behaviour in relation to social class. It involved a man dressed as a labourer and then later a businessman.

Hawthorne Electrical plant

A field experiment to test the adjustment of light and heat on workers productivity. In all cases workers output increased.

Hawthorne effect

People who know they are being studied change their ordinary behaviour

Experiments

Field experiments

Advantages:

- Higher validity than lab experiments.
- Less artificial as respondents are in their natural setting.

Disadvantages:

- Variables more difficult to control - lack of reliability.
- Low in validity due to Hawthorne effect.
- Lots of ethical issues.

Lab experiments

Advantages:

- Can test a hypothesis.
- Can be replicated due to controllable variables.
- Can study cause and effect relationships.

Disadvantages:

- Due to small scale it isn't representative or generalisable.
- Low validity due to artificial situation.
- Lots of ethical issues.

Laboratory experiments

This method doesn't lend itself to the study of crime and deviance. Although *Zimbardo's* study of the behaviour prisoners and guards has produced some useful insights into the dehumanising effects of prisons on both inmates and staff.

Ethics

Many crime related research involves danger, victimisation and the exercise of power which can if recreated can cause *harmful effects*.

Bandura et al (1977)

Did an experiment on young nursery children about *imitative aggression*. The children watched an adult be aggressive towards the doll then were told they couldn't play with some toys to see if they would act as the adults did. This caused the children psychological harm. This study like others showed low *validity* as often experiments are artificial and bear no relation to reality.

Experiments to investigate crime and deviance

We must remember that youth offenders are more *vulnerable* than other criminal groups. Its difficult to *replicate* field experiments because of the complexity of crime and deviance. If prisoners know they are being studied they are likely to change their behaviour - *Hawthorne effect*.

Tougher regime project

Field experiments were used to study the effect of tougher regimes in youth offending institutions such as physical exercise, reduced education and more inspections. The results showed it had little effect on re-offending rates.

Field experiments

More effect in crime research as they can be used to study crime prevention policies to see how effect they are on criminal groups like prisoners.

Interpretivist

Generally used by Interpretivists due to their ability to generate *valid data* about what people think and feel and how they act.

Structured interview

Set questions asked to all respondents.

Unstructured interview

Interviewers have freedom to ask any questions and probe answers for explanation.

Semi-Structured

Set themes to cover but has some freedom to explore and probe answers.

Group interview

The discussion of topics with small groups of 10-12 people.

Qualitative

Small in-depth data giving us a real insight

Primary

This data has not been collected before

Interviews

Structured interviews (Disad)

- No depth so low in validity.
- Lacks flexibility.
- Risk of interviewer bias.

Unstructured interviews (Disad)

- Costly, lack reliability, Representativeness, & Generalisability.
- Comparison is difficult.

Interviewer bias

Interviewer could ask leading questions or use body language to subconsciously influence respondents answers.

Unstructured interviews (Ad)

- High validity.
- Can develop a rapport.
- Real insights.
- People feel at ease.

Structured interviews (Ad)

- Easy to quantify.
- Reliable less risk of interviewer bias.
- Higher response rate if face to face.
- Can test a hypothesis.

Practical issues

- Convicted criminals have lower literacy levels.
- Recording answers may make respondents feel uncomfortable that their answer may have legal implications.
- Safety of interviewers is important.
- Getting access to interviewing criminals or victims is difficult.

Representativeness

These interviews with victims and criminals are time-consuming due to the sensitive nature of the discussion which means they are *unlikely to produce large enough samples to be representative.*

Reliability

The nature of some groups makes it *very difficult to replicate* and interview. Maguire (2007) studied street criminals and said some interviews took minutes while others took hours, in a pub or persons home.

Interviews to investigate crime

Ethics

Respondents may become at ease and give up '*guilty knowledge*' of crimes they committed. This leaves the researcher with the ethical dilemma of whether to break the respondents trust and pass the information onto the police.

Validity

Unstructured interviews allow researcher to *decode language and slang*. Lengthy interviews allow researchers to *build a rapport and trust*. The appearance of the interviewer may make respondents feel they are an *authority figure*. There are hierarchy and status issues when interviewing members of courts and police. A clerk of a magistrates is more likely to give honest response than a high court judge.

Interpretivist

Generally used by Interpretivists due to their ability to generate *valid data* about what people think and feel and how they act.

Qualitative

Small in-depth data giving us a real insight

Primary

This data has not been collected before

Observers role

take a position which will not allow you to disrupt the groups normal behaviour and yet offer a good vantage to make observations.

Non-Participant obs

Where the researcher observes without interfering.

Structured

a set of criteria in categories that need to be recorded.

Unstructured

Nothing set just record as much important information as possible.

Participant obs

Where the researcher becomes a part of what they observe.

Observations

Keywords

- **Getting in:** gaining access to a group.
- **Going native:** no longer being a research and being a part of the group.
- **Getting out:** leaving the group without putting yourself in danger.

Covert observation - the sociologist is open about what they are doing by making their identity and purpose known.

Covert observation - the study is done undercover as the researchers identity and purpose are concealed.

Semi-covert observation - Telling one person in a group but no others.

Positivism

Structured observations could be used by positivists as they create data that is easy to *quantify* and can be *replicated*.

John Howard Griffin

Used medication and sun lamps to conduct covert research among black people in 1959. He knew he wouldn't be accepted as a white male.

Laud Humphries (1970)

Broke the law by being a look out at a toilet to find out more about sex in public places.

James Patrick (1973)

Acted as a gang member in Glasgow but had to leave due to the violence he experienced.

Advantages

1. High Validity as you see people in their natural setting.
2. A real insight into why people do the things they do.
3. The only chance to walk in other persons shoes and get their view of the world.
4. More flexible method
5. A way to gain access to deviant groups

Observations

Disadvantages

1. Time, money and personal cost through stress and danger.
2. Personal involvement can reduce objectivity.
3. Very difficult to replicate as its so unpredictable.
4. Not possible to generalise due to small sample sizes.
5. Maybe unethical to members of group if deception is used.
6. Researcher may be asked to commit illegal acts.
7. The observer is likely to affect the groups especially if they are aware of them (participant observation).

Practical issues

- Covert observation maybe the only way to study criminal gangs.
- Gaining access to groups is going to be difficult.
- Police stations and prisons may restrict access to observe.
- Observations can take a long time without any incidence of crime or deviance.
- Ken Pryce was murdered observing organised crime.

Validity

A rare method that reveals real insights into criminal and deviant behaviour.

Going native

Whyte (1955) recognised he turned from being a non-participating observe to a non-observing participator when observing Italian American street gangs.

Observations to investigate crime

Ethics

More ethical dilemmas than any other method in studying crime due to risk to research, illegal activity and lack of consent. How to leave the gang without reprisal is also a challenge.

Covert observation

Many criminal groups won't allow overt participation or at very least will only let them see what they want them to see. However if access is granted this will allow the researcher to ask all sorts of naive but interesting questions.

Overt observation

It reduces the risk of changing people's behaviour, *Laud Humphreys* found this in his observation of causal sex in public places. The risk of one's cover being blown is very dangerous, along with concerns that you may be asked to engage in illegal activity in order to fit in.

Positivist & Interpretivist

Can be used by both groups depending on the type of secondary data used

Quantitative & Qualitative

Depending on the type of data

Secondary

This data has been gathered or created before

Positivist

Statistics preferred by Positivists due to large amounts of quantitative data, which is reliable, representative and Generalisable

Official statistics

Gathered by government on births, deaths, marriages, crime and unemployment

Secondary data

Crime statistics

Because the police don't record every crime that is reported to them the stats we have are only the *tip of the iceberg* as we know more crime is happening.

Advantages

- Its *free* and *available* to all.
- Statistics gives us large amounts of data
- Census done every 10 years is good for comparison
- Done by the government and strict sampling so representative.
- Reliable

Disadvantages

- Statistics may not meet the needs of the sociologists research.
- Definitions of terms change over time.
- Soft statistics (not every incidence is recorded) like from the police and education unlikely to be *low in validity*.

Documents

Refers to diaries, letters, photographs, newspapers, novels, and things from television and radio.

Public documents

Produced by *organisations* like schools and includes things like Ofsted reports, council notes from meetings, published company accounts, and records of parliamentary debates.

Personal documents

First person accounts and experiences, these include letters, diaries, photo albums and autobiographies.

Interpretivists

Preferred by Interpretivists because the data is qualitative and allows them a *real insight* into peoples meanings and motives

Secondary data

Historical documents

A personal or public document created in the past. These documents will allow you the opportunity to see how people experienced *the social world*.

Content analysis

A method for systematically studying content of documents and producing *quantitative data*. Sue Sharpe did this in her study of girls aspirations.

John Scott - assessing documents

Scott says we must consider if documents are *authentic* (not fakes) and if it is *credible* (believable). We must find out if the document represents the past fairly and that the *meaning of words*, ideas and beliefs hasn't changed.

Official statistics

Practically there is always *large amounts* of statistical data available to researchers on a variety of issues from different agencies.

Validity

About 90% of crime is reported to the police by the public, whether they do so depends on the nature of the crime. Crimes like domestic violence and sex crimes are *less likely to be reported* which puts the validity of statistics in question.

Representativeness

At first sight they seem to be representative as they are collected by government agencies but we know they are only the *tip of the iceberg*.

Validity

Biographies of criminals maybe be exaggerated but can still offer *real insight*. Many official documents tilt towards enforcement agencies like the police or courts.

Reliability

Although the same research can be replicated what crimes are included and how changes making it *difficult to compare*.

Secondary data to investigate crime

Ethics

These pose few ethical issues if they are part of public record.

Documents

Practically there is always large amounts of documents from courts, police etc that are part of public record, however there is also *a lot that is restricted*. Suicide notes along with graffiti can be

Reliability and Representativeness

If documents about crimes are found they are varied and far and far between making them *unreliable and unrepresentative*.

Practical issues

- Time and money.
- If you can get research *funded* they may require a certain type of data.
- *Skills of the Sociologist* to build trust and rapport or social skills. Skills of the Sociologist to build trust and rapport or social skills.
- A research opportunity may come *out of the blue* leaving no time for Questionnaires.

Ethical issues

the British Sociological Society guidelines.

- *Informed consent* - participants should be offered the right to refuse to be researched.
- Participants identity should be *kept confidential*
- Researchers should be aware of the social or *psychological harm* of research.
- Special care should be give to research in *vulnerable groups* like young offenders and victims.
- Covert research can take place but must be aware of *problems of deception*.

Factors influencing a
researchers choice of topic

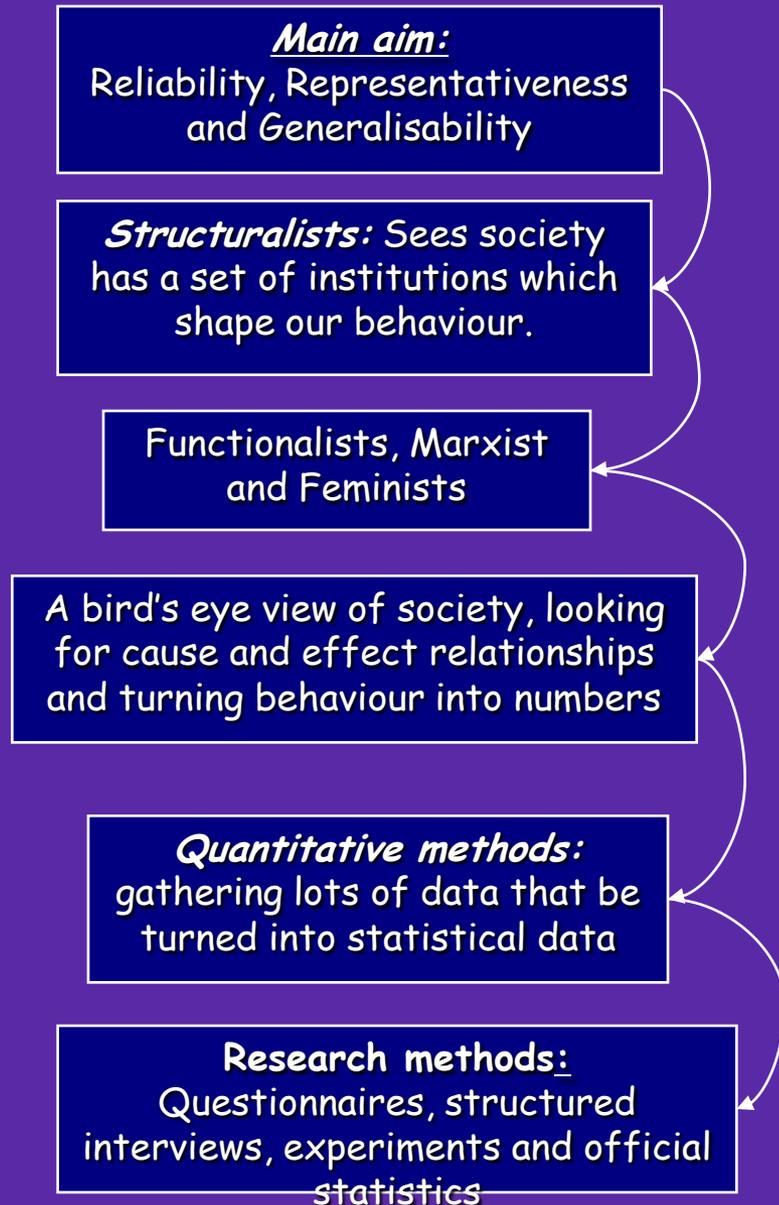
Theoretical issues

- *Validity* - Getting results that are true to life, *qualitative* methods are seen to do this the best.
- *Reliability* - getting results that be replicated, *quantitative* methods allow for this.
- *Representativeness* - getting results that reflects all of society, large scale quantitative questionnaires allow researchers to make *generalisations*.
- Whether the researcher is a *Positivist or Interpretivist*

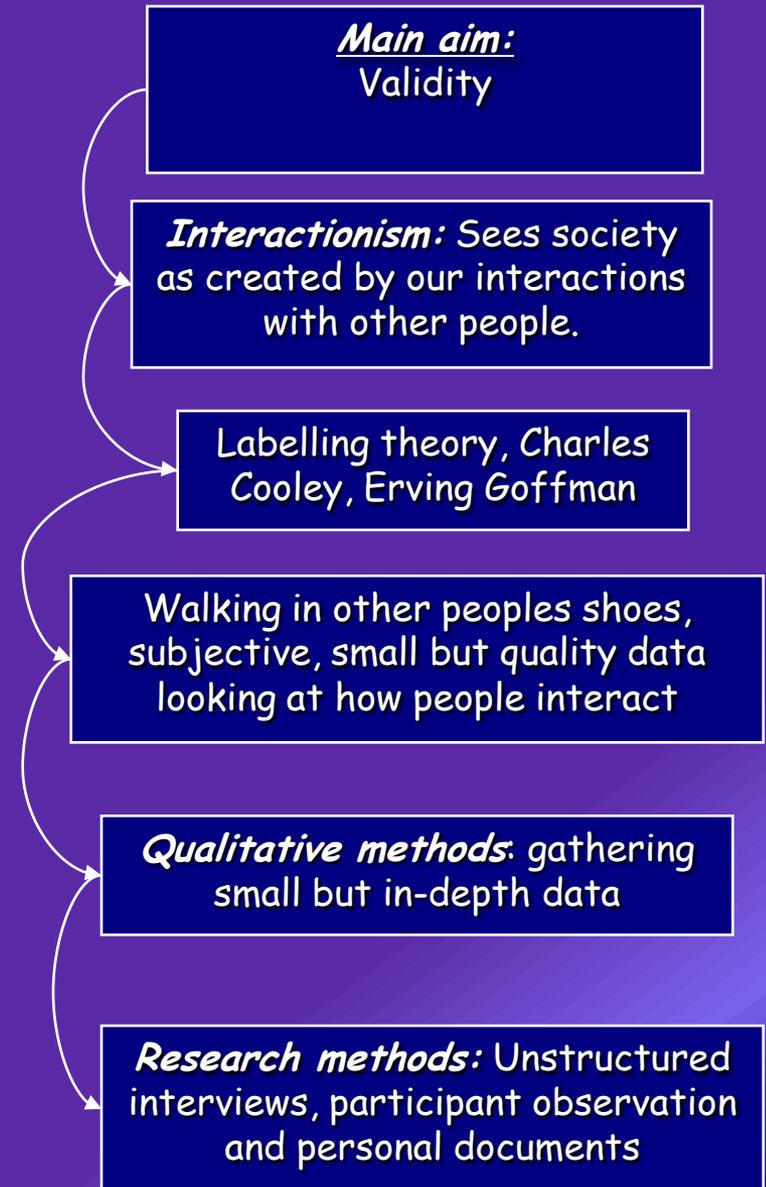
P.E.R.V.E.R.T

- Practical - time and money, difficult to analyse
- Ethical - is it right or wrong?
- Reliable - Can it be replicated?
- Validity - Are the results true to life?
- Evidence of studies - What studies have used this method?
- Representativeness - does it reflect society as a whole?
- Theoretical - Positivist or Interpretivist

Positivists



Interpretivism



Aim of sociology: To find out why people behave as they do.

<p><u>Theories</u></p>	<p><u>Structuralism</u></p> <p>Sees behaviour as the result of us being constrained by institutions.</p>	<p><u>Social Action</u></p> <p>See behaviour as the result of people interacting and creating their own meanings and motives.</p>
<p><u>Theories</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Functionalism - Consensus ■ Marxism - Conflict ■ Feminism - Conflict 	<p><u>Interactionism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Labelling theory ■ Mead - Symbolic Interactionism ■ Goffman - Impression management
<p><u>Methods</u></p>	<p><u>Positivist</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scientific 2. Birds eye view 3. Quantitative 4. Cause and effect <p>Questionnaires, structured interviews, experiments and Official statistics</p>	<p><u>Interpretivist</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Walking in others shoes 2. Subjective 3. Interaction 4. Qualitative <p>Unstructured interviews, observations and personal documents</p>

7. Sociological theory only

Key questions

1. Does society control us or do we control society?
2. Do we need new theories to explain recent changes in society?
3. Is sociology a science?
4. Should sociology be objective and value free?
5. Should sociological research influence social policy?

Key information

- Functionalism
- Marxism and feminism
- Social action approaches - Interactionism
- Structuration theory - Giddens
- Globalisation, modernity and Postmodernity
- Late modernity - Giddens
- Sociology as a science
- Objectivity and values in Sociology
- Sociology and social policy

Structuralism

A theory which argues that the institutions of society, education, family, religion, politics, media and law & order all **influence and constrain our behaviour**.

Consensus

An approach which says society is based on **agreement**, meaning we agree on norms and values.

Uses a **macro approach** to studying society.

Modernist

Agrees with the 18th enlightenment project of using **reason** to achieve knowledge that will help **society progress**.

Emile Durkheim

Concerned with how society stayed together after such rapid change. He said society is kept together by **social solidarity** (shared norms and values) and **collective consciousness**. If these things are not maintained then society could fall into a state of **Anomie - Normlessness**.

Functionalism

Criticisms

- Explaining the function of things doesn't explain how they came about.
- Too optimistic ignores inequality.
- Too deterministic, our behaviour is constrained and there is nothing we can do.

Talcott Parsons

Its important that individuals are **socialised** to accept to norms and values through institutions like education, religion and the media.

On crime

Crime has positive functions which help keep society balanced and in **harmony**.

On religion

Religion helps reinforce **social solidarity** through rituals. It gives people a sense of meaning and gives support during times of emotional stress

Structuralism

A theory which argues that the institutions of society, education, family, religion, politics, media and law & order all *influence and constrain our behaviour*.

Conflict

An approach which says society is based on conflict between the *Bourgeoisie* and the *Proletariat*

Uses a *macro approach* to studying society.

Modernist

Agrees with the 18th enlightenment project of using *reason* to achieve knowledge that will help *society progress*.

Key ideas

Marx says institutions are used to transmit *ruling class ideology*, then in turn causes *false class consciousness* and the idea that capitalism is reasonable and just. Marx says Capitalism *exploits and alienates* the proletariat in order for the Bourgeoisie to create profit.

Marxism

Criticisms

- Out of date, especially in relation to class.
- Economic determinist - too focused on the economy and ignores gender and ethnicity.
- Marx's predictions of revolution haven't come true, was he wrong?

Solution

The Proletariat can never be free under capitalism they must cast off the shackles of oppression and create a *Communist revolution*.

On crime

Laws are their to oppress the working class and control them if they revolt.

On religion

Religion is the *opium of the masses* it doesn't encourage the working class to change their situation because of the promise of compensation in the after life.

Structuralism

A theory which argues that the institutions of society, education, family, religion, politics, media and law & order all **influence and constrain our behaviour.**

Conflict

An approach which says society is based on **conflict** between men and their subordination of women.

Uses a **macro approach** to studying society.

Modernist

Agrees with the 18th enlightenment project of using **reason** to achieve knowledge that will help **society progress.**

Types of feminism

- **Liberal** - Using democracy to change the laws.
- **Marxist (socialist)** - Capitalism is the cause of women's oppression
- **Radical** - men and women should be separated.
- **Black** - Sexism, class oppression and racism are bound together

Feminism

Criticisms

- Gender determinist - no place for issues of class or poverty.
- Patriarchy is in decline! Women are becoming more equal to men.
- Fragmented movement, different ideas and solutions leads to a lack of unit or progress.

Three Waves

1. Mid 1800's - right to vote.
2. 1960's - equal rights in pay and work
3. 1990's - representing ethnic minorities

On crime

Women commit less crime than men because they are controlled by men.

On religion

Religion helps **suppress** women by portraying women as subordinate to men in the bible and customs and practices.

Social action

An approach which focuses not on structures but the *interaction* between people. These individuals have free will and choice to determine their own actions. A *micro approach* which focuses on individuals.

Criticisms

- Ignores structural factors like poverty.
- Not all action is meaningful sometimes we act subconsciously.
- If we care so much about what people think of us and we feel a pressure to conform then this seems as though our behaviour is determined and not free at all.

George Herbert Mead

Noticed most of our communication was *symbolic* such as smiles, and frowns. It is our job to determine the meaning of these symbols and act accordingly. He calls this *Symbolic Interactionism*. Understanding the meaning of these symbols to us is the key to understanding human behaviour.

Herbert Blumer

Blumer says our actions are based on the *meaning* we give to situations, these meanings arise from the interaction process, and they are not fixed but *negotiable and changeable* to some extent.

Interactionism

Erving Goffman

Impression management is the idea that we give more or less continuous performance to each other like actors on a stage. Like actors we manage costumes, dialogue and props to give a good performance. Like an actor we also recognise when to perform and when to not with *front/back stage performances*.

Charles Cooley

The looking glass self reminds us that our self conception is made up of how others see us.

Howard Becker

The labelling theory reminds us our interaction with others can determine our behaviour.

Structure

Structuralist theories are those that focus on the institutions of society because these dictate our norms and values and thus determine our behaviour. While people can choose to act otherwise most of the time this ends in prison or social exclusion. These include Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism

Whilst its easy to see society as an *external force* which constrains our behaviour, its difficult to believe we have no *free will* as we seem to express this everyday.

Action

Social action theories are those that focus on individuals and the way they interact with each other. The reason for this is that they believe our behaviour is the result of the way we interpret and negotiate with others over norms and values.

Whilst its easy to see how we *freely choose our actions*, its difficult to see how such freedom is possible without structures like democracy.

Criticisms

- Can people just choose to change the structures of society - slaves.
- Craib says this isn't a theory at all because it doesn't explain what happens in society, just structure and action.

Structuration theory

Structure and action

Giddens says that *structure and action* are two sides of the same coin; neither can exist without the other, he calls this the *duality of structure*. He says through our actions we produce and reproduce structures over time, while these structures are also what make our actions possible in the first place.

Globalisation

The way in which we seem to live in an increasingly 'shrinking world', where societies are becoming more interconnected and dependant on each other.

Main idea

Globalisation has changed the world, such rapid social change requires a new theory to explain its effect on society and people.

Postmodernist

We can no longer agree with the enlightenment project, as this hasn't led to progress but **more manufactured risks and uncertainty.**

The end of truth - Lyotard

Lyotard argues we have a variety of *meta-narratives* (big stories - Marxism, science) all which claim to know the truth. We should reject the idea of absolute truth in exchange for truth that is relative to each person (relativism). We should listen all perspectives as equal possibilities.

Postmodernism

Late modernists like Giddens and Beck argue society has changed but that doesn't mean we have to assume we can never find truth.

Criticisms

- Isn't Postmodernism also a meta-narrative?
- We can tell the difference between reality and fantasy.

Death of sociology?

If there is no social truth about the world to be discovered then Sociology would become useless like most other disciplines such as science and Psychology.

Jean Baudrillard

He argues that all human experience is shaped by the media. Our problem is at times we are unable to distinguish reality from fantasy (*Hypereality*). We struggle to tell the difference between the real and unreal and live a copy of the real world rather than the real world itself.

Positivism

This methodological approach takes bird's-eye view of society and seeks to create quantitative data which can help to find cause and effect relationships.

It's the job of science to study the natural world and discover *objective* facts that will tell us about its behaviour. Society should be studied in the same way to reveal *social facts*.

Sociology is a science!

It's the jobs of sociologists to *discover the laws* that order our behaviour. Durkheim took this approach in his study of suicide statistics. Sociologists should use objective methods like experiments, questionnaires and statistics as these are mathematically precise and not based on thoughts and feelings

Sociology as a science

Sociology isn't a science!

Interpretivists argues that people are more complex than things in the natural world like plants. *People's behaviour is less predictable* because they have the choice to act differently and frequently do so.

Interpretivism

This methodological approach focuses on *individuals* and their *interaction* with others. It seeks to generate in-depth qualitative data that can *reveal people's meaning and motives*.

Understanding society is about understanding *people's meanings and motives*, to do this you must use methods that allow you to see the world from their point of view - unstructured interviews, participant observations and personal documents. *Becker and Goffman* have used these methods in their research.

Karl popper

1. No theory can ever be said to be 100% true.
2. Science works by **Falsification** meaning a theory can only be scientific if it can be proved to be false or true.
3. If it can't be **proven or disproven** it isn't scientific!
4. A good theory isn't necessarily true but one that has withstood **attempts to falsify** it so far.
5. Science is an **open belief system**, it can and should be constantly criticised and this will allow us to get closer to the truth.

Popper says **sociology isn't a science** because theories like Marxism and false class consciousness are unfalsifiable. **Sociology could be a science** if it produced hypothesis that can be tested.

Sociology as a science

Kuhn says **sociology isn't a science** because there is no shared assumptions and principles.

Functionalism, Marxism and Feminism all have differing ideas. If these could be resolved to create one paradigm then **sociology could be a science, but this is unlikely.**

Thomas Kuhn

1. Science is a **paradigm** meaning a shared set of assumptions, principles and methods.
2. Science studies the world until it finds conclusions that it cannot explain (**anomalies**).
3. These anomalies cause us to consider **other paradigms** in order to find answers (flat earth vs. round).
4. Two paradigms cannot exist together, at some point one wins favour amongst the scientific community, this causes a **scientific revolution**, a shift from one to the other.
5. This process starts all over again as this new paradigm highlights **new anomalies**.

Key Question

Can sociologists research be *value-free* meaning free from contamination or distortion by their values?

Comte, Durkheim and Marx

All agree that Sociology can be studied like the natural sciences, objectively *without subjective values*. This can help society improve and progress (enlightenment project). Comte and Durkheim were Positivist, while Marx was in a scientist.

Max Weber

Its *impossible for sociology to be value free*, as these values guide the type of research to be studied and the way to go about studying it. Sociologists have a *moral responsibility* for their work and the harm it may cause. Despite this although values are important we should try to be *objective and unbiased in the data collection*.

Howard Becker

Says we should ask *whose side are you on?* Sociologists always take the side of the powerful (police, courts) what about the powerless such as labelled or mentally ill? Taking the side of the underdog will reveal another side to reality.

Objectivity and values in Sociology

Committed sociology

They argue its *not only possible but desirable to use values* in their research. Sociologists should not only make their values clear but actually take the side of a particular group. *Gunnar Myrdal and Alvin Gouldner* advocate this approach.

Other issues

Sociologists research is constrained by other factors like the values of their *paymasters*. Whether a sociologist is *positivist or Interpretivist* will also affect the methods they use and the type of data they generate.

Definition

Social policy is **government policy** to deal with social problems like poverty, crime and benefits.

Key Question

Should it be the job of Sociologists to produce research in order to influence social policy?

In reality sociological research is only one factor when deciding on social policy. Ultimately any policy is the result of **political decisions** by those in power.

Factors which influence social policy

- If the research led to a policy that would be **unpopular** with voters.
- The **political values** of the government at the time. Previous parties have tried to stop research being published because it was commissioned by the previous government.
- What organisations like the **EU** think is important as no decision is made in isolation.

Sociology and social policy

To be or not to be?

Opinions from sociologists are divided, some believe their research should feed into policy. Others suggest its there job to find out what is happening and why and that its somebody else's task to figure how to solve the problem.

- Sociologists like Marx aren't taken seriously as they are **critical** of the system itself.
- Costs are important, even if the government likes the policy if **funding priorities** lie elsewhere it will never be implemented.

Functionalism - Yes

Its the job of the sociologist is to provide the state with scientific and objective information on which the state can base its policies.
The state will implement policies that help promote a fairer society for all.

Marxism - No

Social policies only serve the ruling class. Even policies introduced to help the working class like *NHS* are used to dampen discontent and keep them fit to work. Recommendations for social policies are pointless as only a revolution can solve social problems.

The New Right

The state should have a minimal role when intervening in peoples lives, so criticises most social policies. Some policies like the NHS, welfare benefits reduces personal responsibility (*Charles Murray*).
The NR promotes polices which increase personal responsibility so often favoured by the

Conservative party

Sociology and social policy

Perspectives on sociology and social policy

Feminism - yes and no

The state perpetuates its subordination of women through social policies - promoting policies like marriage keeps women dependant on men. Feminists have helped promote anti-discrimination policies and more positive images of women since 1970;s. Radical feminists support policies which separate women from men, such as women's refuges for victims of domestic violence.