

-she said that most theories that we've learned so far do not really do a good job at explaining domestic violence
Guest Lecturer Tuesday February 26th

Domestic Violence

- profile vs. typecast
- identify the situations that are most likely to have an adverse outcome and make sure it doesn't happen
- “domestic violence”—any use of physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, in an intimate relationship, including emotional/psychological abuse or harassing behaviour
 - includes opposite and same sex relationships
- domestic violence is a continuum
 - the need for power and control is often the force that moves the situation up the scale
 - love, indifference, disrespect, assaultive, homicidal
- the Duluth model
- there is no stereotype for domestic violence, it is in the behaviour
- characteristics
 - self-centered/narcissist
 - avoids responsibility
 - double standards
 - uses isolation
 - uses children
 - public vs. private personality
 - possessive
 - violent
- using violence as a tool, trying to scare her vs. lashing out, violence controlling you
- violence as a tool guy is just fine with who he is, but he does have a thinking mind and can turn his violence on and off, but accepts who he is and rejects others
- cost/benefit analysis
- can have these 2 types in the same person

February 28th Control Theories: Social and Self-Control

“Broken Windows”

- in its simplest terms, the theory states:
 - ...if the first broken window in a building is not repaired, then people who like breaking windows will assume that no one cares

- about the building and more windows will be broken. Soon the building will have no windows
- crime is the result of lax social control efforts
- police can help prevent crime by enforcing less serious public order laws

Evidence: "Broken Windows"

- popular, but empirical support is weak
- does it reduce crime?
 - ex. NYC 1990s, crime was going down, thought it was working but crime was getting reduced all over the USA
- do residents feel safer when there is increased police presence in their neighbourhood?

Why don't we all commit crime?

- control theorists assume we would all commit crime if we weren't controlled
 - class examples
 - punishment, monetary
 - morals, guilt
 - stigma
 - interference with future
- social control theories are concerned with the factors that **prevent** crime, not the factors that motivate it
- most other theories are "push" theories, what pushes them towards it?
- control theories are "pull" theories, what makes them conform, pulling them back from crime
- thinking more about younger people when they posit
 - pressure and inducement to crime
- we conform in response to controlling forces (social bonds and internalized law-abiding norms)
- when controls are defective or absent, we are more likely to commit crime
- very distinct from learning approach

Assumptions of control theories

- assumptions about human nature
 - motivation is a given, conformity is what needs explanation
 - humans are self-interested, require socialization to prevent offending
 - choose behaviour out of free will

- consider the degree to which they're committed to conventional society,
- adding a social component to the cost-benefit analysis we saw with rational choice theory
- people would worry about the damaging facts of relationships
- nature of crime
 - exciting, opportunistic, requires little skill, doesn't require teaching
 - consists of acts of force or fraud that are undertaken in the pursuit of self-interest=crime
 - essential nature is that it provides immediate and easy gratification
 - getting something very quickly with little investment
 - lone activity, not a group one
 - people don't tend to specialize
- causal logic
 - free to commit delinquent acts because their ties to conventional society have been broken or weakened
 - no longer feel an obligation to obey the rules, so they are free to commit crime

Hirschi's Social Bond Theory (1969)

- stakes in conformity
 - social bonds to conventional society prevent crime/deviance
- elements of the social bond:
 - not 4 different types of social bond
 - attachment
 - commitment
 - involvement
 - belief
- everyone has the potential to become delinquent
- it is our stake in conformity that maintain the social order

Elements of the bond

- attachment
 - attachment/connection to conventional people
 - strength to ties to parents, family, teachers
 - parents are number 1

- want them to exert an indirect control (ex. my parents would be so mad if I did this)
- sensitivity to interests of others
- commitment
 - dedicated to conventional activities
 - time, energy and effort expended in non-crime
 - fear the consequences of non-conformity
- involvement
 - proportion of time in conventional activities
 - school, recreation, family activity insulates kids
 - limits opportunity for crime
 - leaves less time for getting into trouble
- belief
 - respect for the law, police and others in authority
 - see laws and rules as fair
 - strong sense of moral obligation

Measuring the Bond

- ask questions

Gottfredson and Hirschi 1990: a General Theory of Crime

- self-control theory
- applies to all crime
- there are inherent individual differences in people that influence their propensity to offend
- focus on their level of self-control
- self-control theory**
- crime is easy, gratifying, requires little skill, is hedonistic, provides excitement
- few long term benefits
- low self-control is a stable construct over the life course
- self-control can only develop through early childhood socialization
 - what I want now, what is fun, no goals being set
- low self control can lead to crime, but also other behaviours

Analogous Behaviours

Criminal	Deviant	Risk-taking
Destruct property -etc.	get drunk	sky-dive

-low self-control is the cause of all of these

-analogous behaviours and crime are not causally related, instead both are caused by low self-control

-major cause of low self-control

-family socialization

-poor parenting

-lack of nurturance/attachment, lack of supervision, inability to recognize and correct bad behaviour, parental low self-control, family size

-lack of supervision, could be because they don't care

-inadequate, ineffective, and inconsistent family socialization

-socialization at school

-not as personal, may sometimes be in a better position to punish/teach lessons, etc.

-strong socializing institution to keep control in the classroom

-your level of self-control is established by around age 8, thus the socialization at school is too late