

Introduction to Deviance and Social Problems

STUDY GUIDE

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Positivism

deviance and social problems are real, we can see them, see the effects of them.

Concentration on the wrong do'ers

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Absolutism

deviant acts and social problems are intrinsically real, we can see them and the outcome, can be a subject of study

objectivism: observable act

determinism: there is a cause for the behaviour, may do the act involuntarily

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Constructionism

social problems are not real, we cannot see them

Concentrates on those responding to the deviant act

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Subjectivism

Deviance and social problems is a subjective experience therefore we cannot apply objective methodologies

ask people about their experiences

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Voluntarism

Deviance is a voluntary act, expression of free will, descriptive theories are used, enjoy doing the act, no precedent for reason why they committed the act

PARADIGMS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Integrated

It is hard to pull all types of social problems in one bag, therefore applies both positivism and constructivism

PERSPECTIVES

Biological

within us, created in our genes

way of controlling: medication, surgery

PERSPECTIVES

Psychological

to do with instinct, intelligence

way of controlling: education, therapy,
counselling, medication, religion, faith

PERSPECTIVES

Socio-Psychological

learning from someone and reproducing the same thing

it is in your psyche, but has been produced by your social environment

instinct and society combined

Way of controlling: education+therapy, acceptance, sense of belonging

PERSPECTIVES

Sociological

Combination of all

all other perspectives influence socio

way of controlling: legislation, exclusion, jail, shelters, support groups, education, improving the economic system, employment

BIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF D&SP

(Caesar Lombroso) phrenologists:
concentration on the skull of human being,
irregularities identify criminal tendencies

(Sheldon) body type:

- ectomorphs: very lean/delicate
- mesomorphs: muscular (criminal tendencies)
- endomorphs: round/fat

APPROACHES

Functionalist

- everything in society has a function, all work towards one communal goal
- society is in harmony, all members of society have certain functions
- anomie: low regulation, lack of law, lack of norms
- deviance creates social cohesion/consensus, brings society back to equilibrium
- Durkheim

APPROACHES

Conflict

- not everyone is working towards the same goal
- maximizing gain, minimizing loss
- Marx: Capitalism is the source of conflict, vertical conflict
- dominant group: capitalist
- Subordinate group: proletariat
- Weber: Horizontal hierarchy - people of different religion, intergroup conflict
- micro level: starting from the individual

APPROACHES

Symbolic Interactionism

D&SP cannot happen by itself, it is interpreted differently in the mind of both parties

Herbert and Blumer

interpretation is what creates the social problem, give a label to the act

micro level start for individual then to society

PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES OF D&SP

deals with instinct and intelligence

Freud

- there are different conflicting ideas in our minds/bodies/instinct and that is why we may commit deviant acts

ID (desire), EGO (moral), SUPER EGO (instinct)

Eros: instinct of life/ Thanatos: instinct of destruction or death

Ardrey

- violence in society is rooted by prehistoric times

McCord

- Material deprivation and influence your behaviour

PERSPECTIVE: CONSENSUS

we have to bring society back to equilibrium

Durkheim: Crime is pathological

- change or shift in society causes a pathological crime because society is unable to control and deal with the problem, causes anomie and lawlessness

Georg Simmel:

- people bring new ideas to society, there is no consensus
- if consensus is shaky it is positive because society will get used to the idea

PERSPECTIVE: CONFLICT

Everyone fights for the same thing, some people get it some people don't

conflict for life: struggle for survival

Darwin: survival of the fittest

STRAIN THEORY: GOAL MEANS GAP

Robert Merton

- Deviance is created by society, society pushed people to do deviant acts
- structure/culture
 - when there is a conflict between structure and culture about what is manifest and latent, then we have conflict
- Anomie: clash between structure or society and the culture of society

GOAL MEANS GAP

- Goal is success, means to success is good education
- conformity: goal of success legitimate means towards their success: lower class, bureaucrats, ritualist, innovation
- retreatism: no goal of success and no means, negative for both
- rebellion: not accepting of the goal that society recommends, acceptance and negation of success

CULTURE OF GANGS

A.K. Cohen

goal means gap, but goal can mean status

creation of gangs

status frustration by lower class children leads
to deviance

JUVENILE GANGS

Richard, Cloward, Ohlin

deviance depends on if you have the opportunity to become deviant, it is not automatic

gangs:

- conflict: in conflict with other gangs (fighting)
- criminal: drugs
- retreatist: not into conflict

CRITIQUE OF STRAIN THEORY

Concentrates on the lower class, but does not acknowledge the upper class people and the fact that they commit deviant acts as well.

assumes that everyone has the same goal of being successful

ANOMIE: DURKHEIM VS. MERTON

Durkheim

- rapid changes, normlessness, crime may accede from its norm, becomes pathological

Merton

- tension between cultural values and structural values, success as a goal and means as a structural accessibility

DEGREES OF DEVIANCE

- **pure deviance:** highest degree, easily recognised aggressor vs. victim, objectively we can see the harm done to one or more individuals, usually laws against crime (rape)
- **secret deviance:** usually done in secret, not as apparent, it is hard to recognize the aggressor and the victim, sometimes theres is negotiation (prostitution)
- **falsely accused deviance:** aggressor is the same as victim (tattoos)

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

- notion that if someone is raised in a deviant environment, they will also be deviant
- Critiques:
 - the validity of this theory depends on our interpretation
 - identification: cause or consequence
 - initial deviance leads to deviant act

LABELLING THEORY

- part of symbolic interactionism
- someone commits an act, and the way that someone symbolically interprets it is what determines if it is deviant or not
- labeller: gives a negative label to the act
- labelled: the person that committed the act, person that the label is imposed on

LABELLING THEORY: CRITIQUES

- if you label someone as deviant, they might not think that they are, they will not see themselves as deciant
- labelling theory always deals the the labelled and not the labeller

LABELLING THEORY: CONSEQUENCES

- For labelled:
 - sees himself/herself as bad/deviant person
 - closes the doors for future conformity

LABELLING THEORY: PROCESS OF EXCLUSION

- Marking the difference
- stigmatizing the difference
 - giving bad attributes to a certain act and saying that it is deviant
- excluding the different person
 - formally: putting the person in jail
 - informally: ignore the person, no longer associate with them
- administering the different person
 - all the people that it takes to get the person into care (lawyers, judges, prison workers...)

TEXTBOOK: MORAL REGULATION

- media portrayal of crime in canada
 - people are missinformed about crime in society because the media gives a distorted view
 - personal vs. mediated experience
 - lots of crime stories come from the media
 - media is a business and wants to sell a commodity
 - time and space limits the quality
 - news is a form of entertainment
 - media wants us to identify ourselves with certain acts which leads to distortion

(CONT'D) -- MORAL PANIC

- creates fear within society
- exaggeration of rare occurrences to provide entertainment
- criticism
 - not all social reactions are the same
 - makes public look ignorant
 - media uses vocabulary to create more panic
 - projects ethnicity to enhance stories
 - brand people, give them labels

Stigma: Social Activity

Goffman: Dramaturgical approach to studying society

- status (position given by society) and roles (expectations that are associated with status) that we all have in society

CONTROL THEORY

- the more conformity the less deviance, lack of conformity leads to deviance
- Fred & Hobbs: people are naturally deviant unless they are controlled
- Travis Hirschi: we all have natural tendencies to be deviant

(CONT'D) CONTROL THEORY

1. attachment to conventional people and institutions (parents, profs)
2. commitment to conformity (if we are committed we are less likely to be deviant)
3. involvement in conventional activities (hobbies, sports)
4. belief in moral validity (morality of institutions, obey laws, people of authority)

(CONT'D) CONTROL THEORY

3 main subcategories

- social bond: Travis Hirschi (causes of delinquency)
- Shaming: create shame so that the person would feel shameful of committing the act, if society creates shame and people feel shameful of their acts they will not be deviant
- deterrence doctrine: we have to do something so that the person does not commit the deviant act

TEXTBOOK: READING 1

- Michel Foucault: not public display, rather isolation and segregation, paying attention to the soul, punishing the soul (soul is reality), discipline and punishment for everyone in society

TEXTBOOK: READING 2

- life in prison: interview with a lifer
 - alex went to jail at age 31
 - work given to prisoners is not very meaningful
 - his role in the politics of the prison because he has a better job than most
 - when he brings up the lack of influence of corrections canada he gets in trouble by the institution

TEXTBOOK: READING 3

- Restorative Justice
 - 2 types: retributive model, adversarial model
 - punitive approach: find who is the guilty person and punish them based on the guilt
 - maintain order, high support, low control
 - concentrate on the guilt not the guilty
 - victim offender and the community
 - more flexible, forward looking
 - victim should be satisfied with the verdict

(CONT'D) READING 3

Social capital

- collective and economical benefits derived from preferential treatment and cooperation between individuals and groups

PHENOMENOLOGICAL THEORY

- against positivism and theoreticians of labelling theory
- critique of objectivism: it is 'my' view point, not the one of the victim, aggressor
 - you see it from your own mind and not the mind of the offender
 - objectively studying someone else's behaviour
- critique of labelling theory: concentrate on what the labelled as a person feels
 - they do not try to understand the labeller, what they think

(CONT'D) PHENOMENOLOGICAL

- You have to pay attention to the phenomenon
 - experience of the person regarding the subject
 - the consciousness of this experience
 - Alfred Schultz: Book - The problem of social realities
 - meaning: abstract (exist in the mind of the observer, outsider, second degree) and situated (exist in the mind of the offender or victim, personal, first degree)

SEXUALITY AS DEVIANCE

- it is a way to control humans (social classes, religious practices, birth domains, legality, genetics, diseases)
- forbidding people from their human rights
- types of sexualities:
 - homosexuality
 - heterosexuality

PORNOGRAPHY

- readily available to the population, easy to find
- explicit material
- violent/non violent
 - women is seen as obedient and accepting of the violence
 - people might act that way in real life, might not distinguish between real and hyperreal
 - Social learning theory
- high degradation of women
- children viewer
 - social learning theory
 - children see the material unaged
 - affect them socially and psychologically

PROSTITUTION

- biological perspective: human genes to have sexual intercourse
- psychological perspective: desire and instinct to have sexual intercourse with more than 1 partner
- socio-psychological: social learning theory: you see it in society and it becomes normal, lack of love, use of compensation
- sociological: lack of opportunity for women as reason why women resort to prostitution, supremacy of men
- feminism theory: view 1- prostitution are exploited by men. view 2- women are not exploited, they choose this profession, they are in control of what is going on

MODELS - PROSTITUTION TREATMENT

- laissez-faire: free will, escort services, on the streets, call girls
- control regulation model: society thinks that prostitution must be controlled, medical evaluations, agencies, protected, little police corruption
- zoning model: visible, crime associated, more police corruption
- total criminalization: criminality, not visible

PROSTITUTION APPROACHES

Functionalism

- economical function
- make money, can be taxed
- contributing to needs of those who have difficulty finding a mate
- gives work
- strengthen social cohesion

PROSTITUTION APPROACHES

Conflict

- male vs. female

CENSORSHIP

J.S. Mill

- you should not prohibit anything as long as it is not harmful to people
- freedom of expression, people, thinking, religion
- no censorship

CENSORSHIP

- controlling what society sees
- against morality and religion
- if something is obscene - censored
- censoring pornography: camera society - we have to control and watch over society
- feminist view:
 - degrading to humans
 - hard pornography must be censored

HOMOSEXUALITY AS DEVIANCE

- 1962 - homosexuality was decriminalized
- berdache: native americans men that could not do the common male activities, they would wear women's clothes and do women's work
- hijaras: indian man in the world of music entertainment that are dressed in women's clothes
- wife boy, woman husband

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

- can lead to other deviant acts
- medical use: reduce pain, stress, anxiety
- recreational use: social gathering, drinking or soft drugs
- dependence: emotionally, psychologically or physically dependent of drugs or alcohol in order to 'properly' function in society

(CONT'D) DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Stigma/non-stigma

- if the dosage is low, there is little stigma to the usage
- high stigma: overdose, abuse or drugs or alcohol

(CONT'D) DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

variable for various effects

- perception: placebo effect - you identify with a certain drug
- dosage
- potency and purity
- mixing
- route of administration (smoked, snorted, injected)
- habituation
- set: subjective factors
- setting: who what where

(CONT'D) DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Road to dependency:

- Isidor Chein - Road to Hell
 - experimentation with drugs
 - occasional use
 - regular use
 - futile efforts to break the habit
- Howard Becker - Outsiders
 - learning the technique
 - learning to recognize the drug effect
 - learning to enjoy the drug effect
 - dependence

MENTAL DISORDERS

Ascribed deviance

- statuses: achieved vs. ascribed
- sociological reasons for mental disorders (anorexia)
- psychological: anxiety, stress, schizophrenia
- socio-psychological: being abused as a child
- holistic view: bio-psycho-social factors regarding mental illnesses
- severe patient: asylums
- less severe patient: short term clinics

MENTAL DISORDERS

Public vs. Private sector

- institutionalization: hospital
- short term: day clinics
- hotlines, experts

Erving Goffman

- total institutions - degradation, depersonalization, modification

American psychological association - the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders

Disorders in Infancy, Adolescence and Childhood: formal, informal, medical

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE THEORY

legal reality theory

- law/legal regulations are fair, but in practice they are not fair
- law in books compared to law in action
- they are not fair in actions because law enforcement favors the rich and powerful other the poor and weak

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE THEORY

Social Reality Theory

- making the laws
- enforcing the laws
- oppressing subordinate classes
- spreading crime ideology

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE THEORY

Marxist theory

- exploitation because of capitalism
- workers have to accept whatever wages

Feminist theory

- success is less material than those in other spheres
- crimes are minor and subordinate to men

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE THEORY

Power theory

- crime done by the powerful is grander than that of the less powerful
- powerful people don't get caught as often
- stronger motivations, greater opportunity
- weaker social control

CONFLICT PERSPECTIVE THEORY

Post-modernist theory

- west vs. the rest
- socially constructed

ADOLESCENCE AND ITS PROBLEMS

Readings: Socrates

- youth of today does not respect their elders
- clash between youth and generations before them
- institutions to teach children how to be good citizens and contributing members of society (education system)
- economic system is overwhelming and overshadows knowledge for the sake of knowledge

EDUCATION AND DILEMMAS

- parents and teachers teaching
 - parents expect children to learn to behave at school, teachers expect the children to learn at home
- gender gap
 - want children to behave properly
- progressive philosophy of teaching vs. traditional
 - child centre, individual self-esteem
 - tradition: conformity, everyone in the same box

HIGHSCHOOL

- timely issues
- precocious tasks
- drug use and abuse
- alcohol, violence
- bullying
 - minor/covert/chronic
 - moderate/covert/chronic
 - severe/overt/chronic
 - e-bullying
- peer pressure
- administrative convenience (treat us the same)
- education is a means for finding jobs

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

stages of criminal behaviour

- 8-10: stage of appearance - small theft
- 10-12: stage of exploitation - vandalism
- 13: stage of explosion - theft
- 15: stage of blazing - intro to drugs
- 15+: stage of overflowing - delinquent activities, dealing of drugs, arrested/jail time

FASHION INDUSTRY

- targets adults and youth
- young teens can make parents buy things for them
- Thorstein Veblen: Theory of Leisure Class
 - history of fashion, used to belong to the rich. they had the means of consumption, they could afford wasteful things, status marker
 - poor wanted to imitate the rich, fashion became social

COMMERCIALIZATION OF COMMODITIES

- Fashion has been a political issues, wanted to differentiate themselves from adults
- tattoos and body piercings
- hippie movement
- punks
- old school
- grunge

FASHION

Idea of goal means gap

SUICIDE: PEOPLE AT RISK

- first nations
- suicide is a human act not an animal act
- we are the only beings that know that death exist
- social problem: hurt and suffering
- victim and aggressor are the same person
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TYOLOGY OF SUICIDE NOTES

Edwin Shneidman

- sorry notes
- not sorry notes
- accusation notes
- instructional notes

CRIME

- Street crimes: theft, murder, rape, assault
- Elite crimes: fraud, embezzlement
- Financial street crime: burglary, larceny, motor v.t, arson, vandalism
- statistics: self-report, police and court statistics
- cost of crime: loss/damage of property, injury, death, moral panic
- crime wave: when a certain type of street crime becomes dominant
- profiling offenders and victims

SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION THEORY

- a state of society characterized by the breakdown of effective social control resulting in a lack of functional integration between groups, conflicting social attitudes, and personal maladjustment
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RAPE: ILLEGAL DOMAIN

- official forcible rape
- child molestation
- date rape
- workplace rape
- statutory rape
- war rape
- gang rape

HOMICIDE

criminal: murderous, considered a wrongful act
punishment by law

non-criminal: not considered a wrongful act, justifiable

- order from a higher authority to kill
- police
- excusable homicide
- euthanasia
- self defence

(CONT'D) HOMICIDE

righteous: in some cultures it is accepted but in others it is not

negligent homicide

manslaughter

serial murder

mass murder

FAMILY ISSUES

PARADIGMS AND THEORIES

Positivism:

- Durkheim's and Merton's anomie theory
- control theories
- conflict theories

Constructivism:

- social learning theory
- labelling theory
- phenomenological theory
- conflict theories