

Names

Durkheim:

- Macrosociologist
- Functionalism
- Positivistic approach – (science based, objective)

- Early societies: **Mechanical solidarity**
 - o Based on similarities and independence (i.e. hunter/gatherer)

- Later societies: **Organic solidarity**
 - o Interdependence and increasing division of labor (i.e. a cell)

- Culture and society exist outside of the individual, independent of the individual, outlive the individual
- Referred to this external collective force as
 - o **collective conscience** :society's beliefs that drive your decisions (i.e. what you wear in the morning)

- Cannot study collective conscience directly, but can study
 - o **Social Facts**: General social features that exist on their own and are independent of individual manifestations (i.e. laws, beliefs, customs, morals)

- **Anomie**: State of normlessness resulting from lack of clear goals – results in higher suicide rates
- **Fatalistic suicide**: Too much regulation
- **Altruistic suicide**: Too much integration
- **Egoistic suicide**: Not enough integration

Weber

- Macrosociologist
- Symbolic Interactionist

- **Verstehen**: Weber's term for a deep understanding and interpretation of subjective social meanings (understanding the meaning of an action from the actors point of view)

Marx:

- Macrosociologist
- Conflict Theory

- **False Consciousness**: Believing and supporting the system that oppresses you
- **Class Consciousness**: Realizing that you are being oppressed

- **Base**: The material and economic foundation for society, made up of the forces of production and relations of production
- **Superstructure**: All the things that society values and aspires to once its material needs are met (i.e. religion, politics, law)

- **Forces of production**: Physical and intellectual resources a society has with which to make a living
- **Relations of production**: The relationship between workers and owners

- **Alienation**: Marxist concept to describe the process by which workers lack connections to what they produce and become separated from themselves and other workers

- **Ideology**: A set of beliefs and values that support and justify the ruling class of a society

Mead:

- Microsociologist

- Symbolic Interactionist
- The I, Me, Self
 - o **I:** Element of self that is spontaneous, creative, impulsive
 - o **Me:** Socialized element of self
 - o **Self:** Comprised of the I and the Me
- **Significant Other:** Those we want to gain approval from
- **Generalized Other:** Not one specific person, but a compilation of attributes we associate with the average member of society
- How young children are socialized; pass through 3 stages
 - o **Preparatory stage** (0-3)
 - Developing the I
 - Imitate what they see others doing
 - Please significant other
 - o **Play stage** (3-5)
 - Assume the roles of others
 - 'me' continues to grow
 - o **Game Stage** (elementary school)
 - Taking multiple roles at once
 - **Primary Socialization** begins – when people learn attitudes, values, appropriate behaviors for individuals in their culture.
- **Secondary Socialization:** Early adolescence and beyond
 - o Occurs through participation in more specific groups with defined roles and expectations
- **Life course:** Socialization occurring in adulthood

Blumer:

- Microsociologist
- Symbolic Interactionist
- People do not respond directly to the world around them, but instead to the meanings they collectively apply to it.

Cooley:

- Microsociologist
- Symbolic Interactionist
- **Thomas Theorem:** If we define situations as real, they are real in their consequences. (If we believe something to be true, it is true to you)

McLuhan:

- Coined term 'Global Village'
- Electronic media collapse space and time and enable people everywhere to interact and experience life on a global scale.

Innis:

- The first Canadian sociologist to investigate Canada's political economy in *The Fur Trade in Canada* and *The Cod Fisheries*
- Developed what is called **staple thesis:** says that Canadian development was based on exploitation of raw materials that were sent to European countries to fuel own industrial thirsts.
- Canadian society defined by realization that Canada is not one of the world's major economic or social forces

Berger:

- Emphasized that the ability to recognize general social patterns in particular events is one of the traits of sociological perspective.
- Encouraged the ability to perceive the strange in the familiar

Foucault:

- Understands power not as an entity, but as constituted within social relations.
- Perceives individuals as having the agency to resist and even change power relations
- Links power with knowledge through his concept of **discourse**

- **Discourse** – A system of truths that serve to structure how people think about certain subjects
- **Discipline** – A form of modern power that works through normalizing judgment rather than force or coercion

Hooks: Bell Hooks

- Critiques the erasure of black women's identities in the context of the women's movement
- Focuses on inseparability of race and gender

Smith: Dorothy Smith

- Feminist theory – Begins with the actualities of people's lives and addresses how people are influenced by social relations outside their particular worlds
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Hobbes:

- **Natural state:** Conception of the human condition before the emergence of formal social structures

- Government's appropriate role lies in preserving peace while allowing individuals to pursue their self-interests

Locke:

- **Tabula Rasa:** Blank slate.
- Believe in individual freedom and autonomy

Sheldon:

- Believed the 3 body types, ectomorph, mesomorph, endomorph was associated with criminality

Rousseau:

- Analysis of the **social contract** and his belief in individual autonomy

Said:

- Orientalism
 - o Outlines the West's false opposition between it and the Orient (the East), where the West is considered superior to the East.
 - o 3 forms: **Academic, Imaginative, Institutional.** (All)

Gramsci:

- Theory of **hegemony** – The ruling class dominates through the permeation of its ideology. Its prevailing philosophy, culture and morality become internalized by the population and appear as common sense.

Butler: (Judith Butler)

- Key theorist for post-structuralist theory on Gender.
- Argues that feminists reject the idea that biology is destiny.

Milgram:

- Milgram's obedience study
 - o Effects of authority on obedience
 - o An 'Experimenter' gave electric shocks to a 'participant' whenever a wrong answer to a question was given

- o Most 'experimenters' continued to give shocks even though they heard sounds of pain

Oberg:

- 4 stage model to understand a person's progression through feelings of culture shock
 - o **Honeymoon** – admiration and awe of new culture
 - o **Crisis** – differences in values, signs, symbols inspire feelings of confusion, inadequacy, anger, despair
 - o **Recovery** – Crisis resolved with growing understanding of host culture and values are consistent with view of the world
 - o **Adjustment** – Increasing ability to function effectively and enjoy host culture, occasional feelings of anxiety/stress

Piaget:

- Cognitive development
- Interested in how young people progress through distinct developmental stages; believed children pass through 4 stages
 - o **Sensorimotor stage (0-2)**
 - Learn world through 5 senses, attachment to caregivers
 - o **Preoperational stage (2-7)**
 - Begin using imagination, develop language skills
 - Influenced by fantasy
 - Thinks everyone sees world as they do
 - o **Concrete operational stage (7-11)**
 - See causal connections in environment and make logical conclusion
 - o **Formal operational stage (12+)**
 - Abstract reasoning, can have alternative solution to problems

Freud:

- Believed that people behaved according to drives and experiences
- Psychosocial Development
 - o **Defense Mechanism:** Term to describe the ways in which individuals manage painful memories
 - o **Id:** One's biological drives and impulses that strive for instant gratification
 - o **Superego:** All the norms, values and morals learned through socialization
 - o **Ego:** Intermediary between the id and superego. Provides socially acceptable ways to achieve wants

Ericson:

- Psychosocial development
- 8 Stages of development – each marked by need to overcome a unique crisis
- Culture also plays a critical role

Engles:

- Collaborated with Marx
- Conflict theorist
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Siedman:

- People tend to cultivate identities of masculine men and feminine women to avoid being mislabeled as homosexual
- Many feminist sociologists argue that sexuality and gender are linked – those who assume a heterosexual identity are often believed to have a normal gender identity. Gender deviance is assumed to be a sign of homosexuality

Becker:

- It is not the act itself but rather people's reactions to the act that makes it deviant.

Merton:

- Functionalism
- **Strain Theory:** The assertion that people experience strain when culturally defined goals cannot be met through socially approved means

Mills:

- Defined **Sociological Imagination** (Ability to view yourself as the product of social forces.)

Concepts

- Positivism vs. anti positivism

- o **Positivist Approach:** Views science as the foundation of all understanding. There is a single objective reality that is knowable through observation, experimentation and logic.
- o **Anti Positivist:** We cannot understand our social world solely through science, need to appreciate human subjectivity and judgments of moral value

- Linguistic determinism

- o Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis
- o Language determines thought

- *Culture*

- o Complex collection of values, beliefs, behaviors and material objects shared by a group and passed on from one generation to the next.
- o 5 features: learned, shared, transmitted, cumulative, human

- Minority status

- o **Minority Group:** Any definable category of people who are socially disadvantaged. Lack power and visibly different from the majority group

- Race

- o **Race:** considered to be a socially constructed concept.
- o Actual genetic differences among what are called races are tiny and determine neither behavioral nor biological differences.
- o **Ethnicity:** Socially constructed to the extent that it encompasses minority or majority status, language, customs and religion
- o Psychological approaches to prejudice and discrimination include

- Scapegoat and authoritarian personality
- o Socio-cultural approaches include
 - Culture, functionalist, conflict, symbolic interactionist, multiracial feminist, post-colonial theories
- o The 5 general categories of inter-group minority relations, from most exclusionary to most inclusive are
 - Genocide, expulsion/population transfer, segregation, separatism, assimilation, cultural pluralism/multiculturalism
- o Largest number of immigrants live in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia – more in urban than rural
- o Canada's two special status groups are Aboriginals and the Quebecois.
- o Chinese Canadians are the second-largest visible minority group, and black Canadians are the third.
- o The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms upholds the right to equality for all peoples, and includes Aboriginal rights and protection of the country's multicultural heritage

- Counterculture, Subculture

- o **Counterculture:** Type of subculture that opposes the widely held cultural patterns of the larger population.
- o **Subculture:** Group that shares common attributes that distinguish it from the larger population

- Sociological perspective, types of socialization

- o **Sociological Perspective:** Views the social world through the dynamic relationships between individuals and the larger social network in which they live
- o The self develops through social interaction in a series of stages
- o 4 principle agents of socialization that influence people's sense of self and help them become functioning members of society are **families, peers, education, mass media**

- Quantitative vs. qualitative

- o Quantitative: numerical;
- o Qualitative: Non-numerical, richly detailed

- o Two approaches to sociological research

- Social inequality, meritocracy, ranked systems

- o Factors influencing social inequality in Canada are **gender, work status, family structure, age, education, visible minority status and location.**
- o Social inequality can be measured for countries across the globe using the **Gini Index** – which compares a country's cumulative wages and workers to calculate the level of economic equality
- o **Meritocracy:** A society in which resources are distributed fairly on the basis of merit

- Thomas theorem

- o **Thomas Theorem:** If you define situation as real, they are real in their consequences; If we believe something to be true, it is true for you

- socioeconomic status,

- o Occupation, Education and Income
- o Determined by family income, parents' education level, parents' occupations and the family's social standing within the community

- double ghetto

- o Situation where women have full time jobs outside the home and often work another 'shift' when they get home

- Self- fulfilling prophecy

- o A prediction that, once made, causes the outcome to occur

- Revolutions and movements that changed history

o Social Purity Movement

- Late 19th century
- Moral regeneration of state, civil society, families and the individual.
- Campaign to raise the moral tone of Canadian society. (sexual morality was main target)

- Focused on training the poor in habits of thrift, punctuality and hygiene.
- o Gay Liberation Movement
 - 1960s
 - 1969 Stonewall riots in NYC was start of the gay liberation movement
 - NYC detectives raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich village.
 - A crowd gathered on the streets, taunted police, threw rocks, bottles, bricks.
- o American Revolution
 - Generated the different founding ideologies of Canada and the U.S.

- Tabula rasa

- o John Locke
- o Blank Slate – no knowledge independent of experience

- Hegemony, hegemonic masculinity/ emphasized femininity

- o **Hegemonic Masculinity:** Aggressiveness, strength, drive, ambition
- o **Hegemonic Femininity:** Obliging men's interests and desires

- All sexualities and genders

- o **Sex:** refers to physical bodies (male or female)
- o **Gender:** Socially constructed characteristics of masculinity and femininity.
- o Gender divisions are reproduced through families from birth
- o **Pansexuality:** romantic and sexual desire for people regardless of gender or biological sex
- o **Polyamory:** involves emotional or romantic connections with multiple partners

- Alienation,

- o Marxist
- o Describe the process by which workers lack connection to what they produce and become separated from themselves and other workers

- class consciousness,

- o Recognition of domination and oppression and collective action to address it.

- forces of production,

- o The physical and intellectual resources a society has with which to make a living

- relations of ruling discipline,

- o

- normalization,

- o A social process by which some practices and ways of living are marked as 'normal' and others are marked as 'abnormal'

- o

- Looking glass self

- o Cooley

- Sexism in research

- o Sexism has been prevalent in academic research.
- o According to Magrit Eichler, the 7 types of sexism found in research are
 - Androcentricity
 - Construction of social universe through a male perspective
 - Overgeneralization/Overspecificity
 - **Overgeneralization:** When researchers include 1 sex in their study but present findings as being applicable to both men and women
 - **Overspecificity:** Occurs when sex-specific terms are used in situations relevant to both sexes. (i.e. mankind, man-made)
 - Gender insensitivity
 - When gender is ignored as a socially important variable
 - Double standard

- Employs different means to evaluate or measure the same actions, qualities or circumstances
- Sex appropriateness
 - Specific incidence of double standard
 - Childbirth and ejaculation is a sex specific attribute
 - Childrearing is not
- Familism
 - Problem from gender insensitivity
 - Occurs when families are taken as the smallest unit of analysis when individuals from the family are responsible for particular actions or experiences
- Sexual Dichotomism
 - Extreme form of double standard
 - Occurs when 2 sexes are treated completely separate and distinct social/ biological groups rather than as two groups with overlapping or similar characteristics

- Ethnocentrism, stigmatization

- o **Ethnocentrism:** Tendency to perceive one's own culture as superior to all others.
- o **Cultural Relativism:** Appreciates that all cultures have intrinsic worth

- Ecological fallacy, Exception Fallacy, Moral regulation

- o **Ecological Fallacy:** Drawing conclusions about one person from data of an entire group
- o **Exception Fallacy:** Drawing conclusions about a group from data of a person
- o **Moral Regulation:**

- Crime

- o **Crime:** Behaviors that require legal control and social intervention
- o **Deviance:** Involves actions that depart from social norms and may or may not be illegal
 - Crime is a rational choice
 - If criminal solutions entail less work for greater payoff than legal ones, they are seen as more attractive

- Fear of punishment can control people's choices
- Society can better control criminal behavior if it is met with measured severity, certainty of punishment and swiftness of justice.

- Macrosociology/Microsociology

- o **Macrosociology:** Study of society as a whole
- o **Marx, Durkheim, Weber** (MDW)
- :
- o **Microsociology:** study of individual or small-group dynamics within a larger society
- o **Mead, Cooley**, Blumer (MC)

Theories

Functionalism

- Encompasses a view of the social world as a dynamic system of interrelated parts.
- Macrosociological
- Comte, Pareto, Spencer, **Durkheim**, Parsons, **Merton** (DM)
- On Culture:
 - o Cultural traditions develop and persist because they are adaptive and maintain stability
- On Social Inequality:
 - o Social inequality serves the purpose of attracting highly skilled people to important jobs by offering relatively high rewards.
- On Gender
 - o Holds women responsible for any change in traditional gendered roles that would disrupt family and societal cohesiveness
- On Sexualities
 - o Analyzes how sexuality contributes to the smooth running of society
- On Crime
 - o Structure of society can produce social pressures that result in criminal behavior

Conflict Theory

- All power lies at the core of all social relationships and is unequally divided. The powerful maintain control of society through the dominant ideology.
- Macrosociological
- **Marx**, Engels. (ME)
- On Culture:
 - o View cultural systems as a means of perpetuating social inequality with dominant culture assimilating less powerful cultures
- On Social Inequality
 - o Views social classes as the embodiment of the inevitable struggle between the powerful and the less powerful
- On Gender
 - o Men's need to subordinate women o ensure paternity and hence the line of inheritance
- On Sexuality
 - o The commodification of sex
- On Crime
 - o Outcome of class struggle and focus on how power relationships shape criminal law

Symbolic Interactionism

- Society and social structures are created by the interactions between people and these structures can be changed
- Microsociological
- Simmel, **Mead, Cooley, Weber** (MCW)

- On Culture:
 - o Understands culture as being actively created and recreated through social interaction
- On Social Inequality
 - o Look at how people interpret and construct their responses to class inequality
- On Gender
 - o Learned through socialization
- On Sexualities
 - o Considers sexual scripts or expectations we have about what is appropriate in a given context.
- On Crime
 - o View criminal behavior as arising through shared experiences and perceptions

Marxism:

Feminism:

- Dorothy Smith: Feminist Theory
 - o Feminist theory – Begins with the actualities of people's lives and addresses how people are influenced by social relations outside their particular worlds
- Bell Hooks
 - o Critiques the erasure of black women's identities in the context of the women's movement
 - o Focuses on inseparability of race and gender

- On Social Inequality
 - o Considers how the patriarchal perspective influences what society deems to be important
- On Gender
 - o Socially constructed concept that has detrimental consequences for women
- On Crime
 - o Concerned with issues of power and view patriarchy as the underlying condition behind certain crimes

Post-Structuralism (Foucault)

- On Gender
 - o View gender as a performance, not by a stable self but by identities that are continually in flux
- On Sexualities
 - o Understands sexual behavior as a product of the discourse of sexuality

Post-Colonialism (Orientalism)

- Concerned with relations of power between colonizing powers and those colonized
- Edward **Said** – Orientalism
 - o Outlines the West's false opposition between it and the Orient (the East), where the West is considered superior to the East.
 - o 3 forms: **Academic, Imaginative, Institutional.** (All)
 - **Academic:** Refers to knowledge that is produced by academics, government experts, historians and anyone else who is producing info or writing about the Orient. This knowledge is not neutral.
 - **Imaginative:** Any representation that makes a fundamental distinction between the Orient and the Occident. Includes art, novels, poems, images
 - **Institutional:** Refers to institutions created by Europeans such that they could gain authority over, alter and rule the orient

Queer Theory

- 3 Principle areas of critique: **Desire, Language, Identity**
- **Desire:** Queer theorists aim to disrupt categories of 'normal' and acceptable sexuality and allow for its multiple expressions

- **Language:** Understood as having the power to create reality in that far from being neutral, language is laced with implicit values
- **Identity:** Perceived not as inherent within us, but rather as constructed. It is fluid, multiple, emerges through our relationships with others
- On Sexualities
 - o Challenge heterosexism – the view that heterosexuality is naturally superior – as well as the binary constructions of both gender and sexual identities

Critical Race Theory

- Racism is endemic in American life, institutionalized and linked to historical practices
- Works toward the elimination of racism
- The understanding of 'whiteness' as a racial identity implies that whites are viewed as the default position

Neo-Marxist (Gramsci)

- Gramsci considered the ruling class' *ideological* control and manipulation rather than through force and coercion (Marx)
- **Hegemony:** Ideological control and consent. A process that is constantly negotiated and renegotiated.
 - o Secured by active consent

All crime theories

- The 3 traditional sociological approaches to theorizing law are
 - o The consensus view
 - o The Conflict view
 - o The Interactionist View
- Contemporary theoretical approaches include
 - o Critical legal studies
 - o Feminist legal theory
 - o Critical race theory

Notes on Chap 14: Crime, Law and Regulation

Criminology: The scientific approach to the study of the causes of crime, crime prevention, punishment and rehab of offenders.

Crime: Behaviors and actions that require social control and social intervention, codified in law

Deviance: Actions that violate social norms. May or may not be against the law.

Social Norms: A society's accepted standards and social expectations

- Most crimes are considered deviant, but not all deviant acts are considered criminal.

Social Deviance: Refers to any acts involving the violation of social norms.

Moral Entrepreneur: A person or institution that takes action in an attempt to influence or change the development or enforcement of society's moral codes

Informal Social Control: Occurs through interactions among individuals, includes the ways in which we try to communicate and enforce standards of appropriate behavior. How we respond to behaviors makes most people stop and question whether their behavior is appropriate or inappropriate.

Formal Social Control: Exerted by the state through the criminal justice system, social workers and psychiatrists.

Discrimination in the Criminal Justice System?

- Racial minorities are overrepresented in the correctional system.
- Women constitute the fastest growing prison population.
- Young women represent a greater proportion of youth sentenced to custodial care than do young men.

Classical Criminology: Rational Choice Theory

- Argues that before committing a crime, an individual engages in rational calculations of the pros and cons of the situation.
- Sentences must be proportionate to the seriousness of the crime.
- **Utilitarianism:** Behavior is not the result of supernatural forces, but is purposeful.
- 4 Basic Beliefs
 - o People have free will to choose criminal or lawful solutions; crime is a rational choice
 - o Criminal solutions are more attractive than lawful ones if they require less work for greater payoff
 - o Fear of punishment can control people's choices
 - o When criminality is met with measured severity, certainty of punishment and swiftness of justice, a society is better able to control criminal behavior

Biological Perspectives

- **Positivism:** Application of the scientific method to the social world
 - o focused on the individual
 - o Assumed once we could identify features that distinguish criminals from non-criminals it could be possible to prevent, control and eliminate criminal behavior
- **Biological determinism:** Hypothesis that biological factors completely determine a person's behavior.
 - o Drawing influence from Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory.
 - o Shifts from rational evil to fated evil
- Cesare Lombroso argued some individuals are born to be criminals as a result of congenital factors.
 - o Criminal man can be distinguished by anomalies in hair, shape of head, eyes, eyebrows, nose, ears, skin, teeth, chin. Also low sloping forehead, high cheekbones, handle-shaped

ears, large prominent chin, hawk-like nose, fleshy lips.

- William Sheldon continued on Lombroso's thought argued behaviors could be predicted by focusing on body types
 - o **Mesomorphs:** extroverted, aggressive, muscular (Most likely to be delinquent youths)
 - o **Ectomorphs:** Thin, fret a lot, introverted
 - o **Endomorphs:** laid back, extroverted, soft and limp.

- These biological theories fail to consider influences of environmental factors.
 - o But some researchers argue that nutritional deficiencies can lead to anti-social behavior, while others argue diets high in carbs and sugar can influence reasoning processes

- Biological theorists now evaluate the link between violent behavior and hormone levels.
 - o Reiss and Roth found female fetuses exposed to elevated androgen levels display high levels of aggression throughout their lives.
 - o Male fetuses exposed to steroids that decrease androgens display decreased aggression.
 - o Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, PMS and ADD have been associated with delinquent behavior

Sociological Approaches to Crime

- Sociologists emphasize the **Ecological** distribution of crime: Meaning all social geographical and temporal inequalities associated with access to and use of environmental resources and services.

1. Functionalism

- a. Functionalists stress the ways in which many groups in society coexist.
- b. Functionalist approach to criminality has its roots in Emile Durkheim's notion of **anomie** (state of normlessness; norms are confused, unclear or not present) Such normlessness leads to deviant behavior

- c. **Strain Theory**
 - i. Robert Merton
 - ii. The assertion that people experience strain when culturally defined goals cannot be met through socially approved means
 - iii. Most people share similar goals and values. When legitimate avenues to those goals are not accessible, some will resort to deviant methods.

- d. **Conformity:** Occurs when individuals both accept social goals and have the means to achieve them
- e. **Innovation:** Occurs when the goals of society are accepted but the individual is incapable of achieving them through socially approved means
 - i. Associated with criminal behavior
- f. **Ritualism:** Occurs when social goals are rejected but the means to those goals are accepted.
 - i. Those involved with religious orders have abandoned the success goal
- g. **Retreatists:** Reject both societal goals and the legitimate means to achieving such goals
 - i. Found on fringes of society, attempt to escape lack of success by withdrawing
- h. **Rebellion:** substituting an alternative set of goals and means for conventional ones
 - i. Those who want to promote radical change and call for alternative lifestyles
- o Merton suggested social conditions, not individual personalities produce crime.
- o **Robert Agnew:** Agnew's strain theory differs from Merton's in that it focuses on micro level, the individual effect of strain; rather than macro level (social) effects.
 - Criminality is the direct result of negative affective states such as frustration, anger and other emotions that result from negative and destructive social relationships
- o **Illegitimate Opportunity Theory:** The assertion that individuals commit crime as a result of their particular deviant learning environment
 - **'Criminal gangs':** Involved in activities that produce income such as theft, extortion
 - **'Conflict gangs':** Consists of violence.
 - **'Retreatist gangs':** Given up on both goals and means and are primarily focused on consumption of drugs and alcohol
- o Present day gangs, regardless of neighborhood are involved in the use and distribution of drugs, theft and violence

2. Conflict Theory

- a. View crime as outcome of class struggle.
- b. **Criminogenic environment:** An environment that, as a result of laws that privilege certain groups, produces crime
- c. Crack cocaine vs. powder: Powder is more expensive and used by upper class, wealthier individuals; Crack is used by lower class black individuals.
- d. Conflict theorists argue that criminal law is merely a tool to protect the interests of the affluent and powerful.
- e. Should shift from explaining criminal behavior to explanation of criminal law.

3. Symbolic Interactionism

- a. **Differential Association Theory:** The assertion that the ratio of messages for and against criminal behavior in one's peer group determines whether one will engage in criminal activity
 - i. Unconcerned about why people become criminals. Explains how they come to engage in it.
 - ii. Criticized for being vague, complex and impossible to test
- b. **Labeling Theory:** The assertion that once people have been labeled as deviant, they come to accept the label as part of their identity.
 - i. Influenced by Cooley's 'Looking glass self'
 - ii. Critics argue labeling theory is unable to specify why some people are labeled and carry that stigma throughout their lives while others remain secret deviants.
 - iii. Also fails to explain variances in crime rates across time and place

4. Feminist Theory

- a. Concerned with issues of power, distribution of resources and position of select groups in society.
- b. In past, often argued women's criminal behavior is a result of psychological problems.
- c. **Chivalry Hypothesis:** The belief that female offenders are treated more leniently by law enforcement officials as a result of the latter's traditional, chivalrous attitude towards women

- d. Feminist theorists propose the leniency afforded to women was instead a function of **Paternalism**.
- e. Aileen Wuornos: America's first female serial killer,
- f. Karla Homolka: Canada's most notorious female offender
- g. Feminist criminologists characterize crime in terms of
 - i. **gender-based acts** (the nature of men's violence as it affects both female offenders and female victims)
 - ii. **gender-related acts** (the ways in which forms of gendered inequality and discrimination are institutionalized)

The Sociology of Law

Canadian Law

Rule of Law: The constitutional principle that no person is above the law and that state power should not be exercised arbitrarily

Theorizing the Law

Historically, sociologists use 3 approaches to the law

- The **consensus** view
 - o Holds the law is a neutral framework for maintaining social cohesion
- The **conflict** view
 - o Perceives society as a collection of diverse groups in constant conflict with one another.
 - o Law as a tool to protect the haves from the have notes
- The **interactionist** view
 - o Holds that crime and the law reflect the opinions of people who impose their definition of right and wrong on the rest of society
- **Critical Legal Studies**
 - o Focuses on the contradictions and inconsistencies of the law
 - o Law is contradictory and inconsistent in that it allows the context of a case to determine its outcome

- o **Indeterminacy:** Where law is unable to cover all situations
 - o Roots in Marxist tradition
 - o Laws are not neutral, they exist as a legitimized way to support the interests of specific classes and groups of people.
- **Feminist Legal Theory**
 - o Aka Feminist jurisprudence
 - o Holds that law is a key instrument in women's historical subordination
 - o Argue that despite significant gains, women in Western societies continue to be disadvantaged by masculinist laws.
- **Critical Race Theory**
 - o Focuses on oppression and discrimination.
 - o Questions the absence of diversity in legal profession
 - o Argues that racism is an embedded feature of modern society and impossible to remove
 - o Explores the link between race and law – particularly the ways in which race and law are **mutually constitutive** (that is, because racism is embedded in society, the development of laws will reflect such racism)

Crime, Risk and Regulation in Canada

- Media actively constructs our sense of who is 'at risk' of victimization, and who is at risk of becoming a criminal.
- Media is able to create a **moral panic**: Reaction of a group based on false or exaggerated perception that some group of behavior threatens the well-being of society – when they sensationalize images of crime.
- Since 1991, crime rate has decreased almost 30%
- Crime rates highest in Western Canada, and lowest in central Canada.
- **Fear-gender paradox**: The phenomenon whereby women experience higher rates of fear of being victimized even though men are more likely to be victims of crime
- **Public Order Crimes (Victimless Crimes)**
 - o Crimes such as prostitution, gambling, pornography that are believed to run contrary to moral principles

- **Moral Regulation**

- o The constitution of certain behaviors as immoral and thereby requiring public regulation

Social Purity Movement

- Late 19th century
- Moral regeneration of state, civil society, families and the individual.
- Campaign to raise the moral tone of Canadian society. (sexual morality was main target)

- Focused on training the poor in habits of thrift, punctuality and hygiene.

Welfare Recipients

- Most poignant example of moral regulatory practices is the welfare recipient.
- Through continued surveillance, single mothers' lives are scrutinized to ensure their deservingness both morally and economically) or financial aid

- In early years of social assistance eligibility was based on untimely death of a husband

Sex and Sexual Relationships

- **Normalization:** to represent the construction of an idealized norm of conduct
 - o Heterosexuality is normalized

Crime Victims

- **Elizabeth Fry Society:** actively works to reduce the number of women being criminalized and incarcerated in Canada.