

**April 16, 2012: Becker and Lemert: Labeling Deviance**

- A criminal act is criminal through the eyes of the beholder.
- **Status Degradation:** the individual is made to be a criminal.
  - o Starts out as law abiding citizen
  - o Starts as innocent till proven guilty
  - o Through all of this they lose reputation and become criminal
    - The system itself makes people to be criminal
- Researchers concluded that for some reason, the agents of criminal justice only select certain individuals to apprehend
  - o We see in the end that crime statistics may not reflect how much crime there is in society
  - o It may just seem to be a fabrication of the justice system
  - o These statistics are produced simply by criminal justice agents counting some crime and not others
  - o The surveys that people take anonymously aren't always the truth
- **Howard Becker: Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance**
  - o **Types of deviant behavior**
    - If something is perceived as deviant but is obedient behavior: **Falsely Accused**
    - If something is perceived as deviant but has rule-breaking behavior: **Pure deviant**
    - If something is not perceived as deviant and is obedient behavior: **Conforming**
    - If something is not perceived as deviant and has rule-breaking behavior: **Secret Deviant**
- **Seeing and perceiving (Secret Deviance)**
  - o You can see someone doing something wrong but perceive them as not doing something wrong

- o Two kids in school do something wrong in school but the teacher only perceives one of them to have done something wrong
  - She is biased against the kids who were apprehended
  - The kids who didn't get in trouble are secret deviants
- **Edwin Lemert: Social Pathology**
  - o Labeling People
    - The looking glass self is a concept that theorizes that a person only knows who they are through the eyes of others
  - o **Primary Deviance:** the first deviant act, breaking a norm that the individual commits.
    - This is bad because typically this pricks your conscience and sticks with you. It's hard for some people to deal with this
      - So they will push their deviance aside by saying "well I only do drugs when I drink, so therefore I'm not a druggie"
      - When others remind the deviant out on that one offense, they always bring it up and accuse the person of being deviant
        - o At some point the person just gives into the label and accepts the labeling.
  - o **Secondary Deviance:** results from the internalization of a deviant label and the adoption of a deviant identity.
    - the person acts based on what other people are seeing in them
    - this shows that criminals are created, in the perception of others
    - **retrospective interpretation**
      - the person's entire biography is perceived through the lens of whatever label he is given
      - the good a person has done is overwhelmed by all the bad that people perceive
    - **Master status**
      - My master status would be "UVA student"
      - We see in the process of labeling that "criminal" becomes a person's master status

o **Criticisms of Lemert**

- 1) deviant labels close off legitimate opportunities and leave deviance and crime as the only viable life options, this without the person's internalization of any deviant label
  - Sometimes the person is forced to commit crime b/c he is not given an opportunity in the job force b/c of his one or so offense
- 2) individuals often construct their own deviant identities and want to be seen as deviant without being labeled in the first place

o If nothing else, labeling theory accounts for biases

- It explains not the behavior of criminals but the behavior of the criminal justice system.

□ **THE FAMILY, CRIME, AND THE LIFE COURSE**

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□ **4/23/12: Criminogenic Families**

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□ In addition to being demanding and punitive, the parent also must be **responsive** to the child.

- Responsiveness is the extent to which the parent is emotionally tuned to the child's needs.
- The parent who recognizes when the child feels bad and tries to make the child feel better is the responsive parent.

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□ **Baumrind's Typology of Parenting Styles:**

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	<b>High Control (Demandingness)</b>	<b>Low Control (Demandingness)</b>
<b>High Responsiveness</b>	Authoritative	Permissive
<b>Low Responsiveness</b>	Authoritarian	Neglecting/Rejecting

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□ The **Permissive** parent: