

## Ch. 3 Constructionalist Theories

### Labeling (social Reaction) theory

Lemert, Becker

Focus on self-fulfilling prophecy

Primary Deviance

Secondary Deviance

Deviant "Careers"

Key ingredients:

Audience

Stigma

Labeling Conflict

Feminist Theory

Controlology

Not about behavior, its how behavior is reacted to by audience

Theory points finger at authorities that appoint the rules

Authority figures are the problem, not the "deviants"

Called a socialist interactionist theory- you have an interaction between a condemner and a condemned. the individuals usually attain in behaviors that are similar to their identity or what they believe to be. Your self identity is a reflection ("how do ppl think of me?", "what do they expect me to do, or behave like")

The title of a "deviant" will further push that person into more deviance

### Labeling theory-

What creates deviance is ppl enforcing some sorts of norms or rules

Self fulfilling prophecy- audience starts out with an expectation with how they think she is going to behave. If the ind doesn't follow that prediction, they punish them essentially

Stigmatizing or punishing deviance will further push deviantes into more deviance or crime

Ind who are not excepted into a group, reinforce the idea that they are different from everyone else

React back in ways that are deviant. You brought on the deviance by your own actions as the "audience"

Primary deviance- It is a behavior that you engage in in private (no one aware of it) that COULD be reacted to a social audience in a certain way. COULD pull out stigmatizing reactions by social audience

Secondary deviance- ongoing or continuing deviant acts which were caused by stigmatized primary deviance. Ex: maybe they think im a drugie, therefore im going to continue to be.

The first or initial reaction can be followed by further reaction to the primary deviance. Ppl find themselves further and further from the social group and as a result, certain ppl develop deviant careers. They see themselves as solid deviants so they continue that way for the rest of their lives.

Recidivist- repeat offender in the criminal justice system

One of the most positive explanations for recidivism is labeling theory. After they come out of jail, it is hard for them to re-enter the main society because they have been branded.

Federal Expungement Act- if the states wanted to, they could invoke a policy that a person's first time criminal offense, even if convicted, could be erased from criminal record or file.

Second chance deal because a criminal record can impede you to function in society.

Problem was that computers were getting popular at the time and ppl made businesses where you could search the background on people. Arrests and convictions would be documented by people.

Criticism - not everybody who is condemned doesn't actually go on in being even more deviant.

The harsher you react to someones deviance, the higher the chance of that person going into further deviance

Another critique- how are labelist able to predict who is going to be a deviant or criminal who continues on

Another critique- your focusing on how primary deviance stimulates secondary deviance, but what your failing to ignore is how deviants got to primary deviance in the first place (critique made by positivists)

Conflict (or Marxian) perspective

They discard the idea that rules or laws are based on the consensus of the majority of ppl

Ppl that pass laws do so in their own interest. Ppl that pass laws have power

Emphasis on social power

Powerful design rules/laws in own interests

Rules/laws differentially enforced

Powerless vs powerful in terms of shaping laws

Karl marx- very big critique of capitalists society. A capitalist society cant last very long bc the rich want to get wealthier so they deprive the working classes. The working class wants to be treated more equal.

Way to reduce criminality and deviance- equalize

Make all the ppl have the same power

If you want to eliminate crime in a particular society, you have to go socialist

Prob: in socialist societies, they still have crime

Feminism (focus on gender inequity and patriarchy)

Androcentric

Women as deviance/ criminas

Women as victims of deviance/crime

Treatment of women is dif than men. This must be changed to achieve equity to achieve less crime.

Women are not nearly involed in crime as men

Women mostly involved in "weaker" crimes ie drugs, prostitution, theft

Foucault (contrology)

State power/control continuously expanding

The amount of social control over ind has continued to increase. Has excalated and continues to escalate

Controlling deviance has shifted form informal control (family) to formal control by the law