

Development of Sociological Criminology

Socioeconomic Structure and Crime

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- The so-called "underclass"
- Child Poverty
- Minority Group Poverty

Social Structure Theories

- Social Disorganization theory-When crime rates soar and residents are afraid to leave their homes at night
 - The community is unable to apply social control on residents b/c it cannot protect the residents from x, y, and z
 - Original Chicago School of Crime-Decreasing population, low rentals with high % of families on welfare
 - Sampson Chicago School-Concentration of Poverty/residential segregation

Strain Theories

Branch that sees crime as a conflict between people's needs and their means for attaining them

- Rich people commit crimes even if they don't need to.

| | Cultural Goals | Institutional Means |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Conformity | + | + |
| 2. Innovation | + | - |
| 3. Ritualism | - | - |
| 4. Retreatism | - | - |
| 5. Rebellion | +/- | +/- |

- Agnew-
- Anomie-without norms, rules and behavior are broken down in periods of rapid social change
 - "The end justify the means"
- Merton's Anomie-

Social Disorganization Theory-residential segregation, high poverty

- Major limitation is that it looks at one context for criminality, not individual level predictors

Cultural Deviance Theories

- Decent v. Street- Code of the street
 - o The right or granted the deference one deserves
 - o A set of informal rules governing interpersonal public behavior; regulate violence and allow some to precipitate violent encounters
 - o Limitations-decent families try to instill values in their children

Subculture of Violence

- Wolfgang Ferracuty
- "if violence is a common subculture response to certain stimuli, penalties should exist for deviation from this norm." Dangers of interpretive analysis of subculture of violence.
- Anderson

Urban/rural communities-low SES and 90% white, murder

The two common dangers of an interpretative analysis that yield thesis are...

1. The danger of going beyond the confines of empirical data
2. The danger of interpretation that produces generalizations emerging inductively from the data
 - 1) No subculture can be totally different from or totally in conflict with the society of which it is a part.
 - a. How violence relates to the society
 - 2) To establish the existence of a subculture of violence does not require that the actors sharing in these basic value elements should express violence in all situations.
 - a. Violence is not continuous-we are just willing to participate in violence, expect it, and be ready for its retaliation
 - 3) The potential resort or willingness to resort to violence in a variety of situation emphasizes the penetrating and diffusive character of this culture theme.
 - a. The index of the extent to which one will adhere to the values associated with violence
 - 4) The subcultural ethos of violence may be shared by all ages in a sub society, but this ethos is most prominent in a limited age group.
 - a. Mostly adolescence to middle age
 - 5) The counter-norm is nonviolence.
 - a. Violation of expected violence results in ostracism
 - 6) The development of favorable attitudes toward and the use of, violence in a subculture usually involve learned behavior and a process of differential learning, association, or identification.
 - a. Aggression is a learned response, but not all share violent values in equal proportion
 - 7) The use of violence in a subculture is not necessarily viewed as illicit conduct and the users therefore do not have to deal with feelings of guilt about their aggression.
 - a. The attacked participate in violent behavior, so the assaulters feel less guilt.