

## Ch. 1 Intros to sociology and deviance studies

Deviance- violation(s) of social norms which results in negative stigmatization by a social audience

Positive deviance- deviant but in a positive direction

Ex: batman or Einstein (who made bomb)

Deviance is a relative topic

High consence deviance- most ppl believe it is bad/deviant

People who study are called positivists

Ex: murder

Low consence deviance- lot of ppl approve, a lot of ppl say no

Ppl who study are called constructionists

Ex: homosexuality

High consence=social deviance

Low consence= situational deviance

Essentialists/absolutists/positivists see world in black and white. Certain acts that are/arnt deviant

Key question: "what causes deviance"?

They distinguish who is deviant and who isnt

Not so clear for constructionists/relativists

Assume its not about what a person thinks or does that classifies them as deviant, it depends on the audience

Key question: how is it that certain behaviors/beliefs becomes viewed/defined as deviant?

Norms- Socially accepted "rules"

Necessary ingredients to be considered "deviant"

Rule regarding "appropriate" conduct, belief(s), or physical conditions

A rule violater (or presumed violator)

An audience of "judges"

Enhanced possibly of *negative* reaction

## Things that determine deviance

History- whether a soc group is deviant or non deviant depends a lot on their history

Ex: ear piercings, hair styles

Over time, society tends to adapt and change to social things

Ex: ridelin back then vs now

Status-

Ex: 17 year old drinking vs 21 yr old

Social context- whats the situation

Ex: 2 elderly married ppl give bjs in private. No one cares. But if they have sex in public, that is "deviant"

Deviance isn't concrete, depends on situation and audience

Book-----

Deviance is behavior, beliefs, or characteristics that many people in a society find or would find offensive and which excite, upon discovery, disapproval, punishment, condemnation, or hostility. Diviance is behavior, beliefs, or characteristics that are likely to generate a negative reaction in others

The sociology of deiance looks at informal and interpersonal reactions to behavior,beliefs, and traits, just as criminology looks at formal and legal reactions to crime.

The study of deviance is about making rules, breaking rules, and reactions to breaking rules.

Deviance is a process, not specific forms of behaviors.

Societies everywhere have rules or norms governing what we may and may not do, how we should think, what we should believe, and even how we should look, and those norms are so detailed and complex, and so dependent on the views of dif evaluatiors, that what everyone does, believes, and is, is looked on negatively by *someone*.

What makes a given act deviant is the way it is seen ,regarded, judged, evaluated, and the way that others-audiences- treat the person who engages in that act

Impossible to abide by all of the rules all of the time, since a lot contradict eachother

The words deviance and deviant are absolutely nonpejorative-they are descriptive terms that apply to what others think and how they are likely to react

Two sides to judgments of deviance

Vertical/hierarchical side-people with more power (or majority of a society) get to say what's dev

Horizontal/grassroots/mosaic side-deviance can be anything that *any* collectivity says it is, no matter how little power they have

Societal deviance -composed of those actions and conditions that are widely recognized, in advance and in general, to be deviant. There is a high degree of consensus on the identification of certain categories of deviance

Ex: rape, robbery, terrorism

Situational deviance- does not exist as a general or society-wide quality, but in actual, concrete social gatherings, circles, or settings. A given ind may not have been regarded as a deviant situationally-for instance, in his or her specific community or group or collectivity or social circle- but may enact a category of behavior or possess a condition that is so widely condemned that it is societally deviant

Ex: homosexuality in different cities is accepted differently

Social scientists say that a dominant belief or institution is *hegemonic*- it holds sway over beliefs held or institutions supported by less powerful social groupings in the society.

High consensus deviance- there is widespread agreement as to their deviant character

Low consensus deviance- public opinion is divided about their deviant status. What fetches condemnation in one social circle produces indifference or even praise in another

Abc's of deviance- attitudes, behavior, and conditions

Attitudes-unpopular and unconventional beliefs that may or may not manifest themselves in overt actions

Behavior- any overt action that is likely to attract condemnation, hostility, or punishment

Condition- phy characteristics or traits that likewise, make someone a target of an audience's disapproval, avoidance, derision, or other types of negative social reactions

Cognitive deviance- holding unconventional unorthodox, unpopular (or deviant) beliefs

Includes: religious, political, and scientific beliefs that are regarded as unacceptable.

Holders of unacceptable beliefs have been attacked, almost as often and severely as enactors

Something doesn't have to be "wrong" or "bad" to be deviant. It is that it is frowned upon by the public which makes it deviant

Possessing unacceptable physical traits is deviant because normal ppl treat them differently

Achieved status-status that must be acquired.