

SOC ch.6 Notes

gang: an ongoing group of people, often young, who band together for purposes generally considered deviant or criminal by the larger society

- low-income urban neighborhoods
- criminal acts to make money (i.e. drug sales)

cliques: friendship circles whose members identify one another as mutually connected

What Is Deviance?

deviance: any behavior, belief, or condition that violates significant social norms in the society or group in which it occurs.

- *behavioral deviance:* robbing a bank, drinking too much, laughing at a funeral
- *unusual belief:* far-right/left-wing political groups
- *conditions & characteristics:* being obese, having tattoos, having AIDS

stigma: a physical or social attribute that devalues a person's social identity and doesn't allow them full social acceptance

Who Defines Deviance?

"Deviance is not a property inherent in certain forms of behavior; it is a property conferred upon these forms by the audiences which directly or indirectly witness them. The critical variable in the study of deviance, then, is the social audience rather than the individual actor, since it is the audience which eventually determines whether or not any episode of behavior or any class of episodes is labeled deviant."

- deviance is *relative* - becomes deviant when it is socially deemed as such

crime: a behavior that violates criminal law and is punishable with fines, jail terms, and/or other negative sanctions

juvenile delinquency: a violation of law or the commission of a status offense by young people

What Is Social Control?

social control: systematic practices that social groups develop in order to encourage conformity to norms, rules, and laws and to discourage deviance

criminology: the systematic study of crime and the criminal justice system, including police, courts, and prisons