

TOPIC: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEVIANCE

Introduction of Theoretical Perspectives on Deviance

	Functionalist Perspective	Conflict Perspective	Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
Viewpoint on Deviance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ A normal part of society.▸ Serves the _____ of clarifying social boundaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ A response to inequality in wealth and/or power.▸ Sanctions used as a tool of social control (norms and laws protect those in _____).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Emerges through _____ interactions.▸ Is a learned behavior or attitude.
Deviance is...	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Inevitable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ _____.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Variable.
Theories	<div>Durkheim's Functions</div> <div>Strain Theory</div> <div>Social Disorganization Theory</div>	<div>Crime in high and low SES individuals</div>	<div>Differential Association</div> <div>Labeling Theory</div> <div>Control Theory</div>

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Functionalist Perspective – Durkheim

♦ *Recall:* Functionalists view deviance as a normal part of society.

Durkheim's Functions

Deviance reinforces societal norms & can promote social change.

- **Émile Durkheim** (1858- 1917): Studied penal codes and suicide.
- Durkheim viewed deviance as a violation of the _____ conscience.

• **Functions of deviance:**

- 1 Affirms _____ & beliefs.
- 2 Defines _____ boundaries.
- 3 Creates social cohesion.
- 4 Creates social _____.

Society **disagrees** with the deviance.

Society **agrees** with the deviance.



EXAMPLE

Answer the following questions based on Durkheim's views of deviance.

1. What is one way in which deviance can bring a society together?

2. What is one way in which deviance can bring about change?

PRACTICE

According to Durkheim, deviance is the violation of (the) _____?

- a) Law. b) Morals. c) Rituals. d) Collective consciousness.

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Functionalist Perspective – Strain Theory

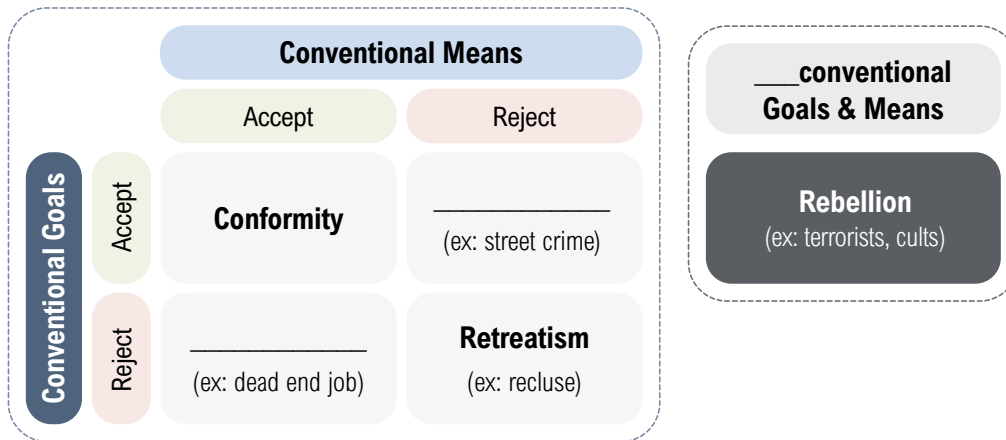
◆ *Recall:* Functionalists view deviance as a normal part of society.

Strain Theory

Deviance can be a response to social pressure without appropriate resources.

◆ **Robert K. Merton** (1910 – 2003): Expanded on Durkheim's theories.

- **Conventional Goals:** _____ society wants you to achieve (ex: money).
- **Conventional Means:** _____ society wants you to achieve it (ex: college).
- *Strain:* _____ felt by individuals to achieve certain goals.



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EXAMPLE

Descriptions of four individuals are given below. For each individual, determine how they would be described using Merton's Strain Theory.

1. Janie has a comfortable bank job that she is good at, but it doesn't interest her and she doesn't try to advance for promotions:

2. Sophie wants to buy designer purses and dislikes schoolwork. She starts working at a call center and steals credit card information from clients:

3. Chloe wants to buy a large house in the suburbs, so she pursues a career in medicine:

4. Zoey isn't interested in having a career making money, so she moves to a cottage off the grid:

PRACTICE

Which of the following **most accurately** describes deviance according to strain theory?

- a) Deviance is necessary for social cohesion.
- b) Deviance is the result of unemployment and poverty, which are natural parts of all societies.
- c) Deviance is an unnatural part of society that arises from the unequal distribution of resources between business owners and workers.
- d) Deviance may arise when someone has insufficient means to meet goals.

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Functionalist Perspective – Social Disorganization Theory

◆ *Recall:* Functionalists view deviance as a normal part of society.

Social Disorganization Theory

Deviance comes from lack of social ties and control.

- ◆ Developed by **Clifford Shaw** and **Henry McKay** in the 1920s – 1940's.
- ◆ Attributes broad social factors as the cause of deviance:
 - _____ social ties.
 - _____ of social control.
 - Found that _____ was strongly linked with deviance and crime.
- ◆ Deviance is the result of a person's environment.



EXAMPLE

Based on the social disorganization theory, in which communities would deviance be most common?

- I. A community with underfunded schools and a high proportion of single-parent families.
- II. A neighborhood with high unemployment rates.
- III. A neighborhood that often gathers for potlucks and social events.

a) I & II.

b) I & III.

c) II & III.

d) I, II, & III.

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Conflict Perspective

Conflict Perspective

- ◆ Conflict perspective views **inequality** as the cause of deviance.

Deviance in low power individuals.

- Less likely to have “legitimate” opportunities for success.
- Deviant labels have a _____ effect.

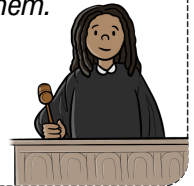
Deviance in high power individuals.

- Laws are created to protect their interests.
- Deviant labels have a _____ effect.

Belief that laws are “good” makes people unlikely to question them.



_____ inequality.



- ◆ Crimes associated with people in power have historically punished less _____.

White Collar Crime

Crime committed in a _____ environment
(ex: insider trading).

Organized Crime

Networks that supply illegal _____ or services
(ex: mob).

Hate Crime

Crime against a person or their property based on identity
(ex: lynching).

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EXAMPLE

Using the conflict perspective on deviance, answer the following:

1. Historically, how does punishment for white collar crime differ from punishment for street crime?

2. Which types of individuals (low power or high power) are more likely to be affected by deviant labels?

3. What does the conflict perspective view as the root cause of deviance?

PRACTICE

True or False: if false, choose the answer that best corrects the statement.

The conflict perspective views deviance as a normal part of society that helps it function.

- a) True.
- b) False, conflict perspective views deviance as individual shortcomings.
- c) False, conflict perspective views deviance as the result of biology.
- d) False, conflict perspective views deviance as the result of social inequality.

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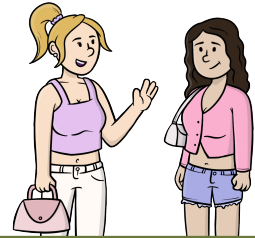
Symbolic Interactionist Perspective – Differential Association and Labeling Theory

- ◆ Symbolic interactionist perspectives focus on who will become deviant.

Differential Association

Deviance is learned.

- ◆ **Edwin Sutherland** (1883 – 1950): Focused on _____.
 - Your behaviors and beliefs are shaped by those around you.
 - Ex: Teen girls whose friends are permissive of sexual behavior are more likely to engage in sexual behavior (Little & Rankin, 2001).



Labeling Theory

Being _____ as deviant makes one more likely to commit deviant acts.

- ◆ **Edwin Lemert** (1912 – 1996): Proposed a model on how deviance influences _____-image.
 - What is “deviant” is shaped by how people respond to deviant behavior.
- ◆ We can categorize deviance by how _____ it influences self-image.

Primary deviance:

- Reaction: _____
- Change to self-image: _____



Secondary deviance:

- Reaction: _____
- Change to self-image: _____
 - **Stigma:** A powerful negative label that shapes self-image
 - Change in _____ status.



- ◆ **Deviant labels:** ____ likelihood of deviant behavior.

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EXAMPLE

For each situation below, determine if the norm violation is primary or secondary deviance. Write a “P” for primary and an “S” for secondary. Then circle any of the norm violations that you think are **most** likely to lead to a change in master status.

1	Cheating on a spelling test in elementary school and being discovered by your friends.	
2	Selling drugs and being convicted for it.	
3	Cheating on your spouse and being discovered by your coworkers.	
4	Driving drunk and causing an accident.	

PRACTICE

Differential Association Theory states that deviance is...

- a) Learned through social interactions.
- b) The result of being labeled as deviant.
- c) The result of weak social bonds.
- d) Often the result of inequality.

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Symbolic Interactionist Perspective – Control Theory

- ◆ Symbolic interactionist perspectives focus on who will become deviant.

Control (Social Bond) Theory

Social bonds _____ deviance.

- ◆ **Travis Hirschi** (1935 – 2017): Studied adolescents in the 1960's.
- ◆ _____ Social bonds = _____ deviant behavior.
- ◆ Identified _____ types of social bonds:
 - **Attachment:** Connections to others.
 - **Commitment:** Investment in traditional societal _____.
 - **Involvement:** Energy towards organized activities.
 - **Belief:** Respect for group _____ and authority.
- ◆ When social bonds weaken, deviance is more likely.



_____ social bonds
_____ deviance



_____ social bonds
_____ deviance

EXAMPLE

According to Hirschi's Control Theory, which of the following individuals would be most likely to engage in deviant acts?

- Sanjay is very close with his family. He hopes to be a doctor one day and is very invested in his education. He volunteers at his local soup kitchen and is in the community softball league.
- Jason is no longer close with his family. He has never cared much about having a career and has almost no involvement with his community.
- Kim enjoys her job, and considers her coworkers to be her best friends. She regularly organizes road races in her community.