Chapter 6

Social Control and Deviance

Lecture PowerPoint
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What Is Social Deviance?

- **Social deviance** is any transgression of socially established norms.
  - Minor transgressions = **informal deviance**.
  - **Formal deviance** or **crime** involves the violation of laws.
What is social control?

- **Social control** = set of mechanisms that create normative compliance in individuals.
- **Normative compliance** = abiding by society’s norms or following rules of group life.
What is social control?

- **Formal sanctions**: Imposed by legal system
  - Laws, law enforcement, court system, prisons
- **Informal sanctions**:  
  - Rules and expectations about behavior  
  - May be unspoken, generally understood  
  - Maintain order and cohesion in society  
  - Provide foundation for formal social control  
  - Are, for example, laws, the authority of police officers, etc.
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- **Social cohesion** social bonds, relationships, societal functioning.
- **Durkheim**: cohesion is established through:
  - **Mechanical solidarity** — sameness of society’s parts or members
  - **Organic solidarity** — interdependence of specialized parts or members
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- **Punitive justice** is
  - focused on making the violator suffer
  - defines boundaries of acceptable behavior.
  - often goes along with mechanical solidarity

- **Rehabilitative justice**
  - focuses on specific circumstances of violator or act
  - attempts to rehabilitate offender.
  - often goes along with organic solidarity
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- **Durkheim’s study of suicide**
  - suicide is a product of social forces,
  - depends on level of social integration and social regulation.
  - People commit suicide because of
    - Too many/ too few rules
    - Too much/ too little social integration
  - Explains societal variations in suicide rates
Figure 6.1 | A Normative Theory of Suicide

- **Altruistic**
- **Fatalistic**
- **Egoistic**
- **Anomic**

Dimensions:
- Social Integration
- Social Regulation

- High Social Integration:
  - Altruistic
- Low Social Integration:
  - Anomic

- High Social Regulation:
  - Fatalistic
- Low Social Regulation:
  - Egoistic
FIGURE. Age-adjusted homicide and suicide rates*, by year — United States and six NVDRS states†, 2000–2003

* Per 100,000 population.
† National Violent Death Reporting System. Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina, and Virginia.
§ Rates for 1993–2002 are from the National Vital Statistics System; rates for the six states for 2003 are from NVDRS.
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- **Merton’s Strain Theory**
  - Society sets up goals and means to achieve them
  - Individuals may accept or reject goals
  - Society provides differential opportunity or access to means
  - Results in conformity or types of deviance
### Merton’s Strain Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deviant type</th>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conformist</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovator</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ritualist</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreatist or revolutionary</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- Everyone may be tempted to be deviant at times.
- Anticipation of consequences may stop us.
- Mechanisms of control:
  - Attachment (to people or institutions)
  - Opportunity (to achieve goals legitimately)
  - Involvement (in activities, being busy)
  - Belief (in conventional morality, authority)
- People may deviate because there is nothing to stop them.
Symbolic Interactionist Theories of Deviance

- **Labeling Theory**
  - We notice how others see us
  - We internalize these labels as “truth.”
  - We behave in accordance to expectations surrounding the label
  - Deviance is a social construct.
  - Anything “different” may be labeled “deviant”
Symbolic Interactionist Theories of Deviance

- **Primary deviance**
  - initial act of rule breaking
  - may or may not result in being labeled “deviant”
  - may influence how people think about and act toward rule breaker

- **Secondary deviance**
  - acts of rule breaking that occur after primary deviance
  - result from new deviant self concept
Symbolic Interactionist Theories of Deviance

- **Stigma**
  - Negative social label that changes person’s behavior, self-concept, and social identity
  - Opportunities may be limited among a stigmatized group
  - May result in “retrospective” labeling, distortion of past (“we should have seen it coming”).
Symbolic Interactionist Theories of Deviance

- **Broken Window Theory (Zimbardo)**
  - Social context and cues impact behavior
  - More crime in run-down neighborhoods
  - Broken car window invited crime even in middle class neighborhood
  - Misbehavior seems more permissible in certain contexts – e.g. anonymity, others doing it
  - May explain crowd behaviors
Functionalist Approaches to Deviance and Social Control

- **Sutherland: Differential Association Theory**
- Deviance is learned behavior
- Learning takes place in peer groups
- # of deviant peers is predictive of deviant behavior
- Strongly supported for adolescents and teens
Behavior theories: Rational Choice

- Individuals are rational actors
- Decision to commit deviant act is based on calculation of risks/ benefits
- Decision depends on
  - Perceived benefits of act (e.g. pleasure, financial gain, group acceptance)
  - Swiftness, severity, and certainty of punishment
- Close to differential opportunity theory
Conflict theory: Deviance and Power

- Capitalist system depends on profit, productive labor, respect for authority
- Deviance defined by those in power
- People are labeled deviant if they:
  - Threaten or take private property
  - Don’t work for pay
  - Resist authority
  - Don’t fit in
- Social welfare, justice, and medical systems are primary agents of control
- Unequal justice: poor, minorities are more likely to be formally labeled and punished
Crime Categories

- **Street crime** — refers to crime committed in public and is often associated with violence, gangs, and poverty.

- **White-collar crime** — committed by a professional against a corporation, agency, or other business.

- **Corporate crime** — type of white-collar crime committed by the officers or executives of a company.
Types of Crimes

- **Violent personal** – murder, rape, robbery, assault, hate crimes
  - Probably most reported, but still underreported
  - Not “random violence” as media portray
- **Gang related**
  - Traditionally loosely organized, petty and street crime
  - Today formally organized, involved drugs, money, violence
  - More likely to involve youth
- **Nonviolent personal and property crime** – burglary, theft, breaking/entering, prostitution, drug use
Types of Crimes

- **Elite and white collar crime**
  - Usually committed in context of professional job
  - Embezzlement, illegal stock trading, tax evasion, accounting fraud, etc.
  - Involves much more money and hurts more victims, but less public concern

- **Corporate** – part of corporate culture
  - Normalization of deviance – accepted by corp, may be standard practice
  - Enron, WorldCom
Types of Crimes

- Organized crime
  - Syndicates, cartels, etc.
  - Racial, ethnic, or family basis for membership
  - Operate much like legitimate businesses
  - May produce and distribute legitimate or illegal goods and services
  - May be important actors in local or national economies
Crime Rates

- Difficult to measure over time because of:
  - Changes in how crimes are defined
  - Variations in individual reporting
  - Variations in agencies’ reporting
  - Even murder is hard to compare over time: (improvements in medical technology so more violent crime victims survive)

- Sources of data include FBI Uniform Crime Reports and victimization surveys
Figure 6.2 | Total U.S. Violent Crime Rate, 1960-2005
Figure 6.3 | Homicide Victimization Rate, 1950-2005

[Graph showing the Homicide Victimization Rate per 100,000 from 1950 to 2005 with a peak around 1983 and a decline towards 2005.]
Crime Reduction & Criminal Justice

- **Deterrence theory** - based on assumption that crime results from a rational calculation of costs and benefits.
- Stiffer penalties, increased prison terms, and stricter parole increase costs of crime.
- Rationally, this should reduce crime.
Crime Reduction & Criminal Justice

- unintended consequence of deterrence theory: **recidivism**.
  - a person who has been in the criminal justice system reverts back to criminal behavior (e.g. repeat offending).
  - Increased parole supervision – more technical violations found
  - Prison experience does not fully rehabilitate
  - Social stigma on convicted criminals makes it hard to find job
  - Living with other criminals teaches techniques and justification for crime (socialization)
Figure 6.4 | National Recidivism Rates for Prisoners Released in 1983 and 1994
Increasing incarceration

- Since 1970s, there has been a change from rehabilitative to more punitive sense of justice in U.S.
  - historically high rates of incarceration.
  - staggering costs, disenfranchisement of former felons, disproportionately high rate of imprisonment for black males.
Figure 6.5 | Size of Death Row Population since 1973
Race and Justice System

- Minorities more likely to be arrested, incarcerated:
  - 25% of arrested white youths went to prison; 60% of arrested Black youths (Butterfield, 2000)
  - Minorities make up 25% of population, but 33% of individuals arrested for property crimes and 50% of individuals arrested for violent crimes
  - 80% of auto searches on NJ turnpike from 1988-1998 were of cars driven by Blacks and Hispanics. Most turned up no contraband or crimes.
  - Profiling: stopping and detaining on basis of skin color. Built into social structure of justice system.
## Race and Arrest Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>American Indian</th>
<th>Asian/ Pac. Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pop.</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 2002
Figure 6.6 | Number of Executions and Race of Prisoners Executed, 1976-2007