

Theories of Deviance

Which of the following images depict deviance?



Crime vs Deviance

- * **Crime:** is an act that violates criminal law and is punishable with fines, jail terms, and other sanctions



Crime vs Deviance

- * **Deviance:** any behaviour, belief, or condition that violates cultural norms in the society or group in which it occurs



Crime vs Deviance

- * Deviance is relative: an act becomes deviant when it is socially defined as such**

Crime vs Deviance

- * Deviance varies based on:
 - * Location: Speaking loudly at a party vs in church
 - * Age: Toddler crying in grocery store vs older child
 - * Status: Famous actor cutting line

Brainstorm

- * What do you think causes deviant behaviour?
- * Make a list (in order) of contributing factors that can lead someone to become deviant

Theories on Deviance

- * Strain Theory
- * Opportunity Theory
- * Control Theory
- * Differential Association Theory
- * Labelling Theory
- * Feminist Theory on Deviance
- * Conflict Perspective on Deviance

Strain Theory

- * Robert Merton: People feel strain when they are exposed to social norms
- * Individuals will either work within the structure of society or break from mainstream culture

Strain Theory

- * **Subculture:** and alternative system of values and beliefs that do not conform to mainstream beliefs
- * **Examples:** cybergoth and hip hop

Merton's Deviance Typology

		Institutionalized Means	
		Accept	Reject
Cultural Goals	Reject	CONFORMITY	INNOVATION
	Accept	RITUALISM	RETREATISM

	New Means
New Means	REBELLION

Merton's Deviance Typology

- * **Conformists:** Accept cultural goals and the means to attain them
 - * To become a lawyer go to law school
- * **Ritualist:** Accept the means but may not accept goals
 - * Open just one restaurant in a chain, don't strive to be industry leader

Merton's Deviance Typology

- * **Innovator:** Societies goals accomplished through a different channel
 - * Mark Zuckerberg
- * **Retreatist:** Disengage from mainstream culture all together
 - * Hippie

Merton's Deviance Typology

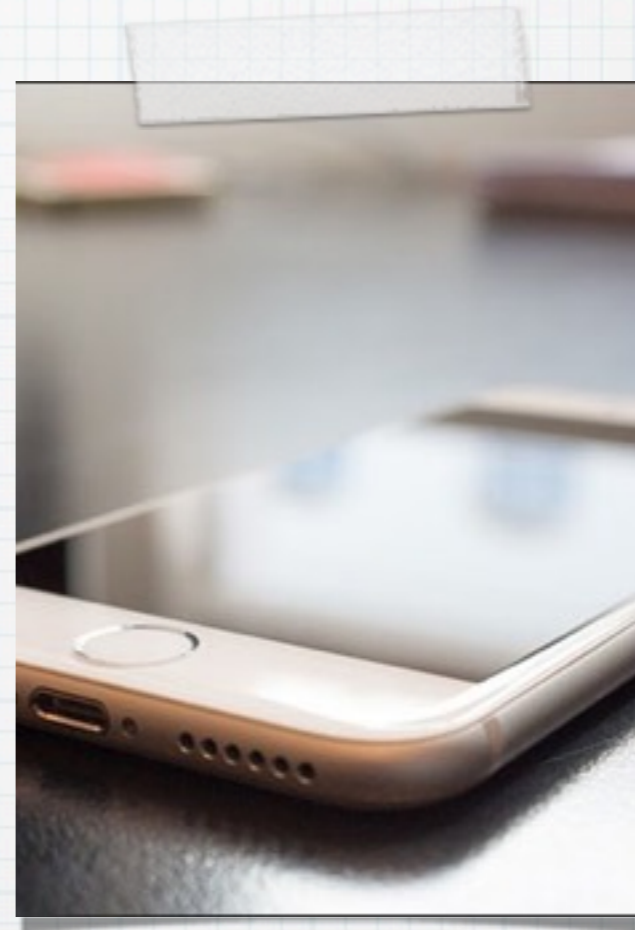
- * **Rebels:** Also reject mainstream culture but do not isolate themselves

Case Study: Riots

- * In France 2005, riots lasted for weeks sparked by youths
- * What lead to the unrest?

Opportunity Theory

- * For deviance to occur people must have the opportunity to acquire through illegitimate activities what they cannot get through legitimate channels



If you had the opportunity, would you take a cell phone?

Control Theory

- * Hirschi: Deviant behaviour is minimized when people have strong bonds (families, peers, religious organizations, and other institutions)

Attachment

Stronger the attachment, the more likely to conform.

Commitment

Greater commitments to goals, the more likely to conform.

Social Bonds

Involvement

Participation in social activities, the more likely to conform.

Belief

Belief in norms and values, the more likely to conform.



Differential Association Theory

- * Individuals have a greater tendency to deviate from societal norms when they frequently associate with persons who favour deviance over conformity



Have friends ever had a negative influence on you?

Labelling Theory

- * Deviants are those people who have been labelled as such by others



Labelling Theory

- * **Primary deviance:** the initial act of rule breaking
- * **Secondary deviance:** occurs when a person who has been labelled deviant accepts the new identity and continues the deviant behaviour

Feminist Theory on Deviance

- * Women's deviance a response to oppression and discrimination
- * Low-paying jobs force women in to illegal activity (prostitution and shoplifting)
- * Female victims of child abuse are more likely to become involved in crime than those who have not been abused

Conflict Perspective on Deviance

- * Economic elites define what is considered deviant
- * The marginalized commit crime in order to survive, not to become rich



Control of Deviance

- * **Social Control:** ways to promote conformity to societal norms
- * **May be internal or external**

Control of Deviance

- * **Internal Social Control:** Internalizing the norms of society and accepting them as valid



Control of Deviance

- * **External Social Control:** Society's efforts at social control, include sanctions



Control of Deviance

- * **Formal Sanctions:** rewards or punishments that may be imposed by people given authority
- * Ex/ Teacher gives an A
- * Ex/ Judge passes a sentence



Control of Deviance

- * **Informal Sanctions:**
Rewards or punishments applied by most members of a group
- * Ex/ Thanking someone for help
- * Ex/ Face of disgust

