

Deviance and Social Control

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What is Deviance?

How do you
determine if someone
is deviant?

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Violation of norms.

Socially defined behaviors.

It is not the act itself, but the
reactions to the act, that makes
something deviant.

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What is meant
by the:

"Relativity of Deviance?"

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Deviance is defined within
a group's framework.

What is deviant in one
group may not be in
another.

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What are examples of
behavior considered
deviant in one group or
culture but not another?

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What are examples of behavior considered deviant in all groups or cultures?

What are some causes for deviance?

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Competing explanations of Deviance

- **Biological** —medicalization of deviance, a physical illness
- **Psychological** —personality disorder
- **Sociological** —there are three perspectives: symbolic interaction, functional, and conflict

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Symbolic Interaction Perspective:

1. Differential Association Theory
2. Control Theory
3. Labeling Theory

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1. Differential Association Theory

Some groups teach members to deviate from social norms while others teach conformity.

What are examples of such organizations?

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2. Control Theory

When one's inner and outer controls are weak, deviance results.

Our inner controls involve morals.

Our outer controls consist of people who influence us not to deviate (e.g., parents).

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Can you think of an example where there was/is a lack of control leading to deviance?

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3. Labeling Theory

labels become a part of our self-concept,

they set us on paths that propel us into or divert us from deviance.

Labels open and close doors of opportunity.

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How does this compare to Cooley's "Looking Glass Self"?

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Functional Theory Perspective

Deviance is natural and functional for society.

How might deviance be functional?

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Deviance clarifies moral boundaries and affirms norms.

Deviance promotes social unity.

Deviance promotes social change

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White Collar Crime

crimes that people of respectable and high social status commit in the course of their occupations.

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What are some examples of white collar crime?

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White Collar Crime: Examples

health professionals cheating insurance companies

tire manufacturers knowingly keeping defective tires on the streets

unwritten expectations of employees to do physically harmful work

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Conflict Theory Perspective (deviance = power struggle)

- Those at top use power to create laws to maintain social inequality
- Laws are often instruments of oppression.
- The powerful are more able to bypass the court system.

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Can you think of any examples where the "well-off" were able to use the system to keep their position?

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Recidivism Rate

the percentage of former prisoners who are rearrested is extremely high.

- 3/4 of prisoners have been there before.
- 2/3 of former prisoners are re-arrested within 3 years.

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Rehabilitation

has been unsuccessful.

A major problem with prisons is that they fail to teach their clients to stay away from crime.

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The Death Penalty

Capital Punishment is not administered evenly.

The death penalty shows gender, social class, and racial-ethnic bias.

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The End