

Deviance and Social Control

1

What is Deviance?

How do you
determine if someone
is deviant?

2

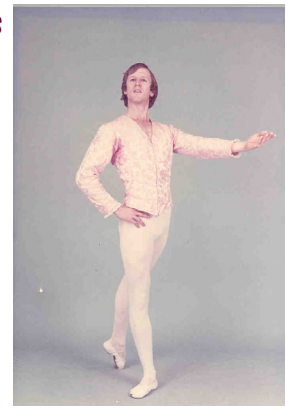
Violation of norms.

Socially defined behaviors.

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

3

Do you consider this
guy deviant?



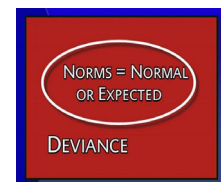
What is meant
by the:

"Relativity of Deviance?"

5

Deviance is
defined within a
group's
framework.

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



6

■ 2. An individual considered “deviant” by one category of people may be seen as “conformist” in another group:

■ Find the deviant in this picture:

Is deviance a positive or negative term?

Why? Why are we so uncomfortable with deviance?

8

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

9

Your choice of lifestyle is an abomination.

But I've been this way since I was a child.

The scriptures say it is of the Devil!

But who am I hurting by being this way?

It's EVIL! You must renounce this behavior!

What if it's NATURAL?

There's NO proof of that!

BEING LEFT-HANDED IN THE MIDDLE AGES

10

Are there any examples of behavior considered deviant in all groups or cultures?

What are some causes for extreme (can't function within society) as well as mild deviance?

11

Competing explanations of Deviance

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

12

Symbolic Interaction Theories try to explain why there is deviance:

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

13

1. Differential Association Theory

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

What are examples of such groups/organizations?

14

Differential Association and Deviance



15

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

16

2. Control Theory

When one's inner and outer controls are weak, deviance results (some equate these to Freud's superego)

Our inner controls involve morals

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

17

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.



18

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



19

Functional Theory Perspective

Deviance is natural and functional for society.

How might deviance be functional?

20

1. Deviance clarifies moral boundaries and affirms norms (clarifies what is right and wrong).

2. Deviance promotes social unity. (the 9/11 crisis pulled everyone together)

3. Deviance promotes social change

21

Is deviance a learned behavior or natural?



22

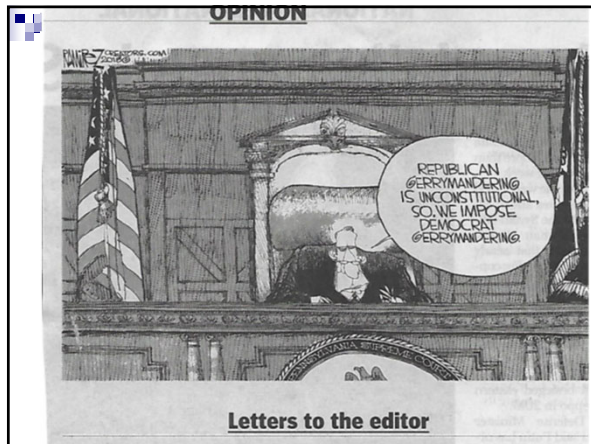
Conflict Theory Perspective (deviance = power struggle)

- Believes that those at top use power to create laws that define what is deviant and subsequently helps them maintain their superiority
- Laws are often instruments of oppression.
- The powerful are more able to bypass the court system.

23

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

24



White Collar Crime

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

26

What are some examples of white collar crime?

27

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

28

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.


29

Rehabilitation

has been unsuccessful.

A major problem with prisons is that they fail to teach the inmates (i.e., prison residents) to stay away from crime.

30



Handout examining group
think and Ashe experiment

Handout examining the death
penalty.