

Week 6
Labeling and Symbolic Interaction in the Life Course

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plan

Tuesday (week 6):
Labeling Theories and Diversion
 Service learning check-in
Thursday 10/15: Wrap up individual-level theories; distribute midterm

Week 7 - No reading!
Tuesday 10/15 Review and discussion
Thursday 10/22 MIDTERM DUE covering material through today (watch Angels)


Next
Gangs, Neighborhoods, and Social Disorganization

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labeling theories

- **Background:**
 - Cooley, Mead and symbolic interactionism
 - Who are you? Identity and survey Qs
 - Frank Tannenbaum (1938): The dramatization of evil and "tagging"
- **Assumptions**
 - Cultural relativism: no "core values" or universals; rules develop out of interaction
 - Labels affect behavior: Being caught and publicly labeled changes future behavior
 - Power affects rulemaking and enforcement

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concepts

- **Primary and Secondary Deviance (E. Lemert 1951)**
 - **Primary deviance:** original nonconforming act
 - **Secondary deviance:** results from label and identity
- **Rule creators/moral entrepreneurs (H. Becker 1963)**
 - create deviance by making the rules whose infraction constitutes deviance, and by applying those rules to particular people and labeling them as outsiders
- **Deviant careers**
 - a sequence, one thing leads to another...

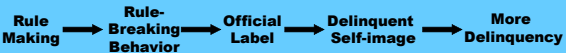
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Rios on “Hyperlabeling” (p. 45)

- Youth are hypercriminalized by law enforcement, but communities are also **underpoliced. How?**
 - Spatial demarcation (p. 56)
 - Anderson’s “Code of street” – aggressive preemptive attacks
- **P. 52: all in study saw selves as “inherently criminal” - part of persona**
 - Tyrell making “conscious choice” and calculations, given alternatives (p.50-51)
 - **P. 58 Jose** – publicly identified as criminal at 8; milk story p. 59

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sequence or career



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graph LR
    A[Rule Making] --> B[Rule-Breaking Behavior]
    B --> C[Official Label]
    C --> D[Delinquent Self-image]
    D --> E[More Delinquency]
  
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policy - diversion

- **4 Ds: diversion, decriminalization, due process, and deinstitutionalization**
 - If justice system "like quicksand," divert at door
 - Net widening progams vs. radical non-intervention
 - Often used for status offenses and property crimes
- **Wilson & Hoge 2013 meta-analysis of 73 diversion progs (15k diverted; 19k controls)**
 - Lower recidivism for diverted in 60 of 73 programs
 - Average recidivism of 33% diversion; 41% controls
 - Effects *weaker* in most rigorous designs (.93 v. .6) and published work (publication bias?)
 - Sum: "more effective than traditional processing and considerably cheaper" (p. 514)

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7

Mears et al., 2016 juvenile court diversion

- **Help, Harm, or Both? Program quality varies**
 - Benefits: cheaper, less stigma, lower caseloads
 - Costs: net-widening, perverse vendor incentives, \$?
- **"Civil citation" & police initiated diversion**
 - Issued for misdemeanors (in lieu of doing nothing or arrest or filing a formal complaint)
 - Police directly processing and sanctioning
- **Challenges**
 - Defining diversion (dismiss, informal, formal progs)
 - Unclear theory and logic behind activities
 - Inconsistent use across groups (race, sex...)
 - Measurement and evaluation
- **"Great promise, yet to be fulfilled"**

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8

MINNEAPOLIS

Detention sought for young repeat Minneapolis offenders

Policy change meant to address Mpls. crime wave.

By Miguel Otiárola Star-Tribune | OCTOBER 7, 2019 - 10:47PM



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Although overall crime in Minneapolis is down long term, violent robberies and
downtown this summer put business leaders on high alert.

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9

lessons

- **“Radical nonintervention” “works” as well or as poorly as “treatment” in national evaluation**
- **Diversion can be extended to (nonviolent?) non-status offenders**
- **[But...] Diversion is “treatment without trial:” “alternative encapsulation” and net-widening.**

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10

critique

- **Incomplete (Becker 1973)**
 - Explaining primary deviance?
- **Social construction sometimes exaggerated (“crime doesn’t exist”)**
- **Emphasizes formal labels (v. informal)**
- **Research evidence spotty**
 - weak label effect on crime (some studies)
 - strong label effect on work, college ...

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11

extensions - Matsueda



- **Symbolic interactionism (Matsueda 1992): DA+SI+ (informal) labeling**
 - **Role-taking:** project oneself into the role of others and imagine how they see you, the situation, and possible actions
 - **Reflected appraisals:** how you perceive others to see you (parents, friends, and teachers)
- **Findings**
 1. **parental appraisals & prior delinquency predict reflected appraisals**
 2. **reflected appraisal as rule-violator increases future delinquency**
 3. **Reflected appraisals “mediate” effects of parent appraisals, prior delinquency, & background**

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12

Matsueda (1992)

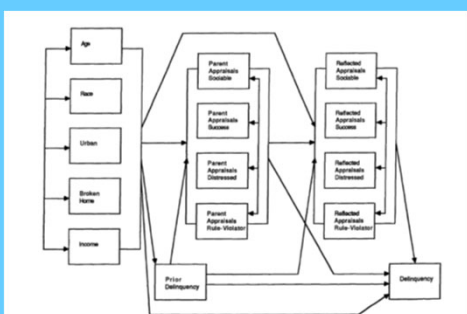


FIG. 4.—A substantive model of parental appraisals, reflected appraisals, and delinquency.

13



deviance & adulthood (massoglia (umn) & uggen 2010)

- **“Symbolic Interactionism” – DA & label**
 - Age norms & delinquency; “measuring up” as adult
 - Seeing yourself as an adult
- **Labeling question: Must you “settle down” to attain adult status?**
 - Stand shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow citizens
 - Relative conception – work & family transitions still expected of adults
 - from “hell-raiser to family man” or woman
- **Subjective adulthood as collective adherence to domain-specific roles**
 - Behavioral and labeling effects

12/17/04

14

hypotheses

1. Desistance will covary with other behavioral markers of adulthood. (S&L)
2. People feel less like adults while engaged in activities defined as deviant and more like adults when engaged in activities defined as conforming. (SI)
3. Recent arrestees will be less likely to feel “on time” in attaining behavioral markers of adulthood than non-arrestees. (LA)
4. Recent arrestees will be less likely to “feel like an adult most of the time” than non-arrestees.
5. People who think they commit less crime than others their age will feel more like adults than people who think they commit more crime than others their age. (DU)
6. People who think they commit less crime than they did 5 years ago will feel more like adults than people who think they commit as much or more crime as they did 5 years ago. (SI)

12/17/04

15

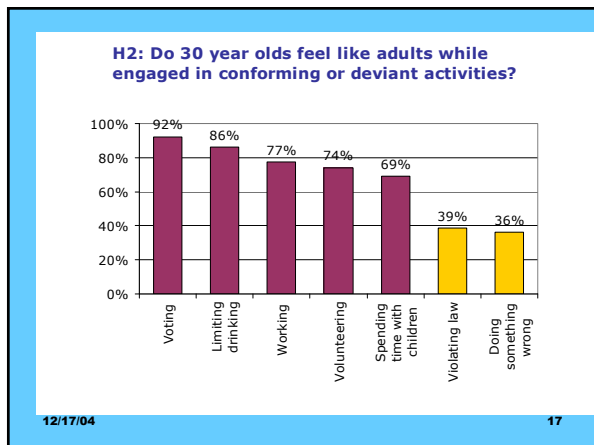
design

- **Data: Youth Development Study**
 - Longitudinal survey of St. Paul public school cohort
 - Age 30-31; 75% white; 43% male
 - 45% married, 55% had children by 2002
- **Estimation**
 - Latent class analysis for H1 [skip today]
 - Simple static-score logistic regression (controls for prior levels of dependent variable (adult status))

$$\log \left[\frac{P(Adult_{2002}=1)}{P(Adult_{2002}=0)} \right] =$$

$$= \alpha + \beta_1 Arrest_{2000-2002} + \beta_2 Adult_{1999} + \dots + \beta_k Marker_{2002}$$

12/17/04 16



H3: Logistic regression estimates of effect of arrest in the past 3 years on feeling "on time" in each domain

	Marriage	Have Kids	Complete Education	Get a Job	Financially Independent	Start a Career
Arrest	-.630* (.346)	.029 (.345)	-.917** (.347)	-.608* (.343)	-.511 (.341)	-.720** (.367)
Male	.054 (.177)	-.124 (.169)	-.472** (.176)	-.209 (.186)	-.241 (.172)	-.033 (.191)
White	.519** (.191)	.065 (.189)	-.068 (.203)	.014 (.209)	.469** (.189)	.434** (.205)
Intercept	.366** (.179)	.597** (.179)	1.117** (.199)	1.219** (.201)	.557** (.180)	.766** (.195)

*p<.10 ** p<.05

12/17/04 18

other extensions

- **Braithwaite: content of label**
 - Stigmatizing vs. reintegrative shaming
 - Restorative justice: welcome back into family, community
- **Life Course (Hagan, Sampson & Laub, Moffitt)**
 - Formal labels affect life chances (work and family) which, in turn, affect delinquency
- **Labeling “insights” prevailed but not as a comprehensive theory**

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22

next

- **No (new) reading until 10/22**
- **Good luck with the study guide and the exam!**

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23
