Lecture 9:
Social Structural Theories:
Anomie (and Individual Strain)

Nice job!

- Business
  - Exams and Evals
  - Papers (next week’s class?)
- Social Structural Theories
  - Social Disorganization
  - Anomie and “Strain”
  - Critical and Feminist
- Careers in JJS
approximate letter-grade equivalents

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On to the papers!

- Options: Syllabus pages 9-10.
  - (1) Uggen's 8-10-page paper assignment or
  - (2) a shorter paper based on service learning experiences, (research helps here too, though)
  - (3) an article-length research paper or grant proposal on a topic negotiated with Uggen and teaching assistant

- 11/15 – paper draft due
  - Bring hard/paper copy to class; draft is fine
  - Clarity, specificity, appropriateness criteria
  - 5 academic sources; ASA citation style preferred

- 11/22 – papers due, bring hard copy (but *keep an electronic copy* for yourself)

Poverty & MSP Reentry
(N. Side of Minneapolis; Frogtown in St. Paul)

- Corrections (Adult Prison, Work House, Juvenile Corrections)
- Social Services (Foster Care, Chemical Dependency, Mental Health)
- National Guard
B. Merton's *Social Structure & Anomie*

- **Background:** Durkheim and Anomie (1938)
  - focus groups & concepts like “role model,” “unintended consequence,” “self-fulfilling prophecy,” “reference group”
- **Assumptions**
  - The disadvantaged are motivated to commit crime
  - This motivation stems from a poor balance between social structure and cultural definitions of success
- **Conceptual tools**
  - Anomie (vs. Strain)
  - Common success goals but not opportunity (why?)
  - Reference groups and relative deprivation
  - Typology of balanced, ritualistic, anomic societies
  - Typology of individual adaptations to strain

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**individual adaptations**

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<th>Success Goals</th>
<th>Legitimized Means/Norms</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Ritualism</td>
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<td>Retreatism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebellion</td>
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**critique of anomie**

1. No social-psychological theory
   - which adaptation?
   - substance use?
2. **Universality** assumption
   - subcultures?
3. **Empirical support** weak (self-report data?)
4. Overemphasizes economic goals
5. **Class bias** (street crime)
   - Not radical enough
6. Reach high with low blows?
   - money can’t override honesty in dominant culture
extension I: Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity Theory (1960)

- Variation in illegitimate opportunity
- Typology of Delinquent "Gangs"
  - Criminal/Theft: Stable and integrated conventional and criminal system
  - Conflict: Instability, lack of integration
  - Retreatist: "Double failures" in any system

Limited legitimate economic opportunity ♦ Frustration, deprivation, gang formation ♦ Stable integrated conventional/criminal = theft gang
Nonintegrated, no crime = conflict gang
Double failure = retreatist "gang"

- Policy: Mobilization for Youth

Extension II: Cohen's Status Frustration Theory

- Reaction formation
- Middle class measuring rod
  - Ambition, individual responsibility, skills & achievement, postponing gratification, rationality & planning, manners & courtesy, control of violence, constructive recreation, respect for property
- "Malicious, negativistic, nonutilitarian delinquency"

Working class socialization = School failure = Loss of esteem, rejection = Reaction formation = Delinquency

Messner & Rosenfeld's Institutional Anomie Theory CWB 4

- Cultural imbalance of *American Dream*
  - p. 129: Value system of achievement, universalism, individualism, and "pecuniary materialism"
- US institutions:
  - dominance of economy & market logic (over schools, family, and polity)
  - Anomie \(\rightarrow\) weak internal controls
- Some support (p. 137) comparing nations (WVS) and states;
  - Americans exceptional in valuing competition, private business
CWB 3: Agnew’s General Strain Theory [social-psychological]

- crime due to strain & stress
  - Expands Merton to include many strains
    - parental rejection; abuse; unemployment; bad jobs; victimization; homelessness; discrimination
  - Strain -> negative emotions (e.g., anger, fear) -> crime
    - Strain also affects controls & peers
  - GST applies to rates, life course, gender differences, situations, climate...
  - Policy: reduce strains (e.g., poverty) and enhance coping (e.g., anger management)

Policy Implications of Anomie & Opportunity: Mobilization for Youth (NYC)

- “War on Poverty” and “Great Society” era
- NYC: reduce delinquency by
  - Improve education (teacher training, preschool)
  - Create work opportunity (vocational training, jobs center)
  - Organize lower-class communities (neighborhood councils)
  - Adolescent services (gang workers, hangouts)
  - Neighborhood service centers (counseling and aid to families)
- Results unimpressive
  - Bad press, Gang workers, Conflicting goals
  - Life course problem? [Uggen 2000]
[Uggen 2000: do jobs reduce crime?]

time to new arrest: controls

Among younger group...
Rios Ch. 5 “Dummy Smart”

- Low social & cultural capital -> “misrecognition”
  - “organic capital” didn’t help with jobs (Ronnie @ steakhouse; handshake with white woman), but OK for selling pirate DVDs
- Crimes of resistance (Quinney)
  - “irrational” - breaking small rules
  - respect: Flaco’s chips (p.106), police (p. 111), chess
  - resistance -> crisis of control (success!)
- Dummy smart (Darius p.113), code-switching
  - Infrapolitics -> empowerment; “deviant politics” of hyphy (hyperactive, dumb, crazy), yellow bus
  - Oppositional consciousness -> activism (9 of 40)

Next: Critical Marxian and Feminist Theories

- A. Social Structural Theories: Marxian and Conflict Theories
- B. Gender, Social Structure, and Feminist Criminology