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

Nice job!

• Business
  – Exams and Evals
  – Papers (next week’s class?)
  – Red Wing Rides
• Social Structural Theories
  – Social Disorganization
  – Anomie and “Strain”
  – Critical and Feminist
• Careers in JJS

A. Review: Social Disorganization Theory

  • Background
    – Race, ethnicity, and “Born Criminals”
    – Clifford Shaw & Henry McKay (1942): a sharp rebuke to racist stereotypes
  • Assumptions
    – Delinquency due to breakdown of community institutional controls
    – Normative consensus
    – Disorganization is caused by rapid social change (industrialization, urbanization, immigration)
    – Social disorganization leads to self-perpetuating criminal values and traditions
Social Disorganization

- Conceptual Tools
  - Social disorganization #9, p. 387
  - Ethnic succession, #12-13, p. 388
  - Cultural transmission of delinquent traditions (p. 387 – "traditional behavior")

- Methods
  - Maps! Descriptive statistics
  - Life histories

- Critique
  - Ecological stability
  - Ethnic groups do not intermingle
  - Measurement: "disorganization" = crime

SIMPLIFIED SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION DIAGRAM

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
policy and extensions

- Policy Implications: Chicago Area Projects
  - Recreation, neighborhood health and sanitation, indigenous gang workers
  - Little evaluation data (Boston Midcity - no effect)
  - But, "moving to opportunity" experiment shows promise in reducing violent crime – at least for girls
- Extensions: Robert Sampson (CWB) and "Neighborhood Collective Efficacy"
  - Combines social cohesion with shared expectations for social control (p. 152)
  - Survey measures of reaction to kids hanging out, firehouse closing; plus trust/cohesion of neighbors (correlated -.3 with crime rates in meta-analysis)
  - Videotaping physical and social disorder

Robert Sampson (Immigration as Protective against Violence)

- Neighborhoods that can realize their own values have lower crime rates
- But! Immigration story is different today
  - Not "suicidal maniacs" p. 29, but lower crime
  - "Latino Paradox"
  - Higher perceptions of disorder, but lower disorder
  - Raise denominator/not numerator
  - Vibrant low-crime cities
- Intact families as mechanism

B. Merton's Social Structure & Anomie

- Background: Durkheim and Anomie (1938)
  - Merton's "role model," "unintended consequences," and "self-fulfilling prophecy"
- 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

Chris Uggen – Soc 4141
individual adaptations

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Success</th>
<th>Legitimized Means/Norms Image?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conformist</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ritualism</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>Retreatism</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Rebellion</td>
<td>+/-</td>
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critique of anomie

1. No social-psychological theory
   a. which adaptation?
   b. substance use?
2. Universality assumption
   a. subcultures?
3. Empirical support weak
4. Overemphasizes economic goals
5. Class bias (street crime)
   a. Not radical enough
6. Reach high with low blows?
   a. 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

- 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 ➔ 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
- 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]
Rios Ch. 5 “Dummy Smart”

- Low social & cultural capital -> “misrecognition”
  - “organic capital” didn’t help with jobs (Ronnie @ steakhouse; handshake w/ 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)
Lecture 9b:
Intro to Critical and Marxian Theories

Critical Marxian Theories

- Background: Marx, Crime, and Science
- Assumptions
  - Value conflict
  - Capitalism is tied to delinquency production
  - Reconceiving crime as “social harm”
- Conceptual Tools
  - “Dialectical materialism”
  - Social classes and class conflict
  - A new typology (Richard Quinney 1977)
    - Crimes of domination & repression by agents of capitalists
    - Crimes of accommodation by working class to survive
    - Crimes of resistance by working class

- Critique of (Mainstream) Criminology

- Economic system of capitalism
- Class divisions 
- Overt & covert use of power to control powerless
- Juvenile delinquency as accommodation to controls or as direct criminalization
conflict theories/concepts

- **Class conflict** (Quinney 1975)
  - instrumental Marxism
  - law, agents, maintain and legitimate elite dominance
  - ("I win clause," drug laws)
- **Culture conflict** (Sellin 1938)
  - diversity → clash of conduct norms
  - (Sicilian father; examples today?)
- **Left Realism** (1980s+)
  - structural Marxism
  - some rules/acts unrelated to class conflict
  - reform agenda
- **Social Threat** (Liska 1992)
  - social control responds to threat, not deviance
  - (race and fear, punishment)
- **Africana Criminal Justice** (today)
- **Convict Criminology** (today)

critique

- **Critique**
  - Explaining individual deviance (not rulemaking)
  - General consensus on severity rankings
  - Instrumental model may be oversimplified
  - Norms and rules are necessary conditions for deviance, but not the sole cause
  - Positivist science vs Marxian ideology
- **Value and relevance**
  - Undeniable class bias in defining and punishing deviance (2 million poor people)
  - Scratch the surface and you find conflict in taken-for-granted laws (disenfranchisement)

Extensions: David Greenberg (1977): *Delinquency and the Age Structure of Advanced Capitalist Society*

- **Status of adolescents**
  - Child labor, minimum wage, compulsory education laws
- **Adolescent status anxiety and consumption needs**
- **Age-crime relation**
- **Others in conflict tradition**
  - Chambliess, Spitzer, Wacquant, Reiman, Colvin and Pauly
next

• Wacquant & Lynch on critical criminology
• Gender and delinquency