

**lecture 6:**

***Individualistic versus Sociological Theories***

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**recap formal controls and careers**

- **Careers:**
  - Entry, management, exit
  - Saints & Roughnecks, gang entry
  - Power
- **Subcultures v. individuals?**
  - **Subculture** – group with norms, values, and beliefs *distinct from* those of dominant culture
  - Does deviance require a subculture?
- **Social Controls**
  - Formal (e.g., police)
  - Informal (e.g., ...)

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**5 min. video: The Wall**

- Schools as institutions of control –  
what does your degree really mean?

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**Fox: punk stratification and careers  
(1987)**

- “subculture” and “counterculture”
  - Subculture - group with norms, values, and beliefs *distinct from* those of dominant culture
  - Counterculture - group with norms, values, and beliefs *opposed to* dominant culture
    - Abrasive “aesthetic inversions” of the dominant culture’s style
- Internal stratification - core and periphery based on commitment to (life)style
  - Hardcore (lifestyle + ideology)
  - Softcore (lifestyle only)
  - Preppies (style)
  - Spectators (none)

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**individual deviance? sexual  
asphyxia**

- **PLEASE:** Don’t try this at home
- Lowery & Wetli (1982)
  - De Sade’s *Justine* (1791)
  - Myths (not just middle-class white males) and rumors (INXS)
  - Rare: est. deaths of 250-1000 annually
- No deviant subculture (?)
  - Psychiatric disorder (paraphilia) vs social deviance
  - Supporters: “breath control play”
  - Partners
  - Career entry, management, and exit

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**individualistic theories of deviance**

- **Biology**
  - Interaction of biology and environment (drugs)
  - Societal reaction (e.g., to physical size)
  - Twin studies
- **Psychiatry and Psychology**
  - Personality (self-control plus social control)
  - ADHD, Anorexia, Psychopaths/APD, Paraphilias
- **Economics: rational choice**
  - When is deviance a choice?
- **Complements or substitutes for sociology?**
  - Uggens's view

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**Self-Injurers as "Loners"?**

- **Adler & Adler on cutting**
  - "convenience sample" (?) of 25
  - psychology & sociology
- **Motivation?**
- **Why no subculture?**
  - Loners and the "normative subculture" and "conventional value system"?
  - Career length and social support
- **What happened in 1996?**

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**social organization**

- **Rough continuum**
  - Individuals (asphyxiation)
  - Subcultures (Fox on punks)
  - Gangs (Sanchez-Jankowski)
  - Formal organizations
    - Corporations
    - States
- **Deviance as virus or cure for social body [Matrix]?**

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**Pt II: soc theories (syllabus)**

- **Individual (think: people)**
  - Labeling, Learning, and Control
- **Structural (think: rates)**
  - Anomie, Conflict
  - **Functionalism**
    - Durkheim, Parsons, Erikson
    - Deviance as virus or cure for social body [Matrix]?

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**Functionalism**

- **Emile Durkheim (Rules)**
  - Anomie, integration, and social change
  - Is ideal society free of deviance? "Imagine a society of saints..."
  - Deviance reinforces collective conscience
- **Functions**
  - Boundary maintenance (Erikson; Super Bowl)
  - Safety valve (CW Mills quote; Kingsley Davis on Prostitution)
  - Conflict management (gangs)
  - Signaling (change or breakdown- Socrates)

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**talcoth parsons (not in books)**

1951 The Social System (assumptions)

1. All parts are integrated and important
2. At core of system is set of values to which all are socialized
3. All parts are interdependent and reciprocally supporting (government, labor market, schools)
  - Function (+) or dysfunction (-) measured "objectively" based on values in social system
4. There is general equilibrium in system

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**critique of functionalism**

1. Some (individuals or groups) are isolated, not integrated
2. Downplays power differences
  - but some merge functional/conflict (Foucault)
3. Not falsifiable/testable
4. Insider's view: ignores deviant's perspective

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**summary**

- Criticized (unfairly?) as justifying and maintaining status quo
- Value
  - Deviance within larger system(s)
  - Positive functions are undeniable
  - Elements in every theory of deviance

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**next**

- **Lecture: Functionalism & Anomie Theories (5 min. video: Bullworth)**
  - Read Clinard and Meier: 4. *Structural Perspectives* pp. 84-92
  - Read Adler & Adler: 4. *Durkheim, The Normal and the Pathological* pp. 57-61
  - Read Adler & Adler: 5. *Merton, Social Structure and Anomie* pp. 62-68
  - Read Best: 1. *Discovering Deviance*, pp. 1-14

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