

lecture 7:

Begin Part II: Theories
1. Functionalism

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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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talcott 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

- Best, p. 3 summary
- Criticized (unfairly?) as justifying and maintaining status quo
- Value
 - Deviance within larger system(s)
 - Positive functions are undeniable (like pain for individuals)
 - Latent v. manifest functions
 - Elements in every theory of deviance

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Merton's anomie theory (1938)

- Uggen's "turning point"
- Background: Durkheim, Parsons
- Assumptions
 - Variation in motivation for deviance
 - Cultural imbalance produces "strain"
- Conceptual tools
 - Anomie
 - Common success goals but not opportunity (why?)
 - Reference groups and relative deprivation
 - Typology of societies: balanced, ritualistic, anomic
 - Typology of individual adaptations

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individual adaptations

	Success Goals	Legitimized Means/Norms	Image?
Conformist	+	+	
Innovation	+	-	
Ritualism	-	+	
Retreatism	-	-	
Rebellion	+/-	+/-	

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critique

1. No social-psychological theory
 - which adaptation?
 - substance use?
2. Universality assumption
 - subcultures?
3. Empirical support weak
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

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extensions

- **Societal:** "Crime and the American dream" (Messner and Rosenfeld 2001)
- **Individual:** General strain theory (Agnew 2001)
- **Subcultural:** Differential Opportunity (Cloward and Ohlin (1960)

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next

- **Lecture: Conflict and Threat Theories (focus on rule-making)**
 - Read Clinard and Meier: 4. Structural Perspectives pp. 92-102
 - Read Adler & Adler: 9. Quinney, Conflict Theory of Crime pp. 86-91
 - Read Angela Behrens, Christopher Uggen, and Jeff Manza. 2003. "Ballot Manipulation and the 'Menace of Negro Domination': Racial Threat and Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States, 1850-2002." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:559-605.
[\[www.soc.umn.edu/~uggen/4111 \[pdf file\]](http://www.soc.umn.edu/~uggen/4111)

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