

Lecture 16: Anomie/Opportunity Critical/Marxian

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Merton's *Social Structure & Anomie*

- Background: Durkheim and Anomie (1938)
 - Merton's "role model" 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

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individual adaptations

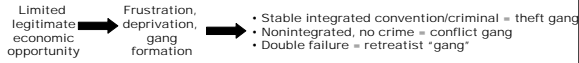
	Success Goals	Legitimized Means/Norms	Image?
Conformist	+	+	
Innovation	+	-	
Ritualism	-	+	
Retreatism	-	-	
Rebellion	+/-	+/-	

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extension I: Cloward and Ohlin's Differential Opportunity Theory (1960)

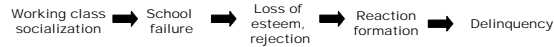
- Variation in Illegitimate opportunity
- Typology of Delinquent "Gangs"
 - Criminal/Theft: Stable and integrated conventional and criminal system
 - Conflict: Instability, lack of integration
 - Retreatist: "Double failures" in any system



- Policy: Mobilization for Youth

Extension II: Cohen's Status Frustration Theory

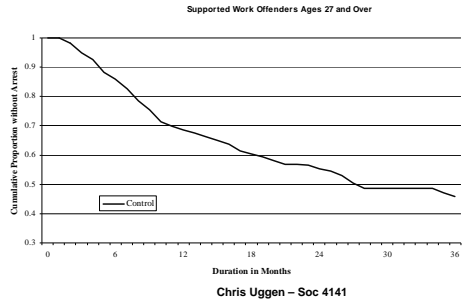
- Reaction formation
- Middle class measuring rod
 - Ambition, individual responsibility, skills & achievement, postponing gratification, rationality & planning, manners & courtesy, control of violence, constructive recreation, respect for property
- "Malicious, negativistic, nonutilitarian delinquency"



other extensions

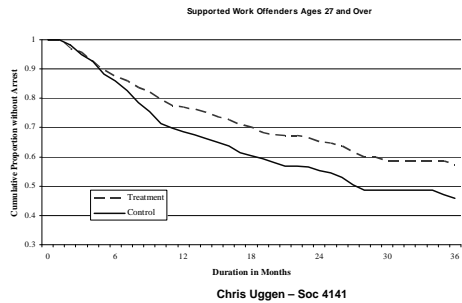
- Societal: "Crime and the American dream" (Messner and Rosenfeld 2001)
- Individual: General strain theory (Agnew 2001)
- Subcultural: Lower-class culture (Miller 1958)

[Uggen 2000: do jobs reduce crime?]
time to new arrest: controls



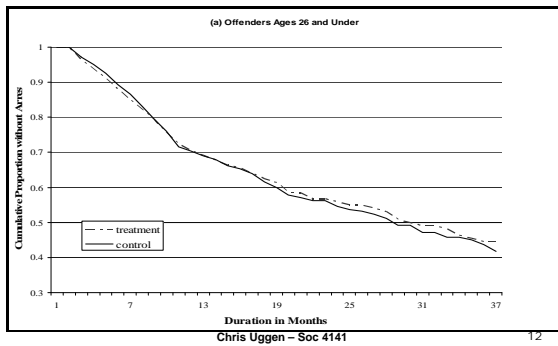
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time to new arrest: treatment



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among younger group...



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next

- Conflict/Marxian theories
- Gender and delinquency
