

Lecture 18: Gender, Structure, and Power-Control Theory

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recap

- Structural theories: From Disorganization to Anomie and Opportunity to Marxian/Conflict
- Individual theories: Deterrence/Choice, Control, DA, Drift, Labeling...
- Can they explain the gender gap?
 - Gender bias in study of delinquency
- Today: focus on female delinquency

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gender and crime

- Historical Background
 - biological theories (Lombroso 1903)
 - psychological theories (Thomas 1923)
 - "Chivalry" and early sex role theories (Pollack 1950)
- Data?
 - Convergence in property crimes since 1960 and (non-murder) violent crimes since mid-1980s
 - Heimer and Lauritsen 2007: the risk for aggravated and simple assault has dropped substantially since the 1970s, but male rates of victimization have declined faster than female rates.

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gender gap



- 3 Basic Explanations (Heimer 2000)
 - Liberation or Emancipation
 - But problems in timing and offenders' views
 - Decline of chivalry
 - But NCVS patterns mirror UCR. Small factor?
 - Economic marginalization Better support - more FHHH in poverty, gender gap in wages, and rising inequality
- Application of general theories
 - Learning, labeling and symbolic interactionism
 - Social control and self control
 - Anomie and opportunity

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John Hagan's Power-Control Theory: Gender, Class, and Delinquency



- Positive social change -> unintended negative impact
- Class structure of domestic social control
- Patriarchal & egalitarian family structures



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Mixed evidence (Uggen 2000 example)

Table 2. Employment, Workplace Control, and Arrest by Class Categories

<i>Parents' Class</i>	<i>Parents</i>		<i>Youth Work</i>		<i>Percent Youth Arrested</i>		<i>Diff.</i>
	<i>Freedom & Control</i>	<i>Percent Employed</i>	<i>Freedom & Control</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Employer (68)	8.1	87%	6.3	43%	9%	34%	
Petite Bourgeoisie (55)	7.9	75%	6.0	20%	12%	8%	
Manager (260)	7.3	78%	6.2	32%	13%	19%	
Worker (267)	6.3	72%	6.1	32%	8%	24%	
Surplus (72)	6.7	43%	6.4	28%	20%	8%	
χ^2 (d.f.)	141.5 (32)**	41.2 (4)**	24.2 (32)	3.4 (4)	3.4 (4)		
<i>Gamma</i> (γ)	-.36	-.32	.002	-.04	-.01		
<i>F-ratio</i> (d.f.)	25.0 (4)**		0.3 (4)				

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Problems with "Just Add Girls and Mix" Approach (Meda Chesney-Lind)



- Gap due to context of male domination
 - oversocialization, enforcement of gender, and a sexual double standard in JJS
- Chesney-Lind's feminist model
 - Girls as victims of physical and sexual abuse
 - Victimizer use juvenile justice to control the girls
 - Runaways commit theft and prostitution to survive
 - Sexuality as one of few resources

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critique and extension

- Critique of Power-Control
 - Update on "liberalization"?
- Critique of Chesney-Lind
 - Why do males commit so much crime?
- Extension: James Messerschmidt (and RW Connell): Masculinities and crime
 - Toughness and willingness to use violence as central to masculine identity
 - Delinquency as a resource for doing gender or accomplishing masculinity

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exercise

- Mixed-sex groups of 2-5 (at least one male per group)
- Discuss how gender may have affected your own contacts with police or other rule enforcers.
 - Did anyone invoke gender as a resource in these encounters? How?
- On a sheet signed by all in the group, answer the following question: Does chivalry affect social control? Explain why it mattered or did not matter in your case.

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next

- Juvenile Justice
