

**Lecture 2:
Defining Deviance**

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Clinard's Definitions (recap)

- **Statistical**
 - Deviance as behavior that is rare - anything in the statistical minority.
- **Absolutist**
 - Deviance as violation of universal cultural standards or prerequisites
- **Reactivist**
 - Deviance as whatever a social audience labels as deviant
- **Normative**
 - Deviance is departure from norms that draw social disapproval and elicit, or are likely to elicit if detected, negative sanctions.

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Adlers' definition (recap)

- Deviance as violation of social norms
 - Attitudes - (mental illness?)
 - Behaviors - intentional or not
 - Conditions - ascribed or achieved
- Classroom norms
 - prescriptive and proscriptive
- How are you deviant?
- Relativity and fluidity in definition
 - Compared to what? Drinking examples

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useful concepts

- **Norm** - expectations of conduct in a given situation. Behavioral codes that guide people into actions and self-presentations conforming to social acceptability.
- **Role** - collection of norms for conduct tied to a position (Professor)
- **Power** - ability to make choices (or control others) by virtue of control over political, economic, and social resources
- **Subcultures** - a collection of norms, values, and beliefs that depart from those of the dominant culture
- **Stigma**- a mark of disgrace or infamy; a stain or reproach, as on one's reputation

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a little deeper - subcultures

- **Broad definition (Clinard p. 14):**
 - a culture within a culture; a collection of norms, values and beliefs with content distinguishable from those of the dominant culture.
 - Conforming (police) or deviant
- **Specific connotations (cultural studies):**
 - (Often) face-to-face interaction
 - Organized around shared social practices (e.g., music, drugs)
 - Reflect identities and shared values (often political)
 - Disempowered
- **Variants:**
 - "Pseudocultures," Countercultures, etc.

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deviance and morality

- **Moral entrepreneurs** attempt to impose their norms on others
- **Deviance is** closely tied to moral judgments, which are made on the basis of norms.
- **Social scientists cannot** make the same moral judgments in their professional lives.
 - "Hats" and roles
 - John Irwin example
 - Debate on homosexuality and deviance
 - Examples from the flood

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Agape News 9/2/05

Rev. Bill Shanks, pastor of New Covenant Fellowship of New Orleans, also sees God's mercy in the aftermath of Katrina... Shanks says the hurricane has wiped out much of the rampant sin common to the city. The pastor explains that for years he has warned people that unless Christians in New Orleans took a strong stand against such things as local abortion clinics, the yearly Mardi Gras celebrations, and the annual event known as "Southern Decadence" -- an annual six-day "gay pride" event scheduled to be hosted by the city this week -- God's judgment would be felt. "New Orleans now is abortion free. New Orleans now is Mardi Gras free. New Orleans now is free of Southern Decadence and the sodomites, the witchcraft workers, false religion -- it's free of all of those things now," Shanks says. "God simply, I believe, in His mercy purged all of that stuff out of there -- and now we're going to start over again."

Catholic Relief Services 9/05

Heavenly Father, we pray that You in your mercy will bestow Your blessings on those who suffer because of Hurricane Katrina, and all natural disasters. Bring us comfort and peace, and accept into Heaven the souls of those who died. And for the survivors, we pray that they will recognize Your love and grace in the faces of the aid workers and all those throughout the world that support and pray for them now. God, we pray that all will come through this trying time stronger, and with a deeper acceptance of Your love and Divine plan. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen

Kai Erikson (1966)

- Classic - peak of "deviance" research (Best)
- The deviant is one whose activities have moved outside the margins of the group, and when the community reacts ... it makes a statement about the nature and placement of its boundaries
 - tells us what evil looks like, the shapes the devil can assume
- Boundaries are a meaningful point of reference only if they are repeatedly tested (by deviants) and defended (by representatives of the group's inner morality)
 - Is there a media role in setting boundaries or the "normative outlines of society?"
 - Functional?

Erikson II

- Deviant forms of conduct seem to *derive nourishment* from the very agencies devised to inhibit them.
 - Stigma and "self-fulfilling prophecy"
- deviant commitment ceremonies are a rite of transition, moving the individual from his ordinary place in society to a special deviant status
 - Deviant decertification ceremonies?
- Deviance is not simply behavior disrupting society, but it is also important for preserving stability

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stigma & murder of sex offenders 8/27/05

- BELLINGHAM — Last Friday night, a man claiming to be an FBI agent dropped in on three Level 3 sex offenders living together, supposedly to warn them of an Internet "hit list" targeting sex offenders. The man was not an FBI agent, but he may have been enforcing a hit list of his own creation. Two of the roommates were found dead early Saturday of gunshot wounds, and Bellingham police are investigating a crime that authorities say may be one of the nation's most serious cases of vigilantism aimed at sex offenders. The killings also highlight a potential problem about Washington's 1990 law requiring sex offenders to register their addresses so the public can keep track of them.

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email after media appearance

Mr. Uggen:

I was convicted of a burglary in Minnesota in 1991(committed in 90). It has become increasingly difficult to find work. The state advocacy system up there is crazy. It hangs on to people for too long and does not allow them to start over. The longer you keep people down the greater the cost to the communities they attempt to live within. In other states, after a certain amount of time, you can "wash" the conviction away. Not minnesota. In Minnesota it is obvious why these approaches remain in place. To keep bureaucrats employed. By not looking realistically at the data on recidivism they demonstrate their real goals: ie. simplification, stigmatization and distortion.

-S.
1/23/04

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• *To Other Convicted Felons, I am at the end of my rope. I have a non-violent, class D Felony for Burglary that was committed 2 yrs ago. I have a College Degree in Marketing Mgmt. & great work experience. I have endorsements from Probation for successfully meeting the terms & conditions of probation. I applied to Owens-Corning for a job in Construction Sales & I lied about my Felony. I passed all of their requirements (phone & interview screenings, drug test, online psychological test) and beat out 2 other candidates for consideration. They sent me to Toledo, OH for 1 week of training. I truly believed that they would do the background check first. When they didn't, I thought maybe God heard my prayers. Upon my first day of work, the Boss says a background check revealed my record. I pleaded with him to give me a shot as that was an isolated incident. I told him that the guy he interviewed & liked was the guy that I am. All to no avail. I left humiliated & ashamed. I see no worthwhile job opportunities & am contemplating suicide. Please don't say this is crazy, I already know that. I just can't face the future with this amount of Hopelessness. Please say a prayer for me, I just can't deal with this.*
 -anonymous (9/02/06)
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does positive deviance exist?

• **Clinard:** deviance is departure from norms that draw social disapproval and elicit, or are likely to elicit if detected, negative sanctions.

• **Heckert:** positive deviance also violates norms and elicits reactions (ultramarathoners)- positively valued overconformity

- Altruism (hero)
- Charisma (dictator)
- Innovation (artist)
- Supra-Conformity (4.0)
- Innate/Ascribed (beauty)
- Ex-Deviant (saved)

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norms & deviance typologies

• Tittle and Paternoster's Middle Class norms (ed.s)

| Norm/Deviance | Example |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Group Loyalty/Apostasy | rebel |
| 2) Privacy/Intrusion | burglar |
| 3) Prudence/Indiscretion | prostitute* |
| 4) Conventionality/Bizarreness | freak (e.g., coprophilia) |
| 5) Responsibility/Irresponsibility | deadbeat dad |
| 6) Participation/Alienation | unabomber |
| 7) Moderation/Hedonist-Ascetic | drunk/abstainer |
| 8) Honesty/Deceit | scam artist |
| 9) Peacefulness/Disruption | loudmouth |
| 10) Courtesy | pig |

* T&P classify homosexuality here, but Uggen disagrees

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READ BEFORE CLASS

- **Next:** *Criminology, Deviance, and the Hobbesian Problem of Order* (5 min. video: *Bowling for Columbine*)
 - **Read** Clinard and Meier: 2. Deviant Events and Social Control pp. 28-50
 - **Read** Adler & Adler: 3. Heckert, Positive Deviance pp. 32-44
 - **Recommended:** Uggen. Criminology and the Sociology of Deviance. *The Criminologist* 28:1-5. Available at www.soc.umn.edu/~uggen/4111 [pdf file]
