

**lecture 24:**

*corporate crime and occupational deviance  
suicide*

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**white-collar & corporate crime**

- **White-collar crime** – law violation committed in the context of the offender’s legitimate occupation
  - Sutherland (1949) – defined as crime by person of “respectability and high social status”
  - Most violate trust (fraud) and power
- **Professional white-collar crime and deviance** (priests, professors, others)
  - Examples that Uggen could commit?

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**Cressey (1953) on embezzlers**

- Interviewed financial trust violators who accepted trust in good faith, then violated it
- **3-stage sequence:**
  - A perceived unshareable financial problem
  - that can be secretly resolved by violating financial trust
  - They created rationalizations (only borrowing) to protect their conventional self-concept.
- When they cannot repay, they get nervous - verbalization breaks down. A few adopt a criminal role
- Critique: Low self-control (Gottfredson and Hirschi) dispute “sophistication” and planning

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### organization-level

- **Corporate or organizational crime-violation of law or regulations by organizations and their management**
  - punished by the state through criminal, civil, or administrative law.
- **Clinard's typology**
  - Crimes against consumers (Pinto)
  - Crimes against owners (stockholders)
  - Crimes against employees (safety, discrimination)
  - Crimes against public (pollution)

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### explaining corporate crime

- **Profit Squeeze: (Mertonian) Pressures to deviate across industries, time**
- **Organizational Context: diffusion of responsibility, socialized into illegality**
- **Corporate Culture: A few justifications:**
  - 1. Deny responsibility
  - 2. Everybody does it
  - 3. No one hurt
  - 4. It provides stability
  - 5. Government interference
  - 6. "Business is business"
- **Industry Effects: Based on degree of competition, monopoly concentration**

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### workplace deviance

- **Liederbach, Opportunity and Medical Crime pp. 431-440**
  - Easy piece on occupational crime among physicians and others
- **Jessica Huiras (Wegner)**
  - UROP grant/senior project
- **"Who steals from work?"**
  - Prior work: People who hate their jobs (low satisfaction)
- **Theories of social control and choice:**
  - People who have no "stake" in their jobs

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### summary

- Career stakes or commitment is a strong predictor of workplace deviance
- Other Predictors:
  - Job satisfaction (reduces)
  - Authority/supervisory status (increases)
  - Males (increases)
- Supports idea that informal social controls can reduce deviance
- So, who do you hire?

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### SUICIDE

- Suicide: deliberate destruction of one's own life
  - Euthanasia – taking one's life to end suffering from disease or injury
  - "Indirect Suicide" – long-term destruction
- Prevalence:
  - 800,000-1,200,000/year in World (WHO)
  - 31,655 in US (2002) or 11 per 100,000 population (9.9 in MN; highest in WY, NM, NV, AK)
    - peak in Great Depression at 17/100,000
    - declines around most holidays
    - Compare to 17,650 homicides in 2002
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-leading cause of death (20-24)
  - Personal experience?

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#### U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2002 Number and Rate per 100,000 population by Race

White (28,731).....	12.2
White Male (23,049) .....	19.9
White Female (5,682).....	4.8
Black (1,939).....	5.1
Black Male (1,633).....	9.1
Black Female (306).....	1.5
Hispanic (1,954).....	5.0
Native Americans (324).....	10.5
Asian/Pacific Islanders (661).....	5.2

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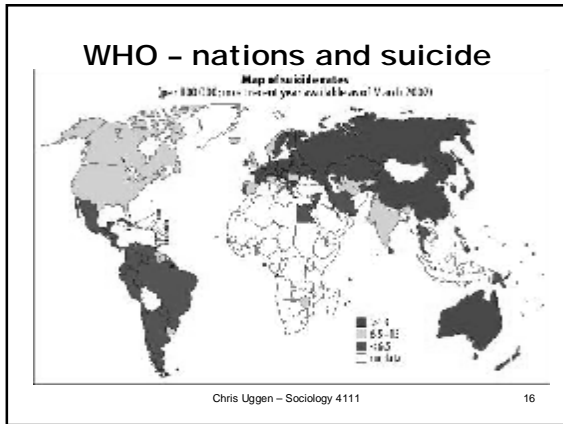
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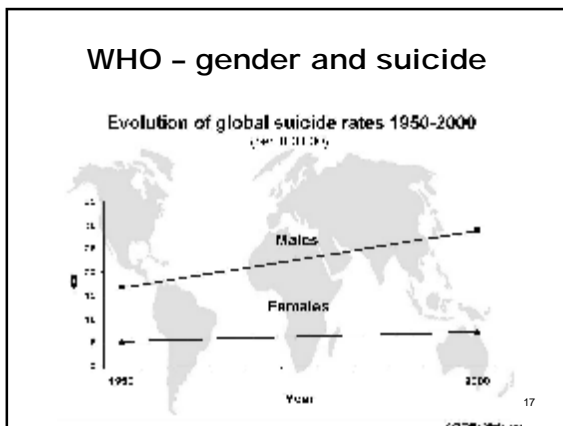
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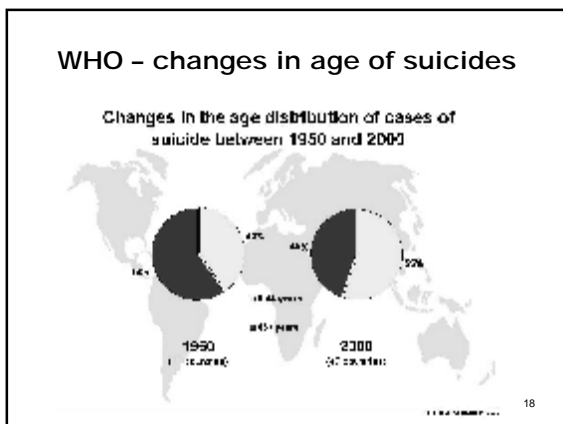
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### learning theory and suicide

- Do we learn definitions favorable and unfavorable to suicide?
  - How are suicide (attempts) reinforced?
  - Is there a sequence or process ("career")?
    - Problems, self-directed responses, suicidal thoughts (ideations), behavior
  - Dr. Kevorkian, legitimization of physician-assisted
- Publicity and suicides (D. Phillips)
  - Possible imitative effects on suicide, single-car accidents, etc.
- Analysis of suicide notes (12-15%)
  - Transforming the self?

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### from suicide notes

- And so I leave this world, where the heart must either break or turn to lead.  
-- Nicolas-Sebastien Chamfort, French writer, d. 1794
- The future is just old age and illness and pain.... I must have peace and this is the only way.  
-- James Whale, film director, d. May 29, 1957
- I feel certain that I'm going mad again. I feel we can't go thru another of those terrible times. And I shan't recover this time. I begin to hear voices  
-- Virginia Woolf, author, d. March 28, 1941
- I must end it. There's no hope left. I'll be at peace. No one had anything to do with this. My decision totally.  
-- Freddie Prinze, comedian, d. January 29, 1977
- Frances and Courtney, I'll be at your altar. Please keep going Courtney, for Frances for her life will be so much happier without me. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.  
-- Kurt Cobain, musician, d. April 8, 1994

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Speaking from the tongue of an experienced simpleton who obviously would rather be an enhasculated, infantile complain-ee. This note should be pretty easy to understand. All the warnings from the punk rock 101 courses over the years, since my first introduction to the, shall we say, the ethics involved with independence and the embracement of your community has proven to be very true. I haven't felt the excitement of listening to as well as creating music along with reading and writing for too many years now. I feel guilty beyond words about these things. For example when we're backstage and the lights go out and the manic roar of the crowd begins, it doesn't affect me the way in which it did for Freddy Mercury, who seem to love, relish in the love and adoration from the crowd, which is something I totally admire and envy. The fact is, I can't fool you, any one of you. It simply isn't fair to you or me. The worst crime I can think of would be to rip people off by faking it and pretending as if I'm having 100% fun. Sometimes I feel as if I should have a punch-in, time clock before I walk out on stage. I've tried everything within my power to appreciate it (and I do, God believe me I do, but it's not enough). I appreciate the fact that I and we have affected and entertained a lot of people. I must be one of those narcissists who only appreciate things when they're gone. I'm too sensitive. I need to be slightly numb in order to regain the enthusiasm I once had as a child. On our last 3 tours, I've had a much better appreciation for all the people I've known personally and as fans of our music, but I still can't get over the frustration, the guilt and empathy I have for everyone. There's good in all of us and I think I simply love people too much, so much that it makes me feel too fucking sad. The sad little sensitive, unappreciative, Pisces, Jesus man. Why don't you just enjoy it? I don't know I have a goddess of a wife who sweats ambition and empathy and a daughter who reminds me too much of what I used to be, full of love and joy, kissing every person she meets because everyone is good and will do her no harm. And that terrifies me to the point where I can barely function. I can't stand the thought of Frances becoming the miserable, self-destructive, death rocker that I've become. I have it good, very good, and I'm grateful, but since the age of seven, I've become hateful towards all humans in general. Only because it seems so easy for people to get along and have empathy. Only because I love and feel sorry for people too much I guess. Thank you all from the pit of my burning, nauseous stomach for your letters and concern during the past years. I'm too much of an erratic, moody, baby! I don't have the passion anymore, and so remember, it's better to burn out then to fade away. Peace, Love, Empathy. Kurt Cobain Frances and Courtney, I'll be at your altar. Please keep going Courtney, for Frances for her life will be so much happier without me. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.

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**Next**

- ***disability, and stigma***
  - *Clinard & Meier: disabilities, pp. 451-85.*
  - *Adlers, Deviant identity, pp. 221-23.*
  - *Adlers, Degher & Hughes on "fat" identity, pp. 225-35.*

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