Knowledge organiser- Crime and Deviance

Crime: Something which goes against the criminal law, and will be followed by formal sanctions
Deviance: Something which goes against the norms or values of society - These 2 can overlap, but are not the same.
In what ways are crime & deviance relative? They are relative to TIME (in history – laws/ norms change); CULTURE (laws/ norms vary between societies and subcultures) and CIRCUMSTANCES (the same behaviour may be acceptable or unacceptable in different situations).
In what ways are crime and deviance socially constructed? Neither exists independently of society – they have been created via laws passed by people and by cultural norms which have evolved. No behaviour is universally or inherently criminal or deviant. Marxists and Interactionists particularly discuss this.

Functionalism **Consensus** **Macro**
Durkheim: Deviance can have 3 functions: reinforcing boundaries, promoting social solidarity and instigating change.
Key for the first function are **public degradation ceremonies** to reinforce to everyone else what happens as a consequence of deviance.
Also consider negative impact of anomie and importance of avoiding it!
- Link to: safety valve (Eisenstadt, Davis, Polsky) – a 4th function of deviance

Merton: Strain theory – discussed the strain towards Anomie felt when people share the goal of society but cannot meet it via agreed norms/ means.
Conformists achieve goal via acceptable means; **Innovators** commit crime to do so; **Ritualists** give up on the goal and just coast; **Retreatists** reject the goal and the norms and drop out, whereas **Rebels** have their own goal and norms.

(also consider Right realists (**Hirschi, Wilson**), New right (**Murray**) functionalist subculturalists (**Cohen, Cloward & Ohlin**)

New Right
Murray links crime to the underclass and bad socialisation. Single mums are blamed for not enforcing discipline, and the lack of a father figure affects young males.
British NR sociologists ***Saunders*** and ***Marsland*** support Murray and discuss the generous benefits as a cause of selfishness/ dependency culture.
Murray also worked with ***Herrnstein*** on the Bell Curve – linking crime to IQ/ intelligence (and thus to race – very controversial)
- Link to RW solutions: harsh punishments!

Interactionism **Conflict** **Micro**
Becker – labelling and the self-fulfilling prophecy, master status, deviance career
Lemert – primary deviance – initial deviance, many people do; secondary deviance.- conscious behaviour as a response to social reaction/ labelling
Cicourel – the negotiation of justice
Matza – delinquency & drift and subterranean values; techniques of neutralisation
Examples of the social construction of deviance: mental illness, homosexuality
Goffman – total institutions, mortification of self

Don't forget you can also use:
Stan Cohen (folk devils and moral panics); ***Jock Young*** (hippies & deviance amplification); ***Alexander*** (Art of being Black; Asian Gang); McIntosh (homosexual role); Plummer (homosexual career)

Marxism **Conflict** **Macro**
Bonger – Capitalism is criminogenic – the values which push people towards crime
Gordon – crime as a rational response to Capitalism
Althusser- RSA and ISA
Box – crime statistics and ideological control, social construction of crime to reinforce the control of the bourgeoisie
Hall (neo-Marxist)
Use examples: Battle of the Beanfield; Criminal Justice and Public Order Act
Croall – white collar crime is not constructed as crime: invisible, no blood or crime scene, indirect etc

Other Marxists: ***Snider*** (corporate crime); ***Goldstraw-White*** (white collar crime not socially constructed as 'proper' crime); ***Tombs*** (deaths in the workplace); ***Chambliss*** (organised crime)

Subcultural theorists
Functionalist related subcultural theorists:
Cohen: Influenced by Merton. W/c youths desire status, but feel status frustration when they can't achieve it. Form deviant subcultures to gain status from peers.
Cloward and Ohlin: Influenced by Merton. Shared goal of success – some cannot achieve this via the legitimate opportunity structure (blocked opportunities). Success via the illegitimate opportunity structure also varies – some join criminal subcultures, others join conflict or retreatist subcultures.
Miller (Subcultural theorist, but different) : W/c boys have different values (focal concerns) and don't want to be like the m/c. They value tings like toughness and being macho, which lead to deviance.

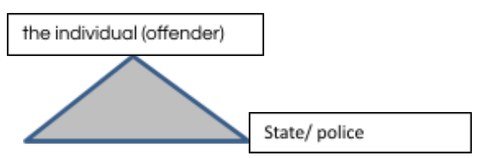
Related studies:
Nightingale, Bourgois (see youth & ethnicity notes)

Postmodernists: ***Katz*** – crime is seductive; ***Lyng*** – Edgework (testing boundaries).
Cultural criminology (with a postmodern twist)
Presdee – the Carnival of Crime – crime and deviance to let off steam, and because it's fun – the revolt against the mundane.
Young – the bulimic society and the vertigo of late modernity

Neo-Marxist subcultural studies – ***CCCS (see neo-Marxism)***

Neo-Marxism (inc subcultural theories) **Conflict** **micro and macro**
CCCS: Resistance through rituals - Spectacular subcultures – ***Jefferson*** (Teddyboys); ***Hebdige*** (Mods, punks); ***Clarke/ Cohen*** (skinheads);
Chambliss – The saints and the roughnecks, combines ideas of social class with labelling (make link to Cicourel)

Radical criminology
Combining Marxism and interactionism – 'a fully social theory of deviance'. Focus on the relationship between:



Seeing crime as a resistance against class inequality (criticised as the 'Robin Hood' thesis)
Followed by:
Hall – Policing the Crisis (moral panic re - black muggers – distraction from economic crisis)
Gilroy – the Empire strikes back (resisting racism); the myth of black criminality

Criticised by realists – romanticising the criminal

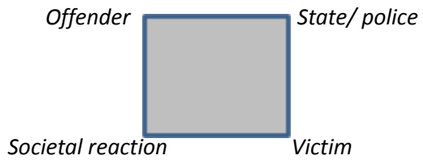
Knowledge organiser- Crime and Deviance

Realism

Left Realism

Lea & Young – what is to be done about law & order? Relative deprivation, Marginalisation, subculture

Matthews & Young – the square of crime:



Young – the exclusive society, creating an intensity of exclusion. Link to the buimic society – creating false needs. Criticising the sociology of vindictiveness (NR)

Right Realism

James Q Wilson – 3 factors causing crime can't be addressed (no. of males, economy, cultural changes)

Wilson & Kelling – Broken windows – you never just see one. Impact of culture/ expectations on crime – tipping point. Link to zero tolerance policing

Wilson & Herrnstein – biological element to criminal behaviour, can only be addressed through proper socialisation,

Solutions/ policies on crime

Left Wing

Prevention

Social policies to address poverty and exclusion
Education & training
Improved facilities

Punishment

Rehabilitation, treatment programmes
Education/ training/ voluntary work
Restorative justice (link to ***Braithwaite*** – reintegrative vs disintegrative shaming)

Policing/ control

Consensus/ community policing
Avoiding 'over' and 'under' policing of certain areas/ crimes.
Multi-agency working (***Lea & Young***)

Right Wing

Prevention (RR)

Situational and Environmental Crime Prevention
Target hardening (***Clarke*** – link to opportunity theory) surveillance (South), street lights (Painter)

Punishment (NR)

Harsh punishments, longer prison sentences, death penalty – as a deterrent (***van den Haag***)
3-strikes

Policing/ control

Visible, military style policing
zero tolerance policing, order maintenance
Control via benefits taking children into care (NR)

Global Issues:

Global Organised Crime: Transnational organised crime – cross-border activities of organised criminal groups
Trafficking people, drugs, arms, wildlife crime, cybercrime
Growing problem due to globalisation (***Gastrow***), Hard to police
Glenny – growth due to political situation, technology etc.
Castells – the growth of criminal networks.

Green Crime: - activities which harm the planet/ environment
Primary & secondary (***Carrabine, South***)
Beck – manufactured risks
Potter – poorest suffer most
White – should be defined by risk of harm
Learn some examples and issues

Measuring Crime

Police recorded figures

What are they?
Official statistics, all crime recorded by the police in E & W.
Strengths:
Easily available, quantitative, representative, ethnical to use
Weaknesses:
The Dark figure, Police discretion, Marxists: ***Box*** sees them as an ideological construct to distract the w/c. Feminists would challenge the rep. of crimes where victims are female. Interactionists would focus on police labelling
Who uses them?
Functionalists
New Right
Subcultural theorists
Some realists and some feminists

Victim Surveys

What are they?
Asking what crimes people have been victim of.
CSEW, smaller scale crime surveys (e.g. Islington Crime Survey (LRs)).
Strengths:
CSEW: large scale, annual: representative and reliable
Reach some crimes not reported/ recorded.
ICS: more qualitative, gives a more valid picture of the impact of crime on victims (e.g. women, older people)
Weaknesses:
Only based on a sample – therefore may lack generalisability (especially for rare crimes).
Will people disclose all crimes (e.g. sexual crimes?) May lack accuracy.

Self-report studies

What are they?
Small scale research asking what offences people have committed.
Often quantitative.
Campbell (Girl delinquents); The Cambridge study (longitudinal)
Strengths:
Reach hidden victimless crimes
Weaknesses:
Validity – will people tell the truth?
Issues with categorisation/ interpretation if quantitative.
Representativeness – small scall, often only done on a specific group (e.g. youths)
Ethics – what should be done with the data
Attrition – for longitudinal self-report studies – people drop out

Patterns of crime & Explanations The typical criminal: Male, over-proportionality black, w/c, young

Gender

Offenders: Males
Victims: Males, but look at types of crime, 'meaning of a punch', feminist views on domestic/ sexual crimes
Explaining male crime:
Messerschmidt – 'doing masculinity'
Mac an Ghaill – crisis of masculinity
Mosher - hyper masculinity
Explaining lack of female crime:
Pollak – devious women
Chivalry thesis – and feminist challenges of this
Functionalist view: ***Parsons*** and sex-role theory (expressive roles)
Feminists:
McRobbie & Garber – Bedroom culture
Smart – parental control
Lees – peers/ reputation
Heidensohn - control theory, double deviance
Carlen – gender deal/ class deal
Other feminist issues: Mad or Bad? female victims etc.
Is female crime increasing?
Adler – liberation theory
Jackson – ladettes
Denscombe – risk-taking women

Ethnicity

Offenders: Black people are over-represented
Victims: Trends of hate crime increasing (Brexit). Intra-racial crime
Explaining crime rates amongst Black/ Asian people:
Interactionists – Institutional racism, labelling – Apply ***Becker/ Cicourel; Alexander, Anderson*** (colour-coding) ***Holdaway, Smith & Grey, Waddington***
Marxists – ***Castles & Kosack*** (divide & rule); ***Hall, Gilroy, Lea & Young***
Functionalists/ NR – accept stats: ***Murray*** (underclass, Bell curve); Also:
Nightingale – paradox of inclusion
Bourgois – choose drug dealin
Sewell – triple quandary, cultural comfort zones
Gunter – road culture
Palmer – combining socialisation/ culture with racial injustices
Asians & Crime:
Bowling, Parmar & Phillips – pliability of stereotypes
Abbas - Islamophobia

Social Class

Offenders: w/c (hard to measure)
Victims: myth of the equal victim
Most theories on crime are explaining working class crime:
functionalists, functionalist subcultural theorists, interactionists, some Marxists.
Neo-Marxists & radical criminologists
Some Marxists also focus on crimes of the powerful (e.g. ***Box, Croall, Snider)***

Age

Offenders: young people
Victims: older vs younger, myth of the equal victim
Subcultural theories focus on why young people commit more crime:
Functionalists: ***Cohen, Cloward & Ohlin, Miller***
Neo-Marxists: ***CCCS***
Postmodernists: ***Katz, Lyng***
Cultural criminologists: ***Presdee, Young***
Also apply interactionists (***Cohen, Matza, Cicourel, Becker***)
Some Marxists, in their focus on crimes of the powerful, could be applied to show why older, more powerful [people get away with crime and the youth are targeted.