Deviance Crime: Theory, Research and Policy

By Shahid Alvi

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Within the sociology of deviance and crime, there are four key theoretical perspectives from which researchers study why people violate laws or norms, and how society reacts to such acts. We'll review them briefly here. Structural strain theory was developed by American sociologist Robert K. Merton and suggests that deviant behavior is the result of strain an individual may experience when the community or society in which they live does not provide the necessary means to achieve culturally valued goals. This theory further suggests that people engage in deviant acts because they have been labeled as deviant by society, because of their race, or class, or the intersection of the two, for example. Updated by Nicki Lisa Cole, Ph.D. Deviance and Crime: Theory, Research and Policy (3rd ed.). Cincinnati, OH: Anderson, pp. 373 | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. For further information, including about cookie settings, please read our Cookie Policy. By continuing to use this site, you consent to the use of cookies. Got it. We value your privacy. We use cookies to offer you a better experience, personalize content, tailor advertising, provide social media features, and better understand the use of our services. To learn more or modify/prevent the use of cookies, see our Cookie Policy and Privacy Policy. Accept Cookies. top. Crime and deviance in the EU Key findings from EU funded social sciences. and humanities research projects. Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Therefore it is for this reason that the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission has funded several research projects on Crime and Deviance, through the Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities Programme of the 6th and 7th Framework Pro-grammes for Research and Technological Development.