

BECKER: LABELLING THEORY

1	Key Idea	No act is inherently criminal or deviant in itself. The act has to excite some social reaction from others. People negotiate meanings of behaviours through interaction .
2	What is a deviant?	A deviant is a person to whom a label has been successfully applied- deviant behaviour is that which people so label.
3	Law creation	“Moral entrepreneurs” -lead a moral crusade to change the law.
4	2 Effects of a new law	1) It creates “outsiders” - a master status may develop then a deviant career 2) The creation or expansion of a social control agency (eg police, courts)

EVALUATION of BECKER

1	Strengths	Key study: PLATT-juvenile delinquent Key Study: BECKER: “The Outsiders”- MALINOWSKI-incest
2	Weaknesses	-Realists: no practical solutions -Left realists: Ignores victims -Deterministic-ignores free will -Functionalists-ignores the positive functions of crime -Marxists-ignores structural inequalities in law making

CICOUREL:WHO GETS LABELLED?

1	Key idea	The decision to arrest is influenced by stereotypes or Typifications
2	Typifications	Based on work in California. Law enforcement showed a class bias: “young working-class black male with an attitude.” police making more arrests, reinforcing the stereotypes
3	Negotiation of Justice	Eg. Middle class youths who are arrested are more likely to be released or counselled as they don’t fit the typifications. Probation officers were more likely to recommend custody for working class youths.

EVALUATION of CICOUREL

1	Strengths	Allowed us to question the validity of officially recorded crime statistics: -they are socially constructed by the police. -enable us to find out about the way in which control agencies label certain groups as criminal.
2	Weaknesses	The negotiation of justice can be questioned: Sometimes people from wealthy backgrounds, are treated more severely.

Key Vocabulary

1	Labelling	The process of attaching a label/set of characteristics to a person/group
2	Social construct	Something created by society and over time-it is negotiable-not fixed. Eg crime statistics
3	Master status	An identity that overrides all others eg the labelled criminal sees themselves only as the criminal
4	Deviant career	The labelled criminal reinforces their criminal status with each act of crime
5	Typifications	Stereotypical ideas about the typical offender-affects arrests by police

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- part one of Interactionist Theories of Crime- also see the powerpoint for more detail on key studies; PLATT, BECKER, PILIAVIN and BRIAR and the social construction of crime statistics on Knowledge Organiser (Part 2)

LEMERT :THE EFFECTS OF LABELLING

1	Key idea	Suggests that labelling someone may encourage them to be more deviant or criminal.
2	Primary and Secondary deviance	<p>Primary deviance-Deviant acts that are widespread and common. They have little bearing on an individual's status or self-concept.</p> <p>Secondary deviance-the result of societal reaction- labelling. Being caught can lead to stigma, shaming, humiliation and social exclusion.</p>
3	Master Status and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy	<p>This is the controlling identity which overrides all others. The labelled individual then becomes nothing but the criminal. This can create a crisis for the individual's self-concept or sense of identity. One way to resolve the crisis is to live up to the label ie. The self-fulfilling prophecy.</p>
4	Deviant career	Each deviant action will then further reinforce the identity of criminal- the individual may well join a criminal subculture in response to this.

EVALUATION of LEMERT

1	Strengths	<p>-Support for Primary and secondary deviance: North American Indian-public-speaking</p> <p>-Support for deviant career and secondary deviance- YOUNG: The Drugtakers-hippies</p> <p>-Useful for treatment of offenders-reintegrative shaming</p>
2	Weaknesses	-DOWNES and ROCK- not always inevitable to develop a deviant career

Social Construction of crime statistics (*covered in Part 1)

1	Decision Gates	<p>Suspect stopped by the police</p> <p>Arrested</p> <p>Charged</p> <p>Prosecuted</p> <p>Convicted</p> <p>Sentenced</p> <p>The process by which an act becomes a crime statistic</p>
2	Dark Figure of Crime	Describes the amount of crime that is hidden- it goes unreported and unrecorded. This can be the result of police discretion—acting on labels- or a negotiation of the definition of crime.
3	Alternative sources of statistics	Victim surveys and self report studies are anonymous surveys that are seen to offer more valid data on crime.

Key Vocabulary

1	Primary deviance	Deviant behavior we all engage in at various times
2	Secondary deviance	When deviant behaviour is labelled / draws attention
3	Master status	An identity that overrides all others eg the labelled criminal sees themselves only as the criminal
4	Deviant career	The labelled criminal reinforces their criminal status with each act of crime
5	Self-fulfilling prophecy	When the prediction comes true- people live up to the label

Part of sociological explanations of crime, deviance, social order and social control- part two of Interactionist Theories of Crime- This tackles the effects of labelling and the social construction of statistics from lesson 1- please also see Interactionism Parts (1, 3 and 4)

Deviance Amplification Spiral: WILKINS

1	Small group of people commit an act of deviance
2	Media news values pick up on the story and a problem group is identified.
3	The media produce exaggerated and sensational headlines, stories and photos to interest readers and viewers.
4	The causes of the original deviance are over-simplified for easy explanation eg lack of parenting or decline of moral standards
5	The group is labelled as folk devils- stereotyping occurs
6	More deviance occurs as people become more aware of it- they may seek it out for excitement.
7	A moral panic develops- public call for a clampdown on the perceived / real threat to society. The media take action against the perceived threat-start campaigns
8	Agents of social control- police, magistrates, judges and politicians respond to the public demands and clamp down on the folk devils- they may change the law
9	Folk devils react to the clampdown by committing further acts of deviance- rather than reducing deviant behaviour the moral clampdown may lead to further and more serious acts of deviance.

EVALUATION

1	Strengths	<p>Key study: COHEN: Mods and Rockers</p> <p>Key Study: YOUNG: The Drugtakers</p> <p>Implications for treatment of offenders; Triplett (2000) a zero tolerance approach and relabelling of minor offences in USA does not decrease offending. De Haan (2000) notes similar outcomes in Holland where youth have been stigmatised.</p> <p>-Braithwaite – reintegrative shaming separates the offender from the act- avoids labelling them as bad and aids rehabilitation.</p>
	Weakness	<p>McRobbie and Thornton- The concept of moral panics is outdated- people don't agree with the moral entrepreneurs, people fear they will bounce back to harm them, there are so many today they don't have the same effect.</p>

Key Vocabulary

1	Moral panic	any sensationalist or over-the-top reaction to an issue that appears to relate to morality
2	Moral entrepreneur	A person with power and status that has an interest in starting a moral panic eg media boss, MP
3	Folk Devil	The group that is the focus of a moral panic- they are stigmatized by members of wider society.
4	Deviance amplification spiral	An effect of labelling which creates a moral panic, identifies folk devils and as a result of greater controls may create more crime.