

Fundamentals of Criminology

New Dimensions

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Dee Wood Harper

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Contents

List of Tables and Figures	xv
Preface	xix
Acknowledgments	xxiii

Part I • Introduction

Chapter 1 • Introduction	3
What Is Crime?	3
Types of Crime	4
What Is Criminal Law?	5
Normative Systems	5
Changing Times, Changing Laws?	7
What Is Criminology?	7
The Evolution of Criminology	8
Codified Laws and Prescribed Punishments	8
The Emergence of Classical Criminology (1700s)	9
The Emergence of Positive Criminology (1800s)	12
<i>Box 1.1 Sir Francis Galton: Overlooked in Criminology?</i>	12
<i>Box 1.2 The Criminal Mind</i>	15
The Precursors of Sociological Criminology (1800s)	16
The Emergence of Criminology as Its Own Discipline	19
A Word about Theory	19
<i>Box 1.3 A Timeline of Criminology</i>	20
Conclusion	21
Websites to Visit	22
Discussion Questions	22
References	23

Chapter 2 • How Much Crime Is There, and How Do We Study It?	27
Introduction	27
Official Crime Statistics	27
The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)	27
<i>Box 2.1 The Crime Rate</i>	30
The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)	30
Victimization Statistics	32
The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)	32
Self-Report Surveys	33
International Crime Data Sources	35
Research Designs in Criminology	36
Secondary Analysis and Record Reviews	37
Surveys	38
Field Research	39
Longitudinal Studies	40
Meta-Analysis	41
Conclusion	43
Websites to Visit	43
Discussion Questions	44
References	44

Part II • Theories and Correlates of Crime

Chapter 3 • Why Do They Do It? Psychosocial and Biosocial Answers	51
Introduction	51
Psychosocial Theories of Crime	52
Intelligence and Crime	52
<i>Box 3.1 The Heritability of Antisocial Behavior and Eugenics</i>	52
Traits and Crime	53
Psychopathy and Crime	58
<i>Box 3.2 Is Psychopathy a Mental Illness?</i>	61
Biosocial Theories of Crime	61
Body Type and Appearance	62
Brain Dysfunction	63
Arousal	63
Neurochemistry	65
<i>Box 3.3 What about Testosterone?</i>	65
Genetics	66
Strengths and Weaknesses of Psychosocial and Biosocial Theories of Crime	67
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Psychosocial and Biosocial Theories	68
Websites to Visit	69
Discussion Questions	69
References	70

Chapter 4 • Why Do They Do It? Social Structural Answers	75
Introduction	75
Social Disorganization	75
Research on Social Disorganization	78
Strengths and Weaknesses of Social Disorganization	80
Anomie/Strain	80
Institutional Anomie Theory	81
Classic Strain Theory	82
General Strain Theory	83
Research on Anomie/Strain	85
Strengths and Weaknesses of Anomie/Strain	86
Subcultural Theories	87
Gangs	90
Research on Subcultural Theories	91
Strengths and Weaknesses of Subcultural Theories	92
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Social Structural Perspectives	92
Social Disorganization	92
Anomie/Strain	93
Subcultural	94
Websites to Visit	96
Discussion Questions	96
References	96
 Chapter 5 • Why Do They Do It? Social Process Answers	 103
Introduction	103
Differential Association/Social Learning	103
Research on Differential Association/Social Learning	106
Strengths and Weaknesses of Differential Association/Social Learning	107
Social Control	108
Research on Social Control	109
Strengths and Weaknesses of Social Control	109
Self-Control	110
Research on Self-Control	111
<i>Box 5.1 How Is Self-Control Measured?</i>	112
Strengths and Weaknesses of Self-Control	113
Labeling	114
Research on Labeling	114
Strengths and Weaknesses of Labeling	116
Neutralization	116
Research on Neutralization	117
Strengths and Weaknesses of Neutralization	117
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Social Process Perspectives	118
Differential Association/Social Learning	118
Social Control	119
Self-Control	119
Labeling and Neutralization	120
Websites to Visit	121
Discussion Questions	121
References	121

Chapter 6 • Why Do They Do It? Critical Answers	129
Introduction	129
Marxist Criminology	129
Early Marxist Criminology	130
Modern Marxist Criminology	130
Research on Marxist Criminology	132
Strengths and Weaknesses of Marxist Criminology	133
Conflict Criminology	134
Research on Conflict Criminology	135
<i>Box 6.1 Green Criminology and the Ecocidal Tendencies of Late Modernity</i>	136
Strengths and Weaknesses of Conflict Criminology	137
Peacemaking Criminology	137
Research on Peacemaking Criminology	139
Strengths and Weaknesses of Peacemaking Criminology	140
Feminist Criminology	140
Liberation Perspective	142
Patriarchy Perspective	143
Maleness and Crime	143
Research on Feminist Criminology	143
Strengths and Weaknesses of Feminist Criminology	144
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Critical Theories	145
Marxist Criminology	145
Conflict Criminology	145
Peacemaking Criminology	146
Feminist Criminology	146
Websites to Visit	147
Discussion Questions	147
References	147
 Chapter 7 • Why Do They Do It? A Lifetime of Answers	 153
Introduction	153
Robert Agnew's General Theory of Crime and Delinquency	156
Research on Robert Agnew's General Theory of Crime and Delinquency	159
Strengths and Weaknesses of Robert Agnew's General Theory of Crime and Delinquency	160
David Farrington's Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory	160
Research on David Farrington's Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory	162
Strengths and Weaknesses of David Farrington's Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory	164
Terrie Moffitt's Dual Pathway Developmental Theory	165
Research on Terrie Moffitt's Dual Pathway Developmental Theory	167
Strengths and Weaknesses of Terrie Moffitt's Dual Pathway Developmental Theory	170
Robert Sampson and John Laub's Life-Course Theory	171
Research on Robert Sampson and John Laub's Life-Course Theory	174

Strengths and Weaknesses of Robert Sampson and John Laub's Life-Course Theory	175
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Developmental Theories	176
The Individual Domain	176
The Family Domain	177
The Environmental Domain	178
Summary of Criminological Theories So Far	181
Websites to Visit	183
Discussion Questions	183
References	184
 Chapter 8 • The Pushes and Pulls of Crime	191
Introduction	191
The Pushes: Covariates of Crime	192
Social Class	192
<i>Box 8.1 The Culture of Poverty: A Double Edged Sword?</i>	193
Gender	194
Race	196
Age	198
Drugs	199
<i>Box 8.2 What Are Drug Related Homicides, Anyway?</i>	200
Mental Illness	201
<i>Box 8.3 What about Veterans and PTSD?</i>	202
Guns	202
The Pulls: Seductions of Crime	203
Enriching Oneself in the Short Term	204
Proving Manhood	205
Demanding Respect	206
Conclusion	207
Websites to Visit	207
Discussion Questions	208
References	208
 Part III • Where, When and to Whom Does Crime Happen?	
 Chapter 9 • Crime in Context: Choices and Opportunities to Offend	215
Introduction	215
Deterrence Theory: Setting the Stage for Rational Choice	215
Choice and Crime: Rational Choice Theory	218
Research on Rational Choice Theory	220
Strengths and Weaknesses of Rational Choice Theory	222
Opportunity and Crime: Routine Activity Theory	222
Research on Routine Activity Theory	224
Strengths and Weaknesses of Routine Activity Theory	225
Settings and Crime: Situational Crime Prevention	226
Research on Situational Crime Prevention	226
Strengths and Weaknesses of Situational Crime Prevention	227
Situational Action Theory	228

Spatial Distribution of Crime: Hot Spots and Broken Windows	229
Hot Spots	229
Broken Windows	231
Criminal Opportunity in Context: Disasters	232
9/11	233
Hurricane Katrina	233
Other Disasters	236
Other Criminal Opportunity	237
White Collar Crime	237
Political Crime	238
Cybercrime	239
Organized Criminal Enterprises	241
<i>Box 9.1 Organized Retail Crime? What's That?</i>	242
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Choice and Opportunity	
Theories of Crime	243
Websites to Visit	243
Discussion Questions	244
References	244
 Chapter 10 • The Victims of Crime	253
Introduction	253
Who Is Victimized?	253
Child Abuse	256
<i>Box 10.1 What about Recurring Victimization?</i>	257
Bullying	258
Workplace Violence	259
<i>Box 10.2 Are Schools Safe Places?</i>	260
<i>Box 10.3 Going Postal?</i>	260
Hate Crime Victims	261
<i>Box 10.4 Hate Crimes against the Amish . . . by the Amish</i>	262
Theories of Victimization	262
Victim Precipitation Theory	262
Routine Activity and Lifestyle Theories	263
<i>Box 10.5 Tourism: A Risky Lifestyle?</i>	263
Changing Perspectives on Victims of Crime	264
The Problems of Crime Victims	264
Legislation and Services to Assist Victims	265
<i>Box 10.6 Some Other Legislation Designed to Assist Victims</i>	266
Conclusion	267
Websites to Visit	267
Discussion Questions	267
References	268

Part IV • Explanation of Crime Types

Chapter 11 • Violent Crime	273
Introduction	273
Murder	273
Multiple Murder	277
Homicide-Suicide	279
Rape	280
Defining and Measuring Rape	281
Statutory Rape	283
Motives for Rape: Sex or Power?	283
Evolution of Rape Definitions and Laws	284
<i>Box 11.1 Stalking: An Intimate Problem</i>	285
Robbery	286
Aggravated Assault	289
“New” Forms of Violence	291
Domestic Violence	291
Human Trafficking	293
Terrorism	294
<i>Box 11.2 Terrorism: In the Eye of the Beholder?</i>	294
Conclusion: Theoretical Explanations of Violent Crime	296
Websites to Visit	297
Discussion Questions	297
References	297
 Chapter 12 • Property Crime	 303
Introduction	303
A Brief History of Property Crime	303
The Wide Variety of Theft	305
Types of UCR Larceny-Theft: Shoplifting	307
Types of UCR Larceny-Theft: Pocket Picking and Purse Snatching	311
Not Part I UCR Property Crimes, but Theft Just the Same:	
Forgery, Fraud, Embezzlement and Looting	312
Burglary and Related Crimes	317
<i>Box 12.1 Did My House Get Robbed While I Was at Work?</i>	
<i>Disentangling Robbery and Burglary</i>	321
Motor Vehicle Theft	321
<i>Box 12.2 What about Carjacking?</i>	325
Crimes that Cause Property Damage: Arson and Vandalism	326
<i>Box 12.3 Cyber Vandalism: Is That Even a Thing?</i>	330
Conclusion: Theoretical Explanations of Property Crime	330
Websites to Visit	331
Discussion Questions	331
References	332

Chapter 13 • White and Other Collar Crime	337
Introduction	337
White Collar Crime	337
Types and Examples of White Collar Crime: Occupational and Professional Occupational Crime	339
Pink Collar Crime	339
Types and Examples of White Collar Corporate Crime	342
Corporate Theft and Fraud	342
<i>Box 13.1 Corporate Theft and Fraud in the Late 1990s and Early 2000s</i>	345
Corporate Violence	346
Theories of White Collar Crime	349
Khaki Collar Crime	353
Conclusion	356
Websites to Visit	357
Discussion Questions	357
References	357
 Chapter 14 • Public Order Crime and Criminalized Lifestyles	 363
Introduction	363
The Extent of Public Order Crime	363
Alcohol	365
<i>Box 14.1 The Evolution of Blue Laws</i>	366
Drugs	366
<i>Box 14.2 Before the Harrison Act</i>	367
<i>Box 14.3 Where Is Marijuana Legalized?</i>	371
Prostitution	373
The Criminalization of Some Lifestyles	375
Homosexuality	376
<i>Box 14.4 Is There an Epigenetic Basis for Homosexuality?</i>	378
Pedophilia	379
<i>Box 14.5 Jerry Sandusky</i>	380
<i>Box 14.6 The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA)</i>	381
Child Pornography	382
Homelessness	385
<i>Box 14.7 A Police Initiative to Aid the Homeless</i>	386
Mental Illness	386
Conclusion	388
Theoretical Explanations of Public Order Crime	388
Criminalized Lifestyles	388
Websites to Visit	388
Discussion Questions	389
References	389

Part V • Connecting Criminology and Criminal Justice

Chapter 15 • What Criminology Means for Criminal Justice	
Now and in the Future	395
Introduction	395
Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Punishment	395
<i>Box 15.1 Three Strikes and You're Out Laws</i>	397
Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Prevention	401
Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Rehabilitation	403
<i>Box 15.2 What about Drug Courts?</i>	404
Some Lingering Issues for Criminology and Criminal Justice	406
Changing Crime Rates in the United States	406
<i>Box 15.3 The United States' Imprisonment Rate: How and Why?</i>	409
Gun Control	413
<i>Box 15.4 Conceal Carry Laws and Crime</i>	414
<i>Box 15.5 What about Gun Marketing?</i>	416
Wider Legalization of Prostitution and Drugs	418
Sex Offender Policies	420
<i>Box 15.6 Confinement of Sexually Violent Predators</i>	423
The Death Penalty	424
Conclusion	426
Websites to Visit	427
Discussion Questions	427
References	428
 Appendix • Details of the Major Theories of Crime Causation	 441
 About the Authors	 447
 Index	 449

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 2.1.	Uniform Crime Reports Part I and II offenses	28
Table 2.2.	NIBRS Group A and B offenses	31
Table 3.1.	A summary of Miller and Lynam's (2001) personality models and dimensions	55
Table 3.2.	Description of MPQ scales and higher order categories	57
Table 3.3.	Summary of personality traits associated with crime	58
Table 3.4.	Diagnostic criteria for antisocial personality disorder from two recent versions of the DSM	59
Table 4.1.	Merton's strategies and responses to goals and means	83
Table 5.1.	Characteristics of high and low self-control individuals	111
Table 7.1.	Risk and protective factors across life stages and domains	155
Table 7.2.	Selected interventions that prevent crime	180
Table 7.3.	Brief summary of criminological theories	182
Table 8.1.	Percent of arrestees testing positive for any of 10 drugs, 2009	199
Table 9.1.	Disaster phases	234
Table 9.2.	Instances of fraud after three disasters	236
Table 9.3.	Assassins, targets and categories	238
Table 10.1.	Demographic characteristics of violent and serious violent crime victims, 2011	254
Table 10.2.	Percentage of victimizations reported to the police by type and seriousness of crime, 2011	255
Table 10.3.	Characteristics of those likely to be bullied and to bully	258

Table 10.4.	Warning signs for bullying and being bullied	259
Table 10.5.	Tangible and intangible costs per offense for each of 13 crimes in 2008 dollars	265
Table 11.1.	Multiple murder types and definitions	277
Table 11.2.	Holmes and DeBurger's (1998) typology of serial killers with examples	279
Table 11.3.	The characteristics of homicide- suicides compared to homicides and suicides in the United States, 2004–2006	279
Table 12.1.	Shoplifters' motivations	308
Table 12.2.	Some small and big cons	316
Table 12.3.	Motor vehicle theft top ten cities and cars	321
Table 13.1.	Some pink collar criminals	341
Table 14.1.	Number of arrests and arrestee characteristics for public order crimes in the U.S., 2011	364
Table 14.2.	DEA's drug schedules	370
Table 14.3.	The legal status of prostitution around the world	374
Table 14.4.	A typology of child pornography offenders	384

Figures

Figure 2.1.	Percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who used marijuana in the last year	34
Figure 3.1.	Hare's Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL- R)	60
Figure 4.1.	Burgess' concentric zone concept	76
Figure 4.2.	Social disorganization theory	78
Figure 4.3.	Graphic illustration of GST	84
Figure 4.4.	Some currently active gangs in the United States by region	91
Figure 5.1.	The labeling process and its outcomes	115
Figure 6.1.	Number of men and women arrested for Part I UCR crimes in the U.S. in 2010	141
Figure 7.1.	Effects of life domains on one another and on crime	158
Figure 7.2.	Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) theory	163
Figure 7.3.	Dual pathway developmental theory	168
Figure 7.4.	Life-course theory	173
Figure 9.1.	A rational choice explanation for a specific crime	219
Figure 9.2.	Routine activity theory	223

Figure 11.1.	Murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011	274
Figure 11.2.	Murder rate per 100,000 in the United States, 1960–2011	275
Figure 11.3.	Number of arrests for murder by age in the United States, 2011	276
Figure 11.4.	Percent of relationships between murder offenders and victims (where the relationship is known, 56 percent of murders) in the United States, 2011	276
Figure 11.5.	Number of arrests for rape by age in the United States, 2011	282
Figure 11.6.	Percent of robberies committed by location in the United States, 2011	286
Figure 11.7.	Number of arrests for robbery by age in the United States, 2011	287
Figure 11.8.	Percent of weapons used in aggravated assaults in the United States, 2011	290
Figure 11.9.	Number of arrests for aggravated assault by age in the United States, 2011	290
Figure 12.1.	Property and violent crime rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011	305
Figure 12.2.	Larceny- theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011	306
Figure 12.3.	Percent of different larceny- theft in the United States, 2011	306
Figure 12.4.	Number of arrests for larceny- theft by age in the United States, 2011	307
Figure 12.5.	Percent of daytime and nighttime residential and commercial burglaries in the United States, 2011	317
Figure 12.6.	Number of arrests for burglary by age in the United States, 2011	318
Figure 12.7.	Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft by age in the United States, 2011	322
Figure 12.8.	Percent of arson offenses involving structures, mobile and other property	326
Figure 12.9.	Number of arrests for arson by age in the United States, 2011	327
Figure 12.10.	Number of arrests for vandalism by age in the United States, 2011	328
Figure 13.1.	Percent of men and women arrested for embezzlement in the United States, 1995–2011	340
Figure 15.1.	Violent crime rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011	406
Figure 15.2.	Property crime rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011	407
Figure 15.3.	Homicide rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011	407
Figure 15.4.	Homicide rate for New Orleans, LA and the United States per 100,000, 1985–2011	408

Preface

There is a large number of criminology textbooks out there and a smaller yet still sizable number of excellent books, so why add another into the mix and why call it *Fundamentals of Criminology: New Dimensions*?

We believe that this book well captures the fundamentals of criminology through its descriptions of the extent of crime, major theories of crime causation and crime types. While many criminology textbooks do this, there are several things that set *Fundamentals of Criminology: New Dimensions* apart from other criminology texts. First, for each theory of crime, we provide a description of the tenets of the theory as well as a discussion of empirical research that tests the theory in a variety of settings; an evaluation of each theory's strengths and weaknesses; and an explanation of its policy implications. We take care to introduce readers to that empirical research that supports or does not support the theories of crime causation, we include empirical research that attempts to extend the theories of crime in new directions and in both instances, we refer to both past and very current empirical work. We believe this, in combination with a discussion of strengths and weaknesses and policy implications, assists readers in understanding each theory of crime in and of itself and in relation to the others, as well as what these theories mean for the real world. Providing this assistance is all the more important for readers who have had little to no exposure to theories of crime causation prior to opening this book and to that end, we also created a useful Appendix summarizing the details of the major theories of crime.

Second, we provide the most up-to-date information on crime commission in our descriptions of the different types of crime as well as changes in the amounts over time. This assists readers in understanding the extent of the crime problem as a whole and as broken down into specific offenses, as well as the characteristics of people involved in crime both as offenders and as victims. Third, we devote a lengthy chapter to the connection between criminological theory and the criminal justice system, in which we consider the theoretical bases for punishment, prevention and rehabilitation and how they are connected to the criminal justice system. We also consider a handful of lingering issues for criminology and criminal justice that make the connection between these two disciplines explicit and comprehensible for readers. Throughout the book,

we attempt to connect relevant concepts in a way that makes it easier for readers to obtain a complete and comprehensive picture of criminology. We also provide some historical context so that readers may draw on what they already know to better understand the concepts in this book.

That explains the *Fundamentals of Criminology*, but what about the *New Dimensions*? There are a number of different concepts we explore in this book that to our knowledge are absent from the majority if not all other introductory criminology texts. We include them not just to be able to subtitle this book *New Dimensions* but to give readers the richest, most complete understanding of what crime is, how much of it there is, what causes it and what we can do to stop it. These new dimensions include but are not limited to research designs in criminology, new theories of crime causation, crime in different contexts, connections between criminology and criminal justice policy and a number of lingering issues for both disciplines. In more detail, the new dimensions of this book include:

Sir Francis Galton	Tangible and intangible costs of victimization
The criminal mind and the concept of <i>mens rea</i>	Homicide-suicide
International data sources	Cyber vandalism
Criminologists' commonly used methodological techniques	Pink collar crime
Crime control through eugenics	Khaki collar crime
The Jukes family	Criminalized lifestyles
The Grasmick scale for measuring self-control	Theoretical basis for crime punishment, prevention and rehabilitation
Green Criminology	Explanations for changes in the crime rate
The pushes and pulls of crime	Gun control and crime
Situational action theory	Wider legalization of prostitution and its effect on crime
Organized retail crime	Wider legalization of drugs and its effect on crime
Crime and disasters	Sex offender policies
Active shooter situations	The death penalty and deterrence
Hate crimes and victims	

The Organization of This Book

This book is organized into five parts. Naturally, we begin at the beginning. Part I provides introductory material and Chapter 1 addresses what crime is, how society responds to crime and what criminology is. Chapter 2 raises and answers the related questions of how much crime is there and how we study it.

Part II of the book deals with theories and correlates of crime. Here we ask the question why do they do it and we find myriad answers, including psychosocial and biosocial answers (Chapter 3), social structural answers, social process answers (Chapter 5), critical answers (Chapter 6) and a lifetime of answers (Chapter 7). We conclude this section with a thorough treatment of the pushes and pulls of crime (Chapter 8).

Part III ask the questions where, when and to whom does crime happen. Chapter 9 considers the contexts in which choices to offend are made and opportunities for offending are present. In Chapter 10, we cover the nature and extent of criminal victimization as well as consider explanatory theories.

Part IV is an explanation of crime types beginning with violent crimes (Chapter 11), including both traditional and new forms of violence and a discussion of their causes. Our explanation of property crime in Chapter 12 begins with a brief history of stealing and continues with what we know about the many forms of theft and the people who engage in it. Chapter 13 explores white and other collar crime and shows how different positions people hold in the workplace and other organizations, especially the military, give rise to different forms of criminality. In Chapter 14, we discuss public order crimes as well as the criminalization of certain lifestyles.

Finally, Part V connects criminology and criminal justice in a variety of areas such as punishment, crime prevention and rehabilitation. It also explores lingering issues that have implications for both criminology and criminal justice. We conclude in Chapter 15 that these need to be addressed forthrightly lest the criminological enterprise ring hollow. We believe this text will provide those who read it with a thorough understanding of what crime is, what causes it and what can be done about it, as well as the ability and desire to pose important questions for the future of both criminology and criminal justice.

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