

Fundamentals of Criminology

Fundamentals of Criminology

New Dimensions

Second Edition

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Dee Wood Harper



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Preface to the Second Edition

It is with great pride that we present the second edition of *Fundamentals of Criminology: New Dimensions*. We believe that this book, like the first edition, well captures the fundamentals of criminology through its explanations of the extent of crime, major theories of crime causation and crime types. But many criminology textbooks do this and there are several things that set the second edition of *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 which 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 the most 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, in our descriptions of the different types of crime, we provide the most up to date information on crime commission as well as changes in the amount of crime 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 comprehensible 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 of, if not all of, other 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. Some of the new dimensions have been around a while but largely overlooked and others are just now coming on the scene. These include but are not necessarily limited to:

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

* These new dimensions are new to the second edition

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 in terms of laws 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 (Chapter 4), 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 asks the question: Where, when and to whom does crime happen? Chapter 9 considers how choices to offend are made and opportunities for offending are present. Chapter 10 is a new addition to the second edition and it focuses on the development of new criminologies. This chapter brings together a discussion of cybercrime, political crime and organized crime and a consideration of the context in which new criminologies have developed. New criminologies, including green, queer, positive, popular and catastrophic, focus on emerging issues that both broaden and enhance the discipline. In Chapter 11, 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 12), including both traditional and “new” forms of violence and a discussion of their causes. Our explanation of property crime in Chapter 13 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 14 explores white and other collar crime and shows how different positions people hold in the workplace and other organizations, including the military, give rise to different forms of criminality. In Chapter 15, 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 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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D.H.

