

Chapter 2



Why Crime Occurs



Underlying Question to consider.....

Are **YOU** capable of committing a crime?



Do you know him?

US Army Soldier!





Do you know him?

Federal inmate ?

Do you know him?

Inmate incarcerated at
Fort Leavenworth
Military prison awaiting
trial!





Nidal Malik Hasan (age 46) is an American convicted of **fatally shooting 13 people and injuring more than 30 others in the Fort Hood** mass shooting on November 5, 2009. Hasan was a United States Army Medical Corps psychiatrist who admitted to the shootings at his court-martial in August 2013. A **jury** panel of 13 officers **convicted him of 13 counts of premeditated murder, 32 counts of attempted murder**, and unanimously recommended he be dismissed from the service and **sentenced to death**. Hasan is incarcerated at the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas awaiting execution while his **case is reviewed** by appellate courts.

Exploring the Causes of Crime



Criminology:

- “The scientific **study of crime** and the **causes** of criminal behavior”





Motivation!!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fu3fzu17YBc>

Exploring the Causes of Crime



- Crime and Free Will: Choice Theories of Crime
 - Classical Criminology
 - People have free will to choose their behavior
 - Crime as a choice, is more attractive to some than abiding by the law
 - People may refrain from crime if the punishment or pain for it may be greater than the gain from it
 - Threat of punishment is the primary deterrent to crime

Exploring the Causes of Crime



Positivism

- “A school of social science that sees criminal and delinquent behavior as the result of biological, psychological, and social forces.”
- Because wrongdoers are driven to deviancy by external factors, they should not be punished but treated to lessen the influence of those factors.

“Killer Clown”
Ill- Executed 1994
Killed 33 people (boys)



Exploring the Causes of Crime



- Biological and Psychological Theories of Crime

- Biological Theories

- Biochemical Conditions and Crime

- Genetics and Crime

- Behavioral Genes

- Twin Studies

- Brain Activity and Crime

- Psychological Theories

- Psychoanalytic Theory – id, ego, superego

- Psychopaths

Synopsis

Susan Smith was born September 26, 1971 in Union, South Carolina. Smith's childhood was quite painful, following her parents' divorce, her father committed suicide. On October 25, 1994, Smith claimed to have been carjacked by an African-American man, with her boys in the car. She later confessed to drowning them and was sentenced to life.

Murderer. Born Susan Leigh Vaughan on September 26, 1971 in Union, South Carolina. Susan Smith had a troubled upbringing; her parents' relationship was often violent and soon after their divorce, her father committed suicide. Her mother quickly remarried a man who sexually abused Susan.

On October 25, 1994, Smith contacted the police saying she had been carjacked by an African-American man who fled with her two young sons in the car. After she made emotional pleas on television for the safe return of her children, the incident gained media attention and sympathy from around the world. However, nine days later, Smith admitted that she had pushed her car into nearby John D. Long Lake, drowning her sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alexander, who were strapped into their car seats inside.

. Susan Smith is serving her sentence at Leath Correctional Institution in South Carolina and will be eligible for parole in 2024, after serving a minimum of thirty years.



Psychopath vs. Sociopath



The common features of a psychopath and sociopath lie in their shared diagnosis — antisocial personality disorder. The DSM-5 defines antisocial personality as someone have 3 or more of the following traits:

- Regularly breaks or flaunts the law
- Constantly lies and deceives others
- Is impulsive and doesn't plan ahead
- Can be prone to fighting and aggressiveness
- Has little regard for the safety of others
- Irresponsible, can't meet financial obligations
- Doesn't feel remorse or guilt

Psychopaths tend to be more manipulative, can be seen by others as more charming, lead a resemblance of a normal life, and minimize risk in criminal activities.

Sociopaths tend to be more erratic, rage-prone, and unable to lead as much of a normal life. When sociopaths engage in criminal activity, they tend to do so in a reckless manner without regard to consequences.



Sociopaths

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsNILWetTZM>



More motivation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlXRengzZoc>



Review

A school of social science that sees criminal and delinquent behavior as the result of biological, psychological, and social forces is called Positivism

Threat of Punishment is the primary deterrent to crime

People have Free Will to choose their behavior

Psychopaths tend to be more manipulative, can be seen by others as more charming, lead a resemblance of a normal life, and minimize risk in criminal activities

The theory focusing on the id, ego, and superego is Psychoanalytic theory

Exploring the Causes of Crime



- Sociological Theories of Crime

- Social and Physical Environmental Factors

- THE CHICAGO SCHOOL*

- Social Disorganization Theory (*Chart on next slide*)
 - Strain Theory
 - Cultural Deviance Theory

Figure 2.1 The Stages of Disorganization Theory



The Problem: Poverty

The Consequences:

Formation of isolated impoverished areas, racial and ethnic discrimination, lack of legitimate economic opportunities.

Leads to

The Problem: Social Disorganization

The Consequences:

Breakdown of institutions such as school and the family.

Leads to

The Problem: Breakdown of Social Control

The Consequences:

Peer groups replace family and educators as primary influences on youth; formation of gangs.

Leads to

The Problem: Criminal Careers

The Consequences:

The majority of youths "age out" of crime, start families, and, if they can, leave the neighborhood. Those who remain still adhere to the values of the impoverished-area culture and become career criminals.

Leads to

The Problem: Cultural Transmission

The Consequences:

The younger juveniles inherit the values of delinquency and crime from their older siblings and friends, establishing a deep-rooted impoverished-area culture.

Leads to

The Problem: Criminal Areas

The Consequences:

Rise of crime in poverty-stricken neighborhood; delinquent behavior becomes socially acceptable for youths; outside investment and support shun the area.

Exploring the Causes of Crime

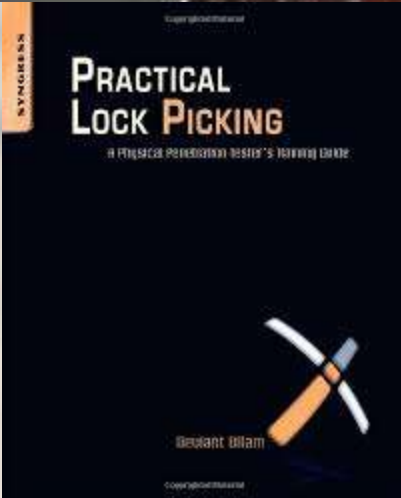


- Family, Friends, and the Media: Social Processes of Crime
 - Social Process Theories
 - “A school of criminology that considers criminal behavior to be the predictable result of a person’s interaction with his or her environment.”
 - Learning Theory
 - Criminal behavior is learned
 - Control Theory
 - Social bonds promote conformity to social norms
 - Labeling Theory
 - Society creates crime by labeling certain behavior and individuals as deviant

Which Theory?



I don't want to
steal...my
family will get
mad



New Proud Gang
Member

Exploring the Causes of Crime



- **Life Course Theories**

- “The study of crime based on the belief that behavioral patterns **developed in childhood** can **predict** delinquent and criminal behavior **later in life**”
- Self-Control Theory
- Continuity Theory of Crime
- The Possibility of Change
 - Moffitt believed there were **two groups of youthful offenders**: Those that age out of crime (their life of crime pertains to childhood), and those that continue to commit crime as adults

Exploring the Causes of Crime



- Emerging Theories in Criminology

- Biosocial Theory

- Combines aspects of biological and sociological theories

- Differential Coercion Theory

- Focuses on the types of force that compel a person to commit crime

- Convict Criminology

- Involves the unique input of ex-inmates who offer experiential views of corrections



Walking Dead Bad Lip reading

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR4lLJu-wE>



Last of the Mohicans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhrg6SH9yvE>



Victims of Crime



Victimology and Victims of Crime



- Victimology

- “A school of criminology that studies why certain people are the victims of crime and the optimal role for victims in the criminal justice system”
- The growing emphasis on the victim has had a profound impact on criminal justice administrators



Victimology and Victims of Crime



- The Experience of Being a Victim

- Including factors such as lost wages and medical costs, researchers estimate that an adolescent victim of crime will lose about \$240,000 over the course of his or her lifetime
- In addition to financial costs, victims sometimes struggle with the psychological aftermath of their experience which could result in mental health and substance abuse problems
- Data suggest that the **same persons** tend to be **both victims and offenders**, suggesting that being a **victim may lead to future criminal behavior**

Victimology and Victims of Crime



- Factors of Victimization.....What factors can cause someone to become a victim of a crime?
 - Aspects of an individual's life, including gender, lifestyle, and environment affect the possibility of being a crime victim
 - Examples of the factors associated with victimization are:
 - **Alcohol**
 - Research suggests alcohol consumption has a causal effect on victimization under certain circumstances. At greatest risk are frequent and heavy drinkers
 - **Gender**
 - Victimization rates of men and women are comparable

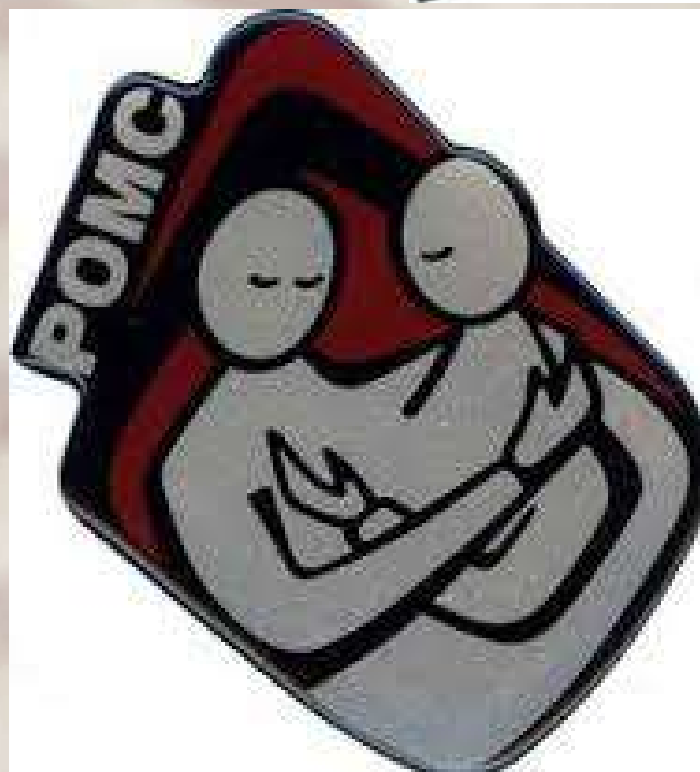
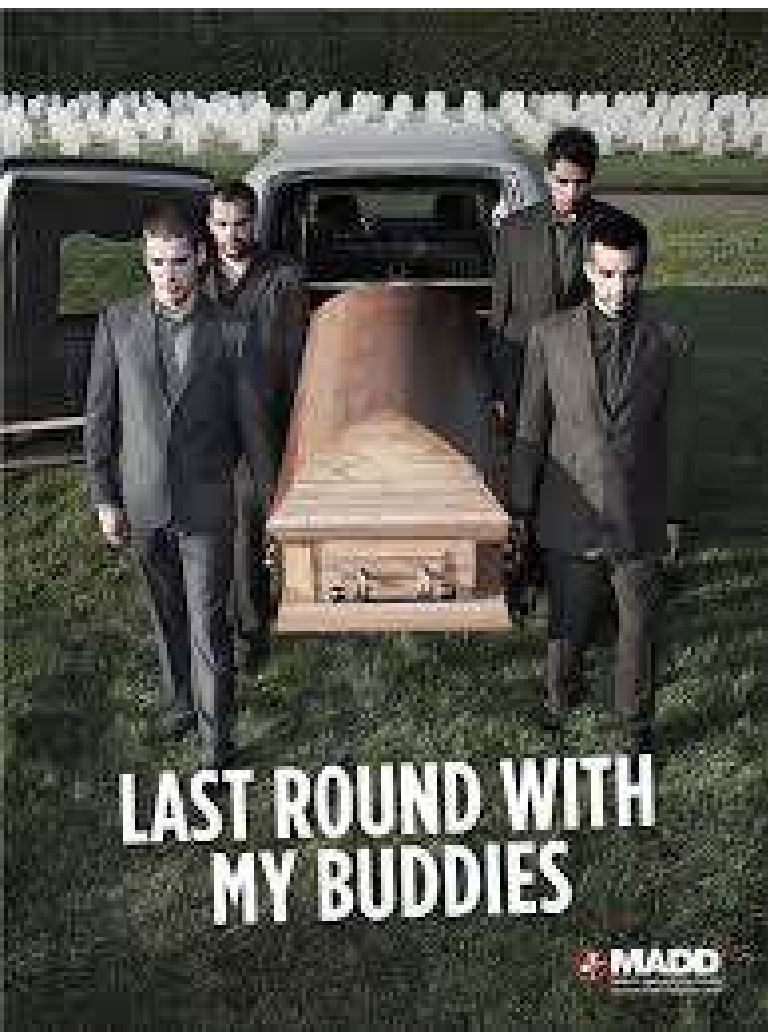


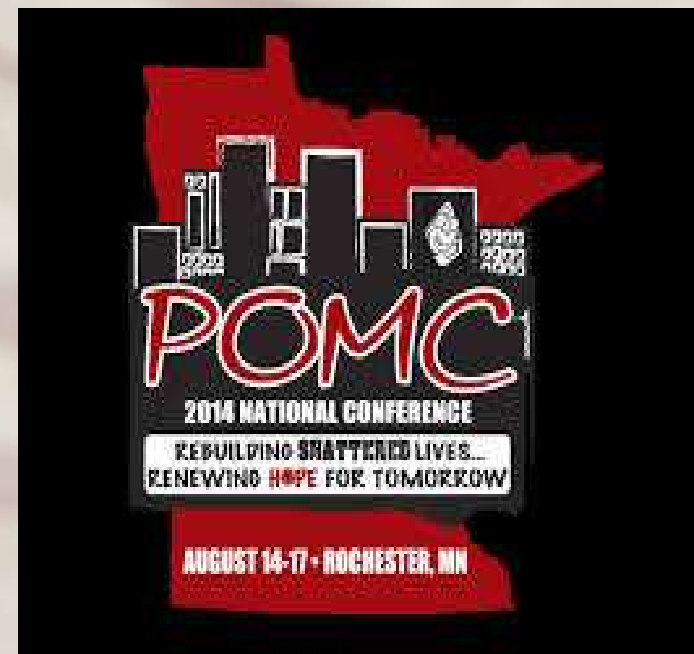
Victimology and Victims of Crime



■ Protecting Victim's Rights

- Historically, victims of crime have been virtually absent from the criminal justice system
- Efforts to **recognize and protect the interest of victims** include:
 - The Victim's Rights Movement
 - State Laws
 - Federal Laws





Criminology from Theory to Practice



- Chronic Offenders (**repeat offender**)
 - In response, law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices have devised specific strategies to apprehend and prosecute repeat offenders
 - Legislators also responded, particularly through habitual offender laws that provide harsher sentences for repeat offenders

Chronic Offenders



A person who is found to be a **persistent felony offender** in the second degree shall be **sentenced** to an indeterminate term of imprisonment pursuant to the sentencing provisions of KRS 532.060(2) for the **next highest degree** than the **offense for which convicted**. A person who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall **not be eligible for probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge**, unless all offenses for which the person stands convicted are Class D felony offenses which do not involve a violent act against a person, in which case probation, shock probation, or conditional discharge may be granted. A violent offender who is found to be a persistent felony offender in the second degree shall not be eligible for parole



Children of Crime (7:53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8vZxDa2KPM>



A Special Treat~

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtIPmVN6zdc#t=76.607845>