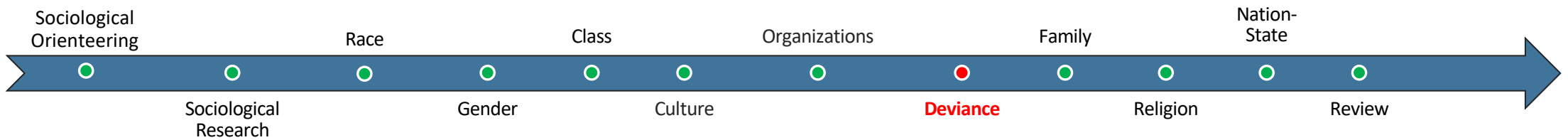


WEEK 8

Deviance & Social Control

Dr Lou Antolihao
SC1101E Making Sense of Society



Midterm Essay Preliminary FEEDBACK

The Assessment Criteria: What is your POINT?

- P – probing:** the amount of useful research that was undertaken (interviews, use of statistics, other methods)
- O – opinion:** the incisive analysis of relevant social issue/s (good grasp of the news article's social context).
- I – insight:** the formulation of creative ideas or a compelling argument (add something new or a better way of understanding the issue).
- N – narrative:** good composition skills and careful editing (coherence, use news article throughout essay)
- T – texts:** effective use of theory (sociological orienteering)



Leaving Things Unattended



<https://youtu.be/0KUj20y-Q0g>



The Disciplinary Society

- a social condition wherein censorship and surveillance are normalized that they become part of people's everyday life.
 - **Censorship** – a method of averting ideas and information from reaching a specific audience.
 - **Surveillance** – a social control mechanism that involves the monitoring of communication, movements, and activities to ensure public order.
 - **Panopticon** – refers to the people's internalization of the disciplinary society ("big brother is watching you").

Defining Deviance

❑ **Deviance** – is a physical appearance, cultural identity, or peculiar behavior that is challenged or condemned socially because it diverges from established social norms.

❑ The Characteristics of Deviance

- No person or act is inherently deviant. Deviance is shaped by two factors:
 1. **social context** – deviance is defined by societies to delineate their own moral values and social norms.
 2. **social audience** – deviance only exists when a group of people who are conscious of existing norms, participate in its enforcement, and advocate for the punishment of those who violate them.



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

Types of Deviance

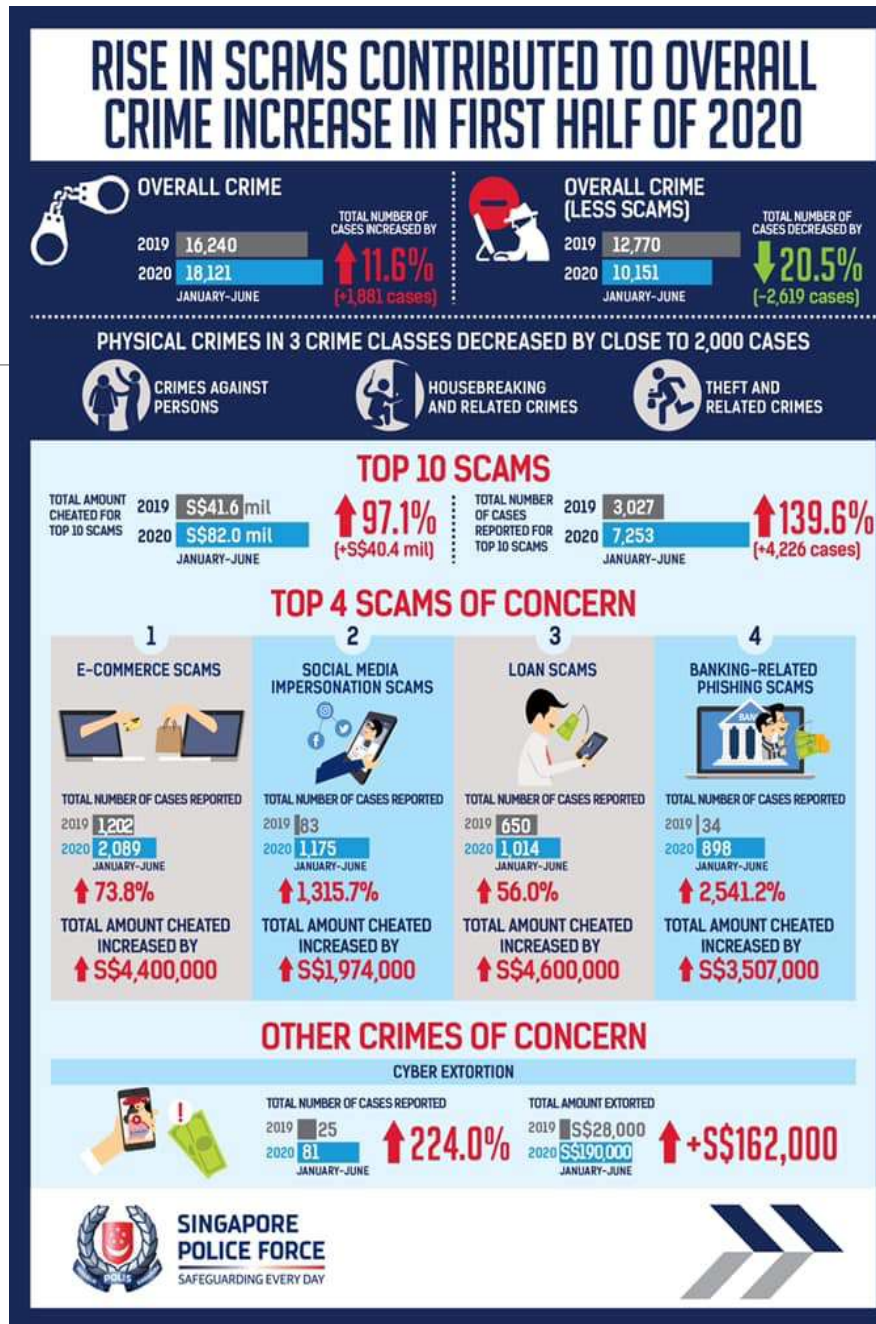


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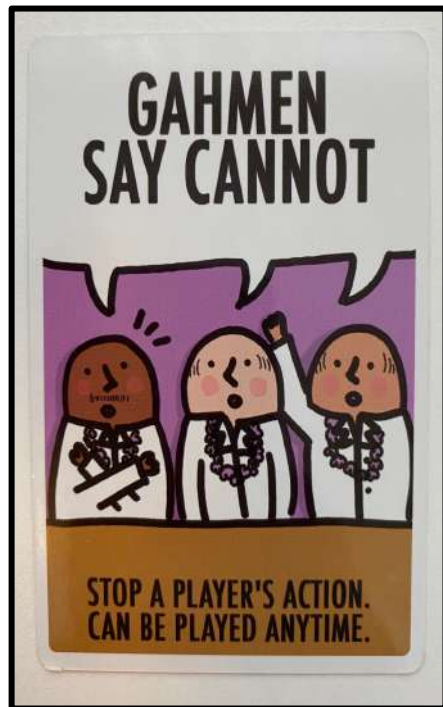
- The classification is based on a. degree of public disagreement, b. degree of harmfulness, c. severity of social response (Hagan 1994) .
 1. **social diversions** – generally harmless, mixed response, people are mostly apathetic (e.g., cutting queue).
 2. **social deviations** – serious offences, somewhat harmful, subjected to institutional sanction (e.g., cutting queue then physically harming the person who complained about it).
 3. **conflict crimes** – illegal, public disagreement about harmfulness (e.g., cutting queue while high on marijuana).
 4. **consensus crimes** – grievous offences, people agree that perpetrator should be punished (e.g., killing someone who cut queue).
- **Crime** – an act of deviance that breaks a law (not only a norm)
 - Most common types: 1. victimless, 2. hate, 3. professional, 4. organized, 5. white-collar, 6. cybercrime, 7. transnational

Engaging Society: Deviance in Singapore

- ❑ What is the main reason why people become criminals or deviants?
- the law defines certain acts as crime
 - limited opportunities to earn a living
 - people label them as deviants
 - people complain about their activities
 - they were exposed to bad influence
 - they are quietly resisting the system



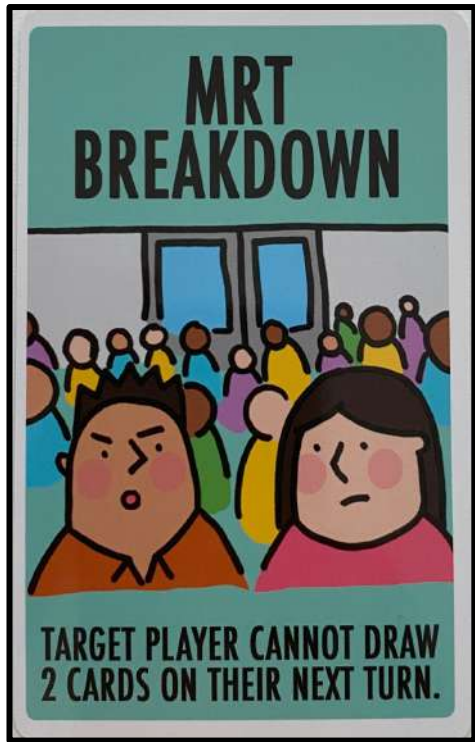
Understanding Deviance: Functionalist Approach



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- ❑ “There is no society that is not confronted with criminality ... it is an integral part of all healthy societies” (Durkheim, *Rules of the Sociological Method*, 1895:99).
- ❑ Deviance fulfils key functions: 1) clarify rules, 2) unites a group in opposing deviant behaviour, 3) promotes social change by allowing people to challenge social norms.
- ❑ A Community of Saints
 - Even in a “community of saints,” such as a monastery, Durkheim said, rules will be broken, and negative social reactions will be handed out.
 - Because deviance serves several important functions for society, any given society “invents” deviance by defining certain behaviors as deviant and the people who commit them as deviants.

Understanding Deviance: Structural Strain



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- ❑ deviance emerge in a period of crisis when the prescribed means to achieve the valued goals in society are no longer .
 - the valued goals – upward mobility (The Singaporean Dream), home ownership, work productivity, etc.
 - the means to achieve goals – a university degree, job, good public infrastructure, etc.

Modes of Adaptation	Accept Goals	Follow Means
Conformity	yes	yes
Innovation	yes	no
Ritualism	no	yes
Retreatism	no	no
Rebellion	no/replace	no/replace

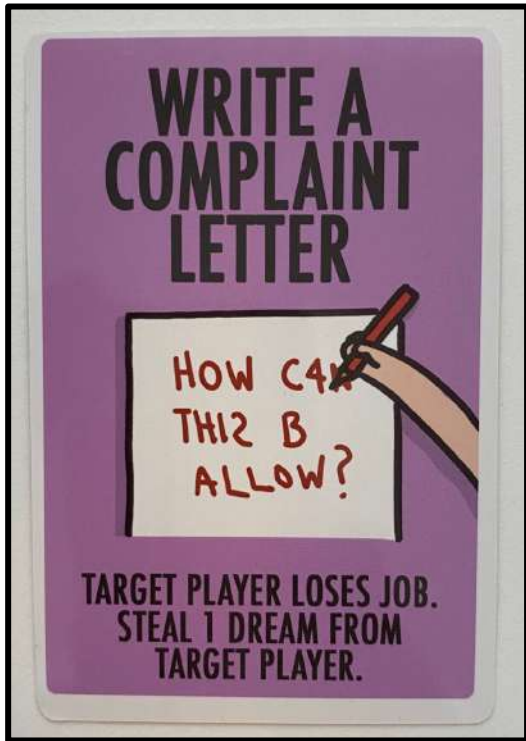
Understanding Deviance: Labelling Theory



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- maintains that an appearance or an act becomes deviant when people take action to label it as such and apply sanctions.
- The Saints and the Roughnecks (William Chambliss 1978)
 - **Saints** - rich kids who “sow wild oats” but never treated as deviants.
 - **Roughnecks** - poor kids seen as delinquents even though they committed less misdeeds than the Saints.
 - Three factors: 1. **visibility**, 2. **demeanor**, 3. **bias**.
 - Different groups treated differently based on their position in society led to different outcomes in life.

Understanding Deviance: Constructionist Approach



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- ❑ The Social Construction of Deviance – highlights how claims based on legalistic (juridification), scientific (medicalization), and humanistic rationalities (social movements) seek to change existing norms.
- ❑ **Claim makers** - people who articulate and promote claims and who tend to gain in some way if the targeted audience accepts them as true.
- ❑ **Claim making activities** - actions taken to draw attention to a claim – e.g., “demanding services, lodging complaints, filing lawsuits, lobbying, boycotting” (Spector & Kitsuse 1977).

Understanding Deviance: Differential Association



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- ❑ argues that people learn deviance through socialization and interaction with others.
- ❑ through prolonged exposure individuals incorporate the rationality and values as well as the skills and techniques of specific groups.
 - Deviant subcultures – groups that are part of the larger society but whose members share norms and values favoring violation of society's larger values.
 - White collar crime – crimes committed by those in high status and respectable positions.

Understanding Deviance: Everyday Forms of Resistance



The Singaporean Dream by SGAG

- The subtle and unorganized resistance and non-cooperation peasants and other subjugated individuals employ in response to domination.
 - “foot-dragging, evasion, false compliance, pilfering, feigned ignorance, slander, and sabotage (Scott 1985: 29)
 - feigning sickness or injury
 - not trivial and inconsequential because it allows marginalized people to regain their dignity and get a sense of agency.
 - *Stealing a Bag of Potato Chips* (Rios 2012)

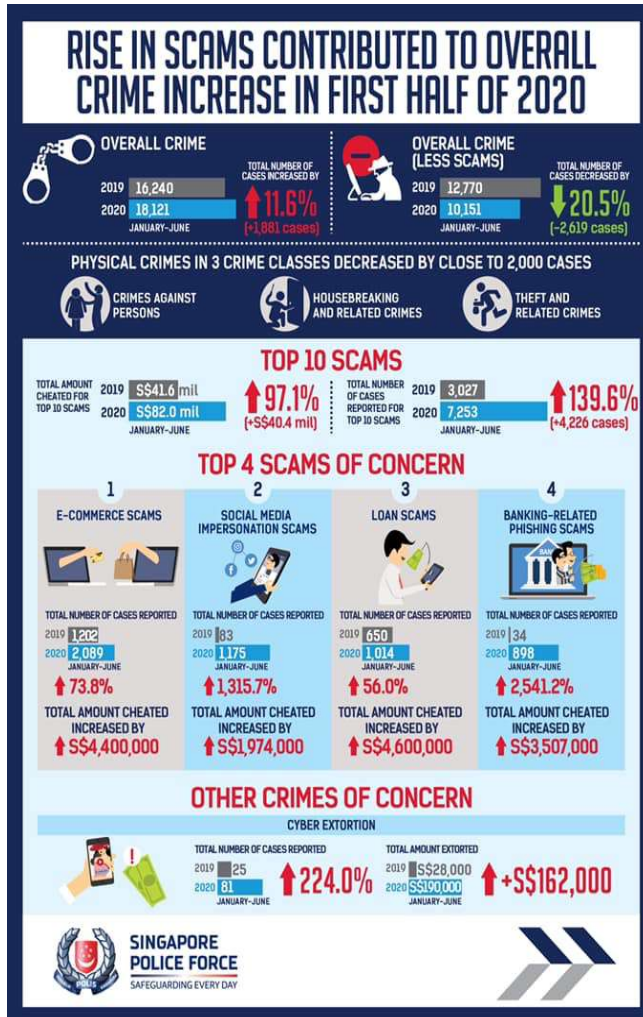


stealing a bag
of potato chips
and other
crimes of
resistance

by victor m. rios

- ❑ **Organic capital** – the creative response that (deviant groups) developed in the midst of blocked opportunity and criminalization.
- ❑ Feelings of exclusion from a network of positive credentials, education, and employment opportunities led to **resistance identities**.
 - created by subordinated population in response to oppression (Manuel Castells).
 - operate by “excluding the excluder”.
 - this self-defeating path led to trouble but also a sense of agency and dignity.
- ❑ **Crimes of Resistance** – (defiance) breaking the rules meant resisting a system; criminality was one of the few resources the boys could use in response to criminalization.

Understanding Deviance



- ❑ What is the main reason why people become criminals or deviants?
- a. the law defines certain acts as crime (**Functionalist Approach**)
 - b. limited opportunities to earn a living (**Structural Strain Theory**)
 - c. people label them as deviants (**Labelling Theory**)
 - d. people claim that their activities are wrong (**Constructionist Approach**)
 - e. they were exposed to bad influence (**Differential Association**)
 - f. they are discreetly resisting the system (**Everyday Forms of Resistance**)

Conclusion



The roles of **social context** and **social audience** are fundamental in identifying deviant acts.



Popular culture tends to **glamorize deviance**.