

# Introduction

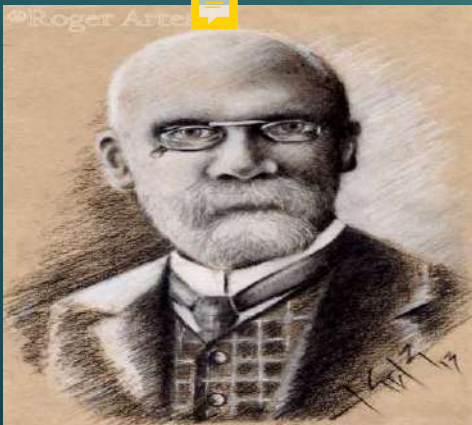
- ▶ Administrative matters
- ▶ About the module
- ▶ About teaching style and pedagogy
- ▶ Conflict of interest

# Topic 1: Problematizing Deviance, Crime and Social Control

values are never absolutist but always relativist

- ▶ **Study of deviance** and **crime** is much associated with the study of society in general
- ▶ It pertains to the problems of social change, social order and **social control**
- ▶ It also **complicates the relationship** between community norms, morality, and law in a changed, changing social order
- ▶ E.g. homosexuality, capital punishment

howard becker



caesar lombrosone-



david mazar



# Sociology of Deviance as Science

- ▶ Sociology of deviance as a specific genre of discourse and inquiry into crime
- ▶ A scientific discipline devoted to the systematic and procedural study of deviance, crime, deviant/criminal behavior, criminality and, to an extent, the processes of the criminal justice system
- ▶ Importance of scientific methodology

- 



# Twin Problems of Social and Scientific Convention

## Social Convention

- ▶ Authority
- ▶ Tradition
- ▶ Common sense and common experiences
- ▶ Media representations of crime



Internal Security Act  
- Those found as a threat to national security  
- indefinite detention

= historical context of communalism and communism gave rise to this

conceptualising community policing

new parliament sex offense bill with indeterminate

Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions Act)

- Executive branch is able to make the decision (bypassing the judiciary) to sentence an individual

temporary because govt knows its too powerful and must be renewed every 5 years - but it has been there since 1978



search ID: rhan1322



# Twin Problems of Social and Scientific Convention


## Scientific Convention

- ▶ Influence of particular ideas which enjoy currency because of peculiar and **particular political and social contexts**/discourses
- ▶ **Contestation between disciplines** such as sociology, social work, psychology, philosophy, law, public policy, public health, political science, medicine, and economics
- ▶ Problem of evidence – what constitutes ‘good evidence’
- ▶ This question often pertains to the kinds of assumptions we make about human nature, order of nature, social relations, state-society relations etc.  
ontology - assumptions about

# Problematizing Sociology of Deviance

- ▶ So what is deviance? **Who is the deviant?** What is normal?  
What is the difference between deviance and crime?  
Can we understand deviance without having a conception of social control? Can we have an understanding of crime without an appreciation of law?  
What is the relationship between crime, deviance and conformity?
- ▶ Park and Burgess (1928): “...all social problems turn out finally to be problems associated with social control...”

# Deviance and Crime

- ▶ Deviance is the term we use to identify categories of acts or persons which break or ignore the rules of a particular social group or of society at large
- ▶ Deviance is a violation of social norms and mores
- ▶ Labelling the 'infraction' as 'deviance' – fluid, contextual, and take place 'anywhere'
- ▶  Crime is a form of rule-breaking recognised by the state, defined by criminal law, processed by judicial institutions and offenders formally punished
- ▶ Crime is a violation of legal norms
- ▶ Crime is a subset of deviance
- ▶ In this module, I will use the terms interchangeably since they are a function of chronology



# Sociology of Deviance & Criminology

- ▶ Criminology has a longer history (1764) than Sociology of Deviance (1893)
- ▶ Concerned with infraction of legal norms, thus institutionalised populations
- ▶ Crime seen as an objective phenomenon inspired by the positivist tradition
- ▶ **Sociology of deviance** treats crime and deviance as a product of history, structure, culture, and institution – the idea that they are socially constructed and historically sustained
- ▶ Sociologists' antipathy to criminology lies in the latter's intellectual roots in positivism and its role in maintaining colonial power

# Counter- Colonial Criminology A Critique of Imperialist Reason Biko Agozino



# A Sociologist's Rejoinder

- ▶ Crime and deviance have a strong historical, cultural, structural texture
- ▶ Importance of understanding **CONTEXT**
- ▶ Crime and deviance are social constructs, relative to time and space
- ▶ **Power** is central to understanding crime and deviance – both micro and macro (Edwin Schur 1980)
- ▶ Sociology assumes a humanistic, interpretive, and deconstructionist approach to studying deviance

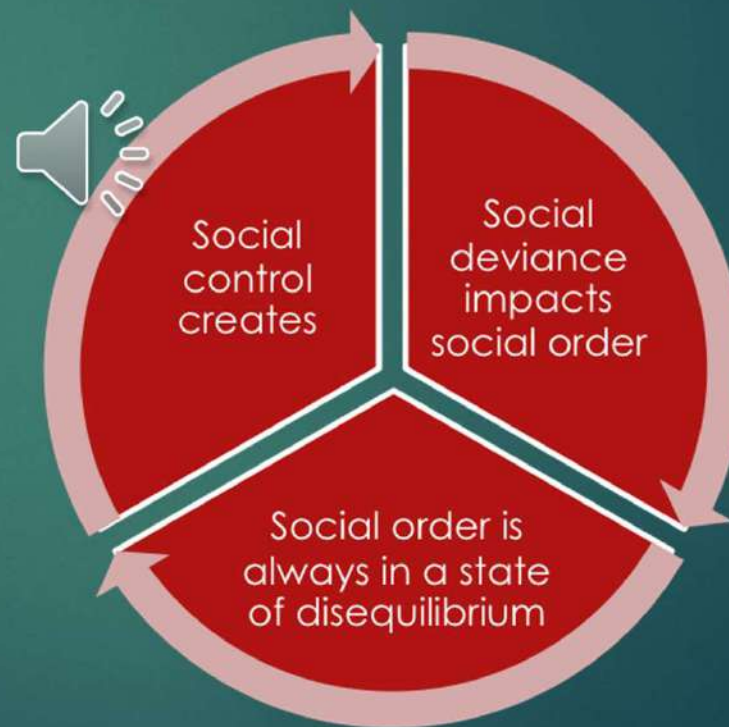


# Methodological and Epistemological Approaches to Studying Crime:

Normative/Functionalist Approach



Constructionist /symbolic interactionist Approach



# Topic 1: Problematizing Deviance, Crime and Social Control

## Theoretical and Methodological Issues

- ▶ Where to look for an answer?
- ▶ Are we to look at the act, actor or the social context in which the act and the actor exist?
- ▶ Is crime a structural problem?
- ▶ Is deviance/crime a historical/contextual problem?
- ▶ Do we need to develop a grand theory of crime or specific theories of crime to explain specific types of crimes?

# Where do we look for an answer?

## ❖ **Psychological and psychiatric approach**

- Cognitive and developmental dysfunction
- The former refers to mental illnesses that affect decision-making; the latter documents how stressful and traumatic events experienced during childhood might adversely affect later development during adulthood (psycho-social, emotional and even moral competencies)
- Impulsivity, lack of social control and inability to postpone gratification
- 'Learned helplessness'; developing a vocabulary for neutralizing, rationalizing criminal behavior or even victimization

solutions are medication,



# Dealing with mentally ill offenders

ST 617/12



EYE ON SINGAPORE

By KHUSHWANT SINGH  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

**L**OW (48), has been in and out of prison for theft since 1986, spending a total of 16 years inside. Yet when he was charged with theft in May last year, he was placed on three years of supervised probation.

He had been diagnosed as suffering from fetishism, and was aroused sexually by the smell of women's leather belts.

The district court had decided the probation, coupled with treatment for his mental condition, was the better option than packing him off to jail again.

Under the probation order, Low had to stay at a crisis centre for men and attend a treatment programme. A review was also scheduled to take place in six months.

But four months into his three-year probation, he stole wallets from two women.

Usually that would have sent him straight to jail for consecutive

terms. But lawyer Ravinderpal Singh, who represented Low, said that he has made five referrals this year. Previously, he hardly made any referrals, as such assessments carried much less weight then.

"Psychiatric assessments have become increasingly relevant in courts recently, with judges specifically asking for these reports," he said.

"Treatment is now considered a valid option besides a fine or a jail term," he added.

Several recent cases bear out his observation. Low is one such example.

Forensic psychiatrist Todd Fongda from the IMF stated in his report that while Low could receive medication in prison, he was unlikely to be able to receive behavioural therapy for fetishism, which might prove useful in helping him control his behaviour.

Thus, instead of jail, Low's probation will continue, and he has to attend a programme run by the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) that treats people with addictions.

He also attended the Atypical High Offender treatment programme conducted by charity group We Care Community Services, introduced in 2009. It caters to kleptomaniacs, as well as

those who have committed sexual offences or demonstrated sexually abusive behaviour. A total of 174 young people have gone through the programme since 2009.

MCYS also provides the Basic Education and Sexuality Treatment programme for mildly intellectually challenged men with sexual offending behaviour.

Treatment for those with sexual offending behaviour is also ordered by psychiatrists and psychologists in private practices.

One of them, psychiatrist Tommy Tan, credited former chief justice Yong Pung How for requesting in 2005 that judges be given greater discretion when dealing with offenders with psychiatric problems.

Dr Tan said: "It's an evolutionary process and takes time."

He said that he had treated "inherently good, upright people" whose sense of right and wrong was clouded by psychological problems such as stress or depression. Then, on impulse, they did something really out of character, like taking upskirt videos or photos.

"In many cases, they need help instead of just punishment," he said.

Like others interviewed, he also noted the need to balance individuals' treatment with public safety. But where public interest



# Shoplifter may have split personality, says doctor

By ELENA CHONG

A WOMAN who has been in and out of court for shoplifting, and was convicted last October of cheating, may have dissociative identity disorder, or what is better known as a split personality disorder.

As such, Goh Lee Yin would require long-term treatment or she will likely re-offend, senior consultant psychiatrist Munidasa Winslow told a court yesterday.

Dr Winslow was testifying for the defence during a special hearing to resolve disputed points and

ascertain the correct basis for the sentencing of the 31-year-old.

Goh had duped two women into believing that she had paid them \$97,000 for Hermes handbags they advertised online for sale in late 2011. Her latest offences follow convictions for theft in 2005, 2007 and 2011.

She was reportedly diagnosed by her psychiatrist Tommy Tan, and others, with kleptomania, an impulsive urge to steal.

Dr Winslow testified that Goh would require 18 to 24 months of psychotherapy and psychodynamic treatment. This includes,

among other things, a doctor to assist Goh in understanding how events in her past influence her current behaviour. He found that Goh suffered from an impulse control disorder and a possible dissociative identity disorder, but said "many things in (Goh's) behaviour did not make any sense".

"She is educated, she has a university degree. As far as we can tell... she has pretty good value systems and knows what is right, what is wrong," he added.

He also said he agreed with findings by the Institute of Mental Health's Dr Kenneth Koh, who

said that while Goh was mildly depressed, her condition did not contribute significantly to her present cheating offences, which showed careful planning.

Dr Winslow, however, said if Goh was put in prison without "therapies that may work for her, we are actually condemning her to a long term because we will be seeing her forever and ever again".

Dr Tan, who also testified in court yesterday, said his patient did not have kleptomania, but depressive personality disorder.

"We are dealing with someone who has a need for luxury goods.

# Thief with a fetish for women's leather wallets

■ BY ELENA CHONG

A MAN who went on a stealing spree to satisfy his fetish for the smell of leather wallets was spared a prison sentence yesterday.

Low Ji Qing, 47, a former executive with an economics degree, was placed on three years' supervised probation after taking wallets from nine women over an eight-month period.

He had been jailed four times previously for stealing to satisfy his craving.

The last time he was jailed, in 2000, he was sentenced to 10 years' preventive detention for theft.

But within two months of his release, he went on a stealing spree.

Low, who is a graduate of the University of Western Australia, stole the wallets of two women at NTUC FairPrice in Bukit Timah Road on May 8 and 10 last year, the court heard.

Then, on Nov 11, he stole from two more victims at Carrefour, in Orchard Road, and at Isetan Scotts.

Low pleaded guilty to four counts of theft. Another five similar charges and one of fraudulent possession were taken into consideration.

District Judge Soh Tze Bian ordered him to pay back a total of \$5,058 to his nine victims in 20 monthly instalments.

According to a psychiatric report last year, Low began sniffing his sister's wallets and belongings at the age of seven.

As he grew older, he began to have recurring sexual urges and fantasies involving his sister's wallet.

His life of crime started in 1986 when he was jailed for a day and fined for stealing. He was jailed for 30 months in 1993 and for three years in 1996.

Only then was he diagnosed with a psychiatric condition, his lawyer Josephus Tan had told the court earlier.

Low did not go for follow-up treatment because he felt ashamed of his condition and did not realise how severe it was.

Mr Tan, who was representing Low under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, said his client's crimes were triggered by his inability to cope with his mental disorder.

He said Low had been seeking treatment, and had shown he could be rehabilitated if given a chance. He had got a job at his sister's travel agency, and was doing volunteer work at the weekends.

Under the probation order, Low has to stay at a crisis centre for men and attend a treatment programme. A review will be carried out in six months.

Judge Soh told him: "I note this case is quite serious. You have committed many offences. Make sure you complete the probation successfully, otherwise you will be brought here to be dealt with for these offences."

## Most people with fetishes don't seek help, say doctors

FETISHISM develops when people start to associate sexual arousal with certain objects, say psychiatrists.

These objects - which can range from underwear to stiletto heels and even body parts such as toes - then trigger pleasurable feelings for the person, and become a "stimulus" to satisfy them sexually.

However, most people with fetishes do not seek psychiatric help, unless they run into trouble with the law or if their partners are unhappy, said Dr Adrian Wang, a psychiatrist at Gleneagles Hospital.

"People with fetishes are usually able to carry on with their day-to-day lives and treatment is a difficult and long process which takes months, if not years," said Dr Wang.

Dr Christopher Cheek, head of the department of psychological medicine at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, said: "Most people can control their fetishes and practise them in private, and won't cross the line."

The treatment includes psychotherapy, which aims to help the patients to stop associating sexual arousal or satisfaction with certain objects. Dr Cheek said: "The aim is to help patients desensitise sexual feelings from these objects and to help them control their impulses, which can be worsened by stress or depression."

Another way to help people with fetishism is to encourage them to have more "human contact" and to derive sexual satisfaction from conventional methods, said Dr Brian Yeo, a psychiatrist at the Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre.

LIM YI HAN

ST 17/05/11



TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

TOP OF THE NEWS A3

By SELINA LUM

A CEMETERY labourer has admitted raping a 12-year-old girl who was staying at the burial ground with her family.

Roslan Jaafar, 41, befriended the girl – along with her younger sister and mother – after they started staying in a tent at the site in early 2012.

He would take the girl out to run errands, such as buying cigarettes and dinner – but used their meetings to have sex with her.

Roslan was caught only when the girl's uncle noticed she had been missing for hours and discovered messages about "making love" on her phone.

Yesterday, he pleaded guilty in the High Court to two counts of rape and one of sexual assault of a minor.

Two other counts of sexual assault of a minor and sexual exploitation of a child will be taken into consideration when he is sentenced at a later date.

The court heard yesterday that the family moved to the burial ground temporarily as they

# Cemetery worker raped girl, 12, staying at site

## He took her out on 'errands' after befriending the family

had no fixed accommodation.

In March 2012, the two girls started playing with Roslan's eight-year-old son at the cemetery while he was working.

Roslan later visited their tent and introduced himself to their mother. He continued to visit the family regularly and grew close to them.

In early May that year, the victim's mother agreed to his

request to take the girl out with him to buy cigarettes.

Roslan then began to take her out regularly to run errands, usually for more than two hours at a time.

He would take her on his motorcycle to a quiet spot nearby and have sex with her on a bench late at night, telling the girl not to tell her mother about it.

Although the court heard that

the girl consented to having sex with him, by law, sex with a girl under 14 – with or without her consent – is considered rape.

On June 1 that year, the girl's maternal uncle was visiting the family at the tent when Roslan took her out.

When they did not return after more than two hours, the uncle became worried.

He searched for Roslan's

number on the girl's phone and found text messages from him.

After Roslan dropped the girl off at the tent and left, the uncle confronted her about it.

She broke down and told him what happened.

A police report was made at the Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre and Roslan was arrested last year.

Roslan told the court that the girl had told him she was not a virgin, but he accepted that she may have lied.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Quek Jing Feng asked for a deterrent sentence, arguing that the victim was young and vulnerable.

Roslan had betrayed the trust of the mother and that of the victim, who "would not expect a friend's father to cause her harm".

The case was adjourned after the Law Society's Criminal Legal Aid Scheme said it was looking into whether to take up Roslan's case.

The girl and her family are no longer staying in the cemetery.

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# Where to look for an answer?

## ❖ *Biological / physiological approach*

- ▶ **Hormonal imbalance**
- ▶ Excessive testosterone (in explanations of rape)
- ▶ Puberty (in explanations of teenage crime and aggression)
- ▶ **Chemical castration** as a criminal justice response (Argentina, Australia, Estonia, Israel, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, USA, South Korea, Indonesia and India.
- ▶ Related to somatology; how body types (mesomorph, endomorph and ectomorph) are linked to criminality



# Prisoners may get fish oil supplement

Project being explored would test theory that it reduces violent conduct

By Ter Joo Lin

Fish oil may be making its way into the diet of inmates here under a study to test the theory that it reduces violent behaviour.

The Singapore Prisons is exploring the possibility of such a project, after a British study found that fish oil supplements reduced violent behaviour in youth.

If it goes ahead, Singapore will be the first country to study the effects of the oil on violence on an incarcerated Asian population.

The premise is seductive. It suggests that the pills - which are rich in fatty acids - can be a cheap and humane way to promote good behaviour.

In the British study published in 2002, drug offenders who took the capsules at prison in Aylesbury committed 37 per cent fewer violent crimes compared to those who took a placebo.

Since then, similar studies have commenced in the United States and Holland, according to news reports abroad.

The idea is yet another initiative in the Singapore Prisons' ongoing efforts to improve prisoner management.

Consultant psychiatrist Adrian Wang cautioned against expecting too much, though there are studies linking mood to fish oil - which has been used to treat mental illnesses like depression and bipolar disorder.

"But in those studies, they found the amount of fish oil they've taken is very, very large. You'll be burping fish," he said, adding that results are still inconclusive.

"So it may work for some but not for others, and there are better treatments out there. But no harm trying it as a supplement."

While the supplements hold the promise of rehabilitation, outbreaks of violence in prisons here are uncommon.

In 2007, there were about 22 major assaults for every 10,000 prisoners - in a population of about 11,000.

The fish oil plan was revealed during an annual seminar for officers from the Prisons and Score - the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises - at the Singapore Expo yesterday.

In his speech, Second Home Affairs Minister and Law Minister K. Shanmugam

told the officers to brace themselves for a "potential rise" in inmate population because of the recession, which has been linked to a rise in some crimes.

The shrinking economy may mean fewer jobs for newly released inmates.

Without employment, they may find it harder to reintegrate into the community and stay on the straight and narrow.

He said: "Prisons and Score must stand prepared and ready to cope with the potential increase...even as you find new and better ways to manage the existing inmates."

He also told the officers they would need new skills if new sentencing options allowing offenders to serve time outside prison walls come to pass.

These community-based options - part of changes proposed to the Criminal Procedure Code - were made public last December for feedback.

One option under review is the Short Detention Order.

This puts low-risk, first-time offenders in jail for just a week. The "clang of the prison gates" is supposed to deter them from re-offending without removing them from their families and jobs.

The minister also revealed the latest recidivism rates. In 2006, 25.1 per cent of freed prisoners were back behind bars within two years, slightly higher than the 24.2 figure for the 2005 cohort.

Noting that the decreasing trend over the years - the rate was 31.2 per cent for the 2002 batch - may be "bottoming out", Mr Shanmugam said that it was "unrealistic" to expect it to drop year after year.

The rate could have been higher without the efforts of Prisons and Score, which have helped many former inmates find jobs.

During the Yellow Ribbon Project month last year, they got 133 employers to sign up to hire ex-offenders, more than the 79 in 2007.

Mr Shanmugam said that he recently hired a mover that he knew was staffed by former inmates - and came away impressed.

"I found them to be very nice, very hardworking," he said.

## What's on the cards

### Ward expansion

The secured ward at Changi General Hospital for sick inmates will be expanded.

### Anti-gang measures

The Prisons will strengthen its anti-gang measures with an education programme for inmates. This will also help officers develop early intervention tools.

### Robot patrols

Autonomous vehicles equipped with sensors and cameras that can patrol the grounds are being studied for use in the future. Moving on tracks or wheels, the vehicles can even fire non-lethal weapons.

### Unmanned guard towers

An advanced network of sensors and cameras that can detect and track intruders or escapees is being explored. These devices can be mounted onto existing towers along the perimeter of the prison complex.

### Inmate tracking

In future, inmates who are on home detention or work release may have to carry Global Positioning System (GPS) units as well as the present electronic tags. The GPS units will give information on exactly where they are. Officers are also studying if inmates inside prisons should be tagged to monitor their movements.

ST/06/05/09



# Chemical castration – will it stop reoffenders?

ST 26/1/13 (1)



By ANDY HO  
SENIOR WRITER

**A** 23-YEAR-OLD woman gang-raped by six men on a moving bus in Delhi on Dec 16 last year died of her injuries in a Singapore hospital two weeks later. Public outrage saw India proposing the chemical castration of rapists.

On Jan 3, South Korea meted out that very sentence to a 31-year-old man convicted of raping several teenage girls.

Actually, "chemical castration" is a misnomer since the completely reversible procedure does not involve any mutilation of the genitalia at all. It simply involves (initially weekly) injections of a synthetic female hormone called medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA), the primary use of which is as a female contraceptive.

To tame male sex offenders, it must be continued indefinitely. By contrast, in women, MPA is injected once every 12 weeks for birth control, for no more than two years at the most.

MPA reduces the blood levels of testosterone, the male hormone responsible for the libido, including deviant sexual urges. Less testosterone means the libido is curbed accordingly.

Besides loss of libido, MPA injections also lead to erectile problems and lowered sperm count. The dosage is adjusted so there are no spontaneous erections but the man may still have one if stimulated by a suitable partner.

In fact, some offenders on MPA continue to have erections, ejaculations and orgasms. Most claim it simply makes them not have sexual thoughts at all but some say they can have sex nevertheless, especially if they have Viagra. In India, where one can buy prescription drugs over the counter, sex offenders on MPA who can afford them will be able to buy drugs to overcome its libido- and erection-reducing effects.

Alternatively, if the offender absconds from treatment, his testosterone levels will return to normal over time and then he might not be able to control his deviant sexual urges. He might then re-offend.

MPA does cause some serious side-effects. In the short term, it leads to weight gain, diabetes, hypertension, insomnia, lethargy and sweating. He will lose muscle mass and gain weight, the testicles will shrink in size and, over the long run, his bones may become brittle.

While it surely reduces testosterone levels, it is not clear that an MPA programme will definitely reduce sexual reoffending rates. The studies that look at sexual reoffending rates with MPA are, in general, methodologically flawed and simply too small in size, while follow-up periods are

# Where to look for an answer?

## ❖ *Sociological Approach*

- ▶ Attempts to study the broad macro-structural, historical and institutional factors in the causation of crime
- ▶ Charts the relationship between society and the individual
- ▶ Unlike the previous two approaches where the criminal body is the site of intervention, treatment and surveillance, the sociological approach recommends structural changes
- ▶ E.g. **prison** violence as an outcome of material deprivation associated with a 'total institution' and competition for scarce status goods; contradictions in prisonization; **rape** as a **gendered phenomenon** and consequence of **power imbalance in patriarchal societies**

# KL calls for review of case where alleged rapist married victim

The man, in his 20s, allegedly raped the girl, now 15, then married her to avoid being jailed

KUALA LUMPUR • Malaysia's government has called for a review of a case in which a rape suspect married his 14-year-old victim to avoid jail, following angry calls for reform by activists.

Ahmad Syukri Yusuf, aged in his 20s, allegedly raped the girl, now 15, last year and faced up to 30 years in prison and a whipping.

But a court in the Malaysian state of Sarawak on Borneo island ruled last week it would not proceed with the case after it emerged that Yusuf had married his alleged victim.

There have been similar cases in the past.

In 2013, a man who raped a 12-year-old girl avoided prison after he married her, provoking an outcry among rights groups.

However, the following year, a high court sentenced the father-of-four to 12 years in jail.

Activists welcomed the government's intervention but said more needed to be done.

"This is a very good step forward but we need to push the government to ban child marriages," Ms Heang Lee Tan from Women's Aid Organisation in Malaysia told AFP. "We cannot afford to wait any more."

But she added: "In addition to le-

NO TIME TO WAIT

This is a very good step forward but we need to push the government to ban child marriages. We cannot afford to wait any more.

”

MS HEANG LEE TAN from Women's Aid Organisation in Malaysia, who added that there needs to be a change in societal attitudes as well.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015

By SELINA LUM

A CEMETERY labourer has admitted raping a 12-year-old girl who was staying at the burial ground with her family.

Roslan Jaafar, 41, befriended the girl - along with her younger sister and mother - after they started staying in a tent at the site in early 2012.

He would take the girl out to run errands, such as buying cigarettes and dinner - but used their meetings to have sex with her.

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## Cemetery worker raped girl, 12, staying at site

number on the girl's phone and found text messages from him.

After Roslan dropped the girl off at the tent and left, the uncle confronted her about it.

She broke down and told him what happened.

A police report was made at the Nanyang Neighbourhood Police Centre and Roslan was arrested last year.

Roslan told the court that the girl had told him she was not a virgin, but he accepted that she may have lied.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Quak Jing Hong asked for a



REUTERS

## Pakistan frees 5 accused of gang rape

Only one man convicted after woman's 9-year

Insufficient evidence against five of the men.

The case then went to the Supreme Court, which on Thursday upheld the 2005 judgment.

TOP OF THE NEWS

A3



## Violence is not acceptable in any form, says Faishal

16/10/17

Nur Asyiqin Mohamad Salleh

Violence in any form is unacceptable, said Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Social and Family Development Faishal Ibrahim yesterday.

He was weighing in on the issue of spousal violence, after an article in Malay-language newspaper Berita Harian drew criticism online.

In the article, an Islamic religious teacher had declared it permissible for a husband to hit a disobedient wife, albeit within certain limits.

"We do not condone spousal abuse or violence in any form, whether within or outside of the family context," said Dr Faishal in his Facebook post. "Marriage is a lifelong partnership between man and wife built on mutual love and respect, and thus our duty as husbands is to love and respect our wives in the same way we ask them to love and respect us."

"It is common for couples to have conflicts and disagreements from time to time. If couples are unable to resolve these issues, they should seek help rather than resort to violence," he said.

The controversial piece, titled "How to handle a stubborn wife", was published last Friday as part of Berita Harian's weekly Tanya Ustaz - or "Ask An Ustaz" - column, where religious teachers answer questions on a broad range of matters.

Dr Faishal said he was glad to read the paper's clarifications on the piece - posted on Facebook yesterday - as well as a post by Ustaz Irwan Hadi, head of

## Presidential candidate slammed for rape joke

ST 18/4/16

MANILA • Philippine presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte, who has vowed to wage war on crime, was condemned yesterday after a video surfaced of him joking about a murdered Australian rape victim. Mr Duterte, who promises mass killings of suspected criminals if elected next month, appears in a video uploaded on YouTube.



A recent poll showed Mr Duterte has taken the lead in the run-up to the May 9 presidential election.

been first," he is shown telling a

ness for the presidency and his "utter lack of respect for women".

Under the Constitution, Mr Aquino cannot seek a second term. He is supporting another candidate, former interior secretary Mar Roxas, who trails Mr Duterte in opinion surveys.

One rival candidate, Vice-President Jejomar Binay, called Mr

nounced Mr Duterte's remarks, saying any form of sexual abuse was not a joke or "something to be trivialised in a joke", especially by someone seeking the presidency.

Many Filipinos have embraced Mr Duterte for his vulgarly-laced speeches, his boasts of sexual conquests and his promised war on crime. Even when he was

## Indian village council orders gang-rape of woman who had affair

KOLKATA - A woman was gang-raped by 12 men on the orders of a village council in east-

dered the gang-rape.

"The girl was gang-raped for having an affair with a youth of

councils composed of male elders exert enormous influence over rural life in India.

in east India's

ST Nov 14 2013

## India's top police official apologises for rape remark

NEW DELHI - India's top police official has apologised for his remark - "If you can't prevent rape, you enjoy it" - which has outraged women across the country.

Angry activists have called for his resignation.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief Ranjit Sinha made the remark on Tuesday, during a conference about illegal sports betting and the need to legalise gambling.

Mr Sinha had said that if the state could not stop gambling, it could at least make some revenue by legalising it.

"If you cannot enforce the ban on betting, it is like saying, 'If you can't prevent rape, you enjoy it'."



There are calls for CBI chief Ranjit Sinha to quit over his comment.

ments had been taken out of context and misinterpreted, and that he was sorry if he had caused hurt.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat said Mr Sinha's comments were offensive to women everywhere.

"It is sickening that a man who is in charge of several rape investigations should use such an analogy," Ms Karat said.

"He should be prosecuted for degrading and insulting women."

The Delhi attack on the young woman last December caused widespread protests and forced the government to change rape laws and create fast-track courts for rape cases.

village square on Tuesday when the girl and her lover were called," Mr Sudhakar said.

"The girl and her lover were tied to two separate trees and fined 25,000 rupees each as a fine for having an affair," he said.

"As the parents of the girl, who were also present at the meeting, expressed their inability to pay the fine, the head of the village council ordered that she should be raped by the villagers as punishment," he said.

The man was freed after he agreed to pay the fine within a week, he said.

The woman was recovering from the attack in a hospital.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, BLOOMBERG

Paper  
19, 1996

## OK to beat your wife sometimes, rules Italian court

**I**TALY'S highest appeal court ruled on Wednesday that it is not a crime to beat your wife — occasionally.

A jealous Sicilian husband whose "occasional episodes" of wife-beating were "interspersed with moments of harmony between the couple", should not have been sentenced to eight months in jail, the Court of Cassation ruled.

The verdict sparked howls of protest.

"This case risks setting us back years," said Ms Tina Lagostena Bassi, a Member of Parliament and former lawyer in domestic violence cases.

The husband in the case, whose name was not released by court officials, said he did not strike his wife habitually — only from time to time, when he was jealous.

After one beating, she needed hospital treatment.

### **'NOT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE'**

Sending the case back to a lower court in Palermo, the Court of Cassation said the case did not amount to domestic violence.

It defined domestic

***This case risks setting us back years ... To ask the victim to demonstrate the continuity of abuse and the intentional crushing of their personality is diabolical.***

— Ms Tina Lagostena Bassi, a Member of Parliament and former lawyer in domestic violence cases

violence as "a series of acts harming the physical integrity or liberty or dignity of the passive subject, who suffers a conduct of systematic and deliberate overpowering".

"To ask the victim to demonstrate the continuity of abuse and the intentional crushing of their personality is diabolical," said Ms Bassi.

— Reuter.

# What should be the unit of analysis?

- ▶ What should we be looking at? The Act, the Actor, or the Social Context in which the Act and the Actor exist?
- Sociologists look at ALL three factors!
- What's key here is the 'definition of the situation'?
- All social actions are imbued with meanings in respect to social context
- E.g. the act of taking away one's life can have different meanings in different contexts and when committed by different social actors

the crime and what not that we can see are symptoms of



# Is Crime a Structural Problem?

- ▶ **Pattern to crime**: structured along the lines of social class, race and ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexuality
- ▶ Interacting effects between social class and race a dominant explanation
- ▶ **Disproportionate representation** of racial minorities in the CJS – a global phenomenon
- ▶ A case of 'bad apples' or **institutionalised racism**?

how to understand the relationship between race and

why is crime often a male thing

# Is Crime a Structural Problem?

- ▶ In the US, African-Americans constitute around 12 % of the national population but accounted for about 40% of all arrests; 50% of the prison population; 50% on the 'death row'
- ▶ In the US, more than 50% of the juvenile offender population are minorities
- ▶ African-Americans are 2.5X more likely than whites to be killed by the police (source: mapping police violence)
- ▶ More than 1,000 unarmed people died as a result of police harm between 2013 and 2019, according to data from Mapping Police Violence. About a third of them were black.
- ▶ This story is repeated across the globe

# Is Crime a Structural Problem?

- ▶ In Australia, aborigines comprise just 3% of the Australia's population but make up 27% of those in prison and represent 94% of the Northern Territory's juvenile inmates
- ▶ Aboriginal children are 26 times more likely to be incarcerated than their non-indigenous counterparts
- ▶ Similar observations regarding **victimization**: women are disproportionately assaulted, raped and killed (by people they knew). In India and Pakistan, there is an added dimension of class and caste. About 500 women in Pakistan become victims of 'honour killing' annually (many cases are recorded as 'accidents')
- ▶ Child deaths – again minorities and indigenous people are disproportionately represented (case of Maoris: On average, 1 child is killed every five weeks; 210 since 1992). In 2015 alone, there were 14 deaths. New Zealand has the fifth worst child abuse record out of 31 OECD countries.

coney jefferson - maligned

david garland - hyper incarceration (incarceration concentrated in a particular racial ethnicity - not

# Is Crime a Structural Problem?

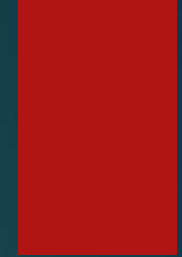
- ▶ Indians in Malaysia make up around 10% of the main population but contribution to penal/institutionalized population is around 60%; gang representation is around 75%
- ▶ Singapore?

# A critical explanation: problem of differential policing

One type of racial disparity occurs when there is a significant difference between the percentage of a racial group represented in the general population and the percentage of the same group represented at any point in the justice process. Another type of racial disparity appears whenever there is a significantly larger percentage of members of a racial/minority group in a part of the CJC than Whites. For instance, more than 9% of all African-American adults are in jail or prison or on probation, compared with 2 percent of all White adults. To cite yet another example, Blacks are four times more likely as Whites to be arrested on drug charges even though the two groups use drugs at almost the same rate (see Black and Reiss 1967; Lundman, Sykes and Clark 1978; Bowling and Phillips 2007)



# A critical explanation: problem of differential policing



- ▶ Distribution of social control as exemplified in 'stop and search' practices
- ▶ Problem of 'discretion', 'reasonable suspicion' and 'selective enforcement' compounded by racial stereotypes (the current mayhem in the US)
- ▶ Problem of disproportionality is complicated by the relationship between interacting variables i.e. class and race.



# Is Crime a temporal/spatial problem?

- ▶ Yes, it is!
- ▶ **Crime and deviance are relative** – temporally and spatially
- ▶ crime and deviance are not immutable categories but a conferred property (labelling) – think about the legalisation of marijuana in some parts of the world
- ▶ If crime and deviance are relative, can we then speak of them in universalistic terms?

old crimes are assuming new forms

new crimes are being created - trans national crime due to

# Do we need a Grand Theory?

- ▶ Do we need to develop a grand theory of crime or specific theories of crime to explain specific types of crimes?
- ▶ Can sociological theories born and nurtured in the West explain crime in the Asian contexts?

3 ways to view disproportionality

Structural - They are poor so crime can help them get what they want

Cultural - Certain cultures are ...

\*Danger is that it can lead to cultural deficit arguments (racialisation)

-- ethnicisation of social problems/ill