**SC2212: SOCIOLOGY OF DEVIANCE**

**Syllabus**

**Academic Year 2023-24 Semester 2**

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology**

**National University of Singapore**

**Lecturer:   
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### Lecture Information

### Lecture Times: Every Wednesday, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### Lecture Venue: AS1, LT10

### Synopsis

What is deviance? What is “normal”? Who is the deviant? Who defines deviance? Why do people conform to social rules? Why and how do institutions of social control emerge? Why are some forms of behaviour come to be socially defined as deviant while others are not? What are the distinctions between crime and deviance? This course introduces students to the sociological study of deviance and social control, distinguishing it as a field of research from biological, psychological and “clinical” explanations of deviance. It will trace the historical development of theories on sociology of deviance and chart their relevance to understanding contemporary forms of crime and deviance. Of interest is the need to critically appraise and deconstruct the relationship between social deviance, social control and social order as understood from the various theoretical perspectives on the changing patterns of defining and controlling deviance in modern societies.  In this module, I will use the terms ‘crime’ and ‘deviance’ interchangeably since their definitions are a function of chronology. Students who have a keen interest in issues of deviance and conformity will find this course attractive.

### Learning Objectives

The objectives of the module are (a) to examine and understand how deviance is defined, produced and sustained through historical periods; (b) to comprehend, compare, differentiate, and critically evaluate among major theories of deviance; (c) to apply the conceptual tools of theories of deviance to understanding contemporary occurrences; and (d) to critically evaluate institutional responses to deviance and control.

### Lecture Topics

### ****1.  Problematizing Deviance, Crime and Social Control****

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press. HM 291 - Chapter 1: Confusion and Diversity & Chapter 2: Sources of Knowledge about Deviance

Schur, Edwin (1980) The Politics of Deviance, New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Chapter 1.

Alexander Liazos (2002), ‘The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts Sluts, Preverts[Perverts]’ in Henry Pontell (ed) Social Deviance: Readings in Theory and Research, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Agozino, Biko (2004) ‘Imperialism, Crime and Criminology: Towards the Decolonisation of Criminology’, Crime, Law and Social Change, Vol 41, pp. 343-358.

Piquero, Alex (2010) ‘A General Theory of Crime and Public Policy’ in Hugh Barlow and Scott H. Decker (eds) Criminology and Public Policy: Putting Theory to Work, Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

**2. Deviance as Rational Hedonism or Sickness? The Classical and Pathological Perspectives on Deviance**

Carrington, Kerry, and Hogg, Russell (2017) ‘Criminology’s Origin Stories’ in Asian Criminology, 12: 181-197.

Roshier, Bob (1989) Controlling Crime: The Classical Perspective in Criminology, Milton Keynes: Open University Press. Part One pp 1–39.

Ganapathy, Narayanan (2008) ‘Criminal Justice Policy” Social Order, Risk and the “Governmental Policy”’ in Lian Kwen Fee and Tong Chee Kiong (eds) Social Policy in Post-Industrial Singapore, Leiden: Brill.

**3. Durkheimian Theory: Functionalism, Deviance and Control**

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press – Chapter 4: Functionalism, Deviance and Control

Durkheim, Emile (1984) ‘The Normal and Pathological’ in Delos H. Kelly (ed) Deviant Behaviour, New York: St Martin’s Press.

Erikson, Kai (2003), ‘On the Sociology of Deviance’ in Patricia A. Adler and Peter Adler (eds) Constructions of Deviance: Social Power, Context, and Interaction, United Kingdom: Wadsworth.

**4.  Anomie Theory: Normlessness, Inequality and Deviant Aspirations**

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press – Chapter 5: Anomie

Merton, Robert (1994) ‘Social Structure and Anomie’ in Stuart H. Traub and Craig B. Little (eds) in Theories of Deviance, Illinois: Peacock Publishers.

Murphy, Daniel S. and Robinson, Matthew B. (2008) ‘The Maximizer: Clarifying Merton’s Theories of Anomie and Strain’, Theoretical Criminology, Vol. 12, No. 4, pp. 501-522.

Agnew, Robert (2015) ‘Using General Strain Theory to Explain Crime in Asian Societies’, Asian Criminology, 10:131-147.

**5.  Subcultural Theory of Deviance**

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press – Chapter 6: Culture and Subculture

Cohen, Albert (1997) ‘A General Theory of Subcultures’ in Ken Gelder and Sarah Thornton (eds) The Subcultures Reader, London: Routledge.

Cohen, Albert (1967) ‘Middle-Class Delinquency and the Social Structure’ in Edmund W. Vaz (ed) Middle Class Juvenile Delinquency, New York: Harper and Row Publishers.

Cloward, Richard and Ohlin, Lloyd (2001) ‘Illegitimate Means and Delinquent Subcultures’ in Nathaniel Terrell and Robert Meier (eds) Readings in Deviant Behavior: Classic and Contemporary, London: Harcourt College Publishers.

Sutherland, Edwin and Cressey, Donald (2003) ‘The Theory of Differential Association’ in Stuart H. Traub and Craig B. Little (eds) in Theories of Deviance, Illinois: Peacock Publishers.

Sykes, Gresham and Matza, David (1990) ‘Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency’ in Kelly Delos (ed) Criminal Behaviour, New York: St Martin’s Press.

Kamaludeen Mohamed Nasir (2016) ‘Antipodal Tattooing: Muslim Youth in Chinese Gangs’, Deviant Behavior.

**6.  Social Reactionist Perspective: Labelling and the Work of Moral Entrepreneurs (in this section, I’ve also incorporated the literature on moral panics and social problems since they have their intellectual roots in symbolic interactionism)**

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press – Chapter 7: Symbolic Interactionism

Ben-Yehuda, Nachman and Carlen, Pat (2009) ‘Moral Panics-36 years On’, in The British Journal of Criminology, Vol. 49, No. 1, Special Issue.

Goode, E. and Ben-Yehuda, N. (1994) Moral Panics: The Social Construction of Deviance, Oxford: Blackwell - Chapter 3. Moral panic: An introduction (pp.1-18)

Best, J. and Horiuchi, G. T. (1985) ‘The Razor Blade in the Apple: The Social Construction of Urban Legends’, Social Problems, 32(5): 488-499.

Cohen, Stanley (1972) Folk Devils and Moral Panics, St Albans: Paladin - Chapter 1: Deviance and Moral Panics (pp.9-26).

Spector, M. and Kitsuse, J. (1973) ‘Social Problems: A Reformulation’, Social Problems, 21(2): 145-159.

Becker, Howard (1973) Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance, New York: Free Press - Chapter 8: Moral Entrepreneurs (pp. 147-163).

Clark, Marilyn (2006) ‘Commitment to Crime: The Role of the Criminal Justice System’, in European Journal of Criminology, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp 201-220.

**7. Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance and Crime**

Downes and Rock, (2007) Understanding Deviance, 5th edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press – Chapter 10: Radical Criminology

Reiman, Jeffrey (1984) ‘A Radical Perspective on Crime’ (chapter 15, pp.178-188) in Kelly Delos (ed) Deviant Behaviour: A Text-Reader in the Sociology of Deviance, New York: St Martin’s Press.

Spitzer, Steven (2001) ‘Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance’ (chapter 5, pp.107-120) in Nathaniel Terrell and Robert Meier (eds) Readings in Deviant Behavior: Classic and Contemporary, London: Harcourt College Publishers.

Quinney, Richard (2003) The Social Reality of Crime, Boston: Little, Brown and Company- Chapter 2. Criminal Law in Politically Organized Society (pp.29-42)

**8.  Ethical Issues in the Study of Deviance / Review Lecture**

Gibbons, C. Don and Jones, Joseph, F. (1975) The Study of Deviance: Perspectives and Problems, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Goode, Eric (2015) ‘Ethical issues in the qualitative study of deviance and crime’(chapter 4), in Heith Copes and J. Mitchell Miller (2015) The Routledge Handbook of Qualitative Criminology, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.

See Special Issue on ‘Methodological Dilemmas of Research’ of The British Journal of Criminology, Vol. 41, No. 3. (2001)

Liebling, A., & Stanko, B. (2001). Allegiance and ambivalence: some dilemmas in researching disorder and violence. *The British Journal of Criminology*, *41*(3), 421-430.

Burman, M. J., Batchelor, S. A., & Brown, J. A. (2001). Researching girls and violence. Facing the dilemmas of fieldwork. *British journal of criminology*, *41*(3), 443-459.

Liebling, A. (2001). Whose side are we on? Theory, practice and allegiances in prisons research. *British Journal of Criminology*, *41*(3), 472-484.

### Workload

**2-2-0-2-5**

2 hours lectures; 2 hour tutorial (tutorials are fortnightly); 2 hours group project work; 5 hours personal preparation (e.g. independent reading)

### Assessment Components

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| **Component** | **Weightage** | **Format** | **Deadlines** |
| CA1 | 30% | Assignment 1 (Group) | 8 March 2024 (Friday) |
| CA2 | 20% | Assignment 2 (Individual) | 1 April 2024 (Monday) |
| Attendance and Participation | 10% | Tutorial Participation | Throughout the semester |
| Final exam | 40% | 2 Essay Questions |  |