

Kate

Maxim

1 слайд

Today my colleague Maksim and ... we are gonna give a talk about: Lombroso's Theory of Crime. Is it myth or science?

2 слайд

But, first of all, let's turn to a little hint that will provide you more comfortable way to the main part of our presentation (helps you to understand). Just quickly look through the text/ so we could move on to the topic. Well, Maxim will accompany you for the next slide.

3 слайд

Cesare Lombroso was born in 1835 in Verona in Italy. He was a doctor who did research and wrote on a many topics, for example mental diseases, scientific ways to study corpses, and brain pathology.

4 слайд

His most important work, and certainly the work that he's best known for today, is the book "The Criminal Man" first published in 1876. Lombroso developed his theory to explain why people commit crime. His theory suggests that there are basic differences between offenders and non-offenders. More specifically, according to Lombroso, born criminals have certain physical characteristics or abnormalities that make them black sheeps in our world. Kate will show some of them to you.

5 слайд

Yeah, take a look on a slide and you'll see some features.

Cesare Lombroso called these abnormalities or atavistic characteristics. Atavistic comes from the word "avatus", which means ancestor in Latin. According to him, the physical abnormalities that offenders have occurred because offenders were the products of an earlier stage of human evolution, a stage where more primitive humans and apes existed. Thus, offenders are basically throwbacks to earlier phases of human history.

6 слайд

- He also claimed the "born criminal" had a liking for tattoos, cruel and wicked games and their own language through a primeval slang (a throwback to their savage ancestry).

- Lombroso argued that criminals were not to blame for their criminal activities as their behavior was determined by their physiology.
- This theory was influenced by Darwin's theory of evolution.

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Over the course of his life, he and his students studied thousands of people. They studied different types of people, namely offenders, non-offenders, and also mentally ill people. And they not only studied people who were alive, but they also did autopsies on deceased people, for example to study their skulls and their brains.

Examples of things Lombroso measured were people's height, weight, the span of their arms, the average height of their body while seated, the sizes of their hands, necks, thighs, legs, and feet, their eye color and so on.

Now, Maxim, please tell us about results of this theory.

8 слайд

As you might expect, his ideas have also received a lot of criticism, both during his own life and after his death in 1909. Some of the most important criticisms were that he did not interpret his findings correctly, and that he did not examine them critically. It is now widely agreed upon that his findings were not accurate and do not support his theory of atavism and degeneration.

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As a result, Lombroso's ideas about atavism have been abandoned, and Lombroso himself is one of the more controversial figures in the history of criminology. But other ideas that find their roots in his work, such as the idea that there may be physical characteristics that can contribute to criminal behavior, are very much alive in criminology today. For example, the idea that genes and brain structure are related to criminal behavior has seen an increasing amount of interest in the past few decades. My colleague Kate has some exciting ideas for you. She will continue.

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For those interested, there is now a museum that shows his work: check out "[Cesare Lombroso's Museum of Criminal Anthropology](#)" in Turin, Italy for more information.

11 слайд

QR-code

12 слайд

Thank you very much for attentive listening. We are open to your questions)))