The two videos focused on Prof. of sociology Elijah Anderson and his assertion that there is a code of the Street that governs distressed communities of color. Prof. Anderson describes the current Street as a method for being safe in economically distressed communities populated by desperate people. The populations of these communities have limited means for earning an income. There is a disenchantment with the broader community and culture that has grown into distress for the norms/values and law enforcement. The people of these communities fall into two types. The first type is decent people who believe in the dominant society and exercise respect for themselves or their neighbors and property. The second type of person is street people. Street people encompass the criminal element. They believe they must be their own police because they cannot count on the actual police for protection. The dominant theme for street people is credibility. The only way to earn credibility is to demonstrate a commitment to retaliate against any threat to themselves or their families, or their property. Street credibility was described as extremely high maintenance and dynamic. It must be continuously demonstrated and proven through action. Another element of street people is the concept of street justice. It operates on an eye for an eye and a tooth for two. Violence is always the path to respect, credibility, and street justice.

Furthermore, Prof. Anderson elaborates that there are only two ways to make a living. One is illegal, which encompasses the criminal and entrepreneurship usually involving drugs. According to the character in the video, a drug dealer can net $1,500 a day selling drugs on street corners. The driving force behind all of this is the need to survive, and survival means doing whatever has to be done to make a living. They play by their own rules of justice and take a life if it stands in your way.

            I believe that the Code of the Street is a viable framework for understanding criminal behavior, although it in no way excuses it. Researchers can increase the understanding and help develop a framework for criminal behavior and distressed neighborhoods of color. I do not believe that the code of the Street could go as far as being used as a criminological theory, however. To say that this is a theory, one would have to say that it has a predictive element. What if we find the distressed community? We should be able to find increasing features of street justice accompanied by solid violence. I feel that many communities have been distressed throughout history that do not attend to the high levels of crime and violence found in American cities today. The code of the Street could fall under a type of theoretical theory such as Sociological positivism. It proposes that if a person is raised in unfavorable conditions and grows up in this distressing environment, then the person will adopt those norms (Burke, 2018)

Burke, R. H. (2018). *An introduction to criminological theory*. Routledge.