

CRIM316 - Week 7: Labelling Theory

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Terms in this set (18)

The social context around labelling theory	1960s US counter culture movement
Different names for labelling theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Symbolic Interactionism- Social Reaction Perspective- Interactionism- Dramaturgical Perspective
Key individuals surrounding labelling theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Edwin Lemert- David Matza- Howard Becker- Jock Young- Stan Cohen- G. H. Mead (not a labelling theorist but provides a foundation for labelling theory)
Labelling theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asks how individuals make decisions according to their role in the social world.- Analogy as the social world as a stage, actors as people, roles are labels.- Roles can be transformed throughout life, even into deviant roles.- Secondary deviance attaches the criminal label on perpetrators as they are apprehended and go through the CJS. Perpetrators internalise the criminal label and accept it. With acceptance, deviance is continued and/or amplified.
G. M. Mead's role in labelling theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Studied animal behaviours with the role of symbols and applies it to humans- Symbols are important, animals do not communicate the way that humans do- Non-verbal communication is important (body language)- Reading visible signs of other peoples thoughts, can lead in shaping our conduct accordingly
G. M. Mead's symbolic interactionism	<p>The self/personity is divided into two parts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- I - acts with intent and attributes to own meanings- Me - based on other people's reaction to us- Cooley's Looking glass self
Cooley's looking glass self in relation to labelling	<p>Feedback shapes internalisation from the symbolic images received from others reactions.</p> <p>The I and Me shapes the label to be internalised. In internalising the label, we become the label which shapes our actions and behaviour.</p>

Lemert's pathology	<p>Primary deviance - the initial act of being caught is not important. What is important is secondary deviance - the reactions towards the primary deviance.</p> <p>Secondary deviance is responsible for the labelling process. Interaction with the CJS leads to internalising the label and accepting it. It is likely that more deviance will be caused.</p>
Frank Tannenbaum's dramatisation of evil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In their book Crime and The Community - Individual (perpetrator) accepts the judgement as a fixed description - Under a criminal label, the status of a criminal is fixed as experienced through the CJS. The CJS perceives and treats the individual as a criminal - The more the label is applied, the more likely the label becomes part of their identity. - Criticism of what could lead an individual to initiate the initial deviancy (primary deviance)
Shifts brought by labelling theory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature of criminological research 2. Role of the media 3. View of official crime statistics
1. Nature of criminological research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labelling theory sits towards the end of the umbrella of sociological positivism and the start of the umbrella of critical criminology - Looks at powers and structures - Goes away from Durkheim's work
2. Role of the media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The media is powerful in presenting a narrative that persuade peoples opinions. - Information from the media may push a label onto a group or an individual upon its audience.
3. View of affected crime statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labelling theory does not accept the validity of official crime statistics - Perspective of official crime statistics as changes in policing and crackdowns can lead to the increase or decrease in recorded crime. - Law and policy changes also affect this. - An element of visibility also applies - Crimes committed behind closed doors are less likely to be detected and recorded vs crimes done in public.
Main points of labelling theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime is a social construct - Becker - "No such thing as crime, only that which people so label" - Forms of behaviour themselves do not differentiate criminals from non-criminals - Labels are only applied when they are caught <p>Criminality socially created: the effort to prevent, intervene, punish, cure may only generate further crime.</p>
Retrospective interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laud Humphrey's Tea Room Trade - Important process in labelling - Reflecting upon an individual's history when an event involving them happens - When a criminal is labelled, people begin to retrospectively interpret their history to infer their status of a criminal

Jock Young's Deviancy amplification spiral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based on young's research on the gateway to harder drugs - Cycle of: Initial deviance -> Isolation and alienation -> Increased deviancy -> Increased social reaction -> Further deviance
Contribution to criminological theory	<p>Abandonment of 'consensus' as defined by Durkheim, Merton, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collective conscience is out the window <p>Examination of criminal justice organisations and their 'labelling activities'</p> <p>Challenged validity of official crime statistics.</p> <p>Moral panics - Stan Cohen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role in mass media in generating crime <p>Labelling prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - decriminalisation - name suppression - clean slate act - alternative pathways
Labelling theory issues	<p>Does not account for primary deviance</p> <p>Created for a more liberal/progressive era (created against state)</p> <p>Choosing not to internalise labels?</p>