

## CRIM316 - Week 2: Durkheim

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### Terms in this set (15)

Anomie	"Normlessness" - The state of no normality, in where social cohesion dissipates (the collective conscience is disturbed). Durkheim states that in times of anomie, there is an 'abnormal' amount of crime that occurs.
What was the social setting of Durkheim?	The social setting took place in France during the industrialisation period of 1890 - 1910. Durkheim saw the unrestful transition of individuals from agrarian societies move into the cities (urbanisation). This caused social disorganisation as agrarian individuals do not know the norms, therefore the social norms in the cities were violated which lead to unrest and a state of anomie - normlessness.
What is the umbrella term for the findings of Durkheim's work?	Sociological Positivism
What did Durkheim refuse to base his findings of?	Durkheim rejected to characterise crime on individual causes. He shifted to law and crime in the context of the sociological surroundings in using the population, institutions, legal controls in industrialisation, etc. as evidence.
Mechanical Solidarity	<p>A homogeneous social structure that is described as static, immobile, and unchanging. Durkheim states that this is seen in 'simplistic' tribal and clan-like societies.</p> <p>In mechanical solidarity, the role of law is to keep individuals uniform, in line, and punishing deviance as change is seen as threatening.</p>
Organic Solidarity	<p>A complex social structure that is held together by an interdependence structure maintained by individual components. It relies on independent components such as the division of labour with specialised jobs and roles to contribute to success of society. It is tolerant to diversity as it holds recognition towards different roles that different individuals take on to contribute to society.</p> <p>In organic solidarity, the role of law is to regulate the interactions of society. There are many independent parts in an interdependence network. As a result of this, different types of laws are needed such as environmental, family, etc. These laws are key markers of society's organic solidarity.</p>
Spectrum of Solidarity	<p>There is no society that is truly mechanical or organic. It is seen as spectrum where mechanical and organic are on the extreme ends opposite to each other.</p> <p>Durkheim gives an example that African tribes are more mechanical due to their simplistic societies while that western societies are more complex and therefore, more organic (criticism - taken with a grain of salt with this 20th century perspective)</p>

Collective Conscience	<p>The communal beliefs, morals, and attitudes of a society. The collective conscience determines social norms, therefore deviation is considered crimes. Deviation is criminal because it shocks the conscious.</p> <p>The collective conscience also defines the moral boundaries of what is right or wrong. As a result of this, society labels criminals as inferior. This results in the rest of society feeling superior.</p> <p>Moral boundaries change over time. Laws are reflected of new boundaries and great social change is able to undermine the collective conscience.</p>
What are the 3 attributes that Durkheim attach in regards to crime?	<p>Crime is necessary, normal, and functional. Society will produce laws but there will always be individuals that cannot uphold the laws. There is no society without crime, as crime defines the moral boundaries, therefore it is a function to society.</p> <p>(criticism - does not address the damage and harmful effects that crime has on society).</p>
What are the 5 criticisms against Durkheim?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stereotypical view of societies</li> <li>2. Law as a product of consensus</li> <li>3. Lack of quantification of normal crime</li> <li>4. Moral relativism</li> <li>5. Decline of crime in modern societies</li> </ol>
Stereotypical view of societies criticism	<p>Durkheim's view is limited in referring tribal and clan-like societies as simplistic and inferior in the mechanical solidarity concept compared with western societies with organic solidarity. Mechanical solidarity societies may be technologically inferior but their roles and culture may be just as complex and developed.</p>
Law as the product of consensus criticism	<p>In society, the powerful usually create the laws which is not representative totally of every populations. Not everyone is totally representative as not everyone has a say (not everyone votes and politicians do not usually go door knocking, and asking for everyone's opinion).</p>
Lack of quantification of normal crime criticism	<p>Durkheim does not present a numerical or empirical value on the amount of crime that is addressed normal or abnormal.</p>
Decline in crime rate in modern society criticism	<p>In modern society, there are many events and transitions that have caused anomie. If anomie causes an abnormal amount of crime to occur, why is the crime rate declining? Does this mean that our moral boundaries are not as clear or that societies are more tolerant to the lack of social cohesion (diverse collective conscience)?</p>
Moral Relativism	<p>Durkheim does not acknowledge the negative impacts of crime. There is no recognition of the damage done to victims and society.</p>