

Realist Criminology

The background of the slide is a solid light beige color. In the bottom right quadrant, there are several overlapping, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of movement or depth, resembling a stylized landscape or abstract pattern.

- 1980s
- Disillusionment with theories of crime
- Idea that crime is real & is a problem in society
- Especially for poor & deprived

Left Realism

- Growth out of critical criminology
- Disillusionment with more trad. Marxist approach
- Imp. of under-reported crime
- Real rise in black crime
- Young (1984) – criminology's role to provide real solutions
 - Criminology as a tool of the g'ment
 - Selling out?

Social Change

- Young (1997) – entering late modernity
 - Uncertainty & instability
 - Lack of consensus about moral values
 - Individualism & immediacy
 - Disintegration of informal social controls – family, community

Relative Deprivation

- Runciman (1966)
- Lea & Young (1984)
 - Awareness of relative deprivation leads to crime

Marginalisation

- Economic
 - Social
 - political
- 
- The background of the slide features several thick, wavy, light-colored lines that flow from the bottom left towards the right side, creating a sense of movement and depth.

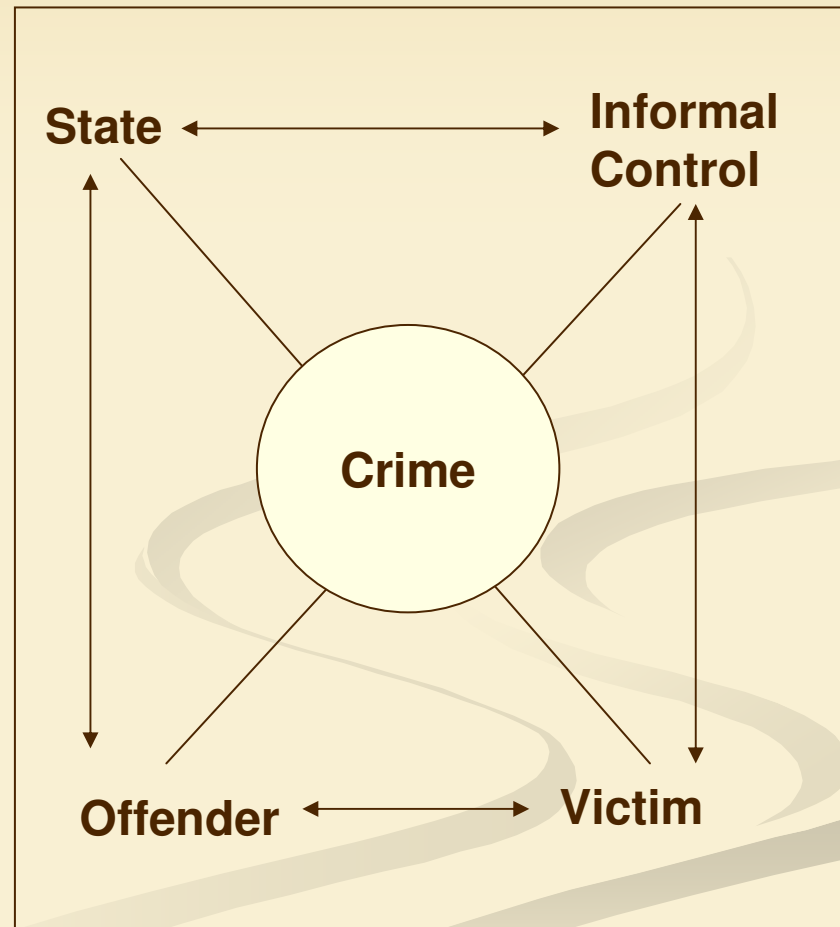
Subculture

- Lea & Young (1984) – subscribe to dominant values but blocked from success

***Inequalities of capitalist society =
Marginalisation + Relative Deprivation +
Subculture = street crime & burglary***

- Matthews & Young (1992), Lea & Young (1984)

- Square of crime
- Need to understand
 - Why people offend
 - What makes victim vulnerable
 - What affects public attitudes
 - Influences on police & justice system



Policy

- Egalitarian society a “fantasy”
- Need for direct response to people’s/communities’ concerns
- Community involvement
- G’ment investment in training & support for young people
- Improving living standards

BUT

- Marxist criminologists – ignores real causes of crime, perpetuates capitalist system
- Ruggiero (1992) Ignores crimes of the powerful
 - Has been too much focus
- Hughes (1991) No empirical data re. motives
- Jones (1998) – why some not others?
- Carlen (1992) – needs to look at crime's harm to women
 - Young – is concerned with domestic violence etc

Right Realism

Wilson (1975)

- Crime a result of rational calculation
 - Perception that benefits outweigh consequences
- break down in social control leads to crime
 - If “incivilities” unchecked – more serious crime
 - Broken windows

Causes of crime

- Wilson & Hernstein (1985)
 - Crime inevitable
 - Benefits too comfortable
 - Need for socialisation in early childhood
 - Broken families as problematic
 - Personality traits & low intelligence

Solutions

- Etzioni (1993) – communitarianism
- Police need to carry out *order maintenance* rather than *law enforcement*
 - Wilson & Kelling (1982)
 - “zero tolerance”

Criticisms

- Matthews (1992) – little evidence of crime escalation from broken windows
- Jones (1998)
 - Lack of investment etc more important in decline of neighbourhoods
 - More serious offences may be allowed to occur
 - Displacement of crime
 - Biological approach ignores social inequality
 - Continued rising crime in US