

Crime, Deviance & Agents of social control

Need to link to theoretical perspectives
on crime & deviance
& to work on surveillance & reactions
to crime


Social Control

- Concept of deviance arises from ideas of social order
- Development of methods of control by the powerful w/in society
 - Informal social control
 - informal sanctions- ve& +ve
 - Formal social control
 - Role of institutions – may exist solely or partly to enforce order

Foucault (1977)

- Struggle between interests in society
- Power comes through control of knowledge
 - Apple (1988) – hegemony of knowledge in education
- Imposition of the values of the powerful
 - Role of criminal justice system

Althusser (1971)

- Marxist viewpoint
 - Use of institutions to control behaviour
 - RSAs
 - ISAs
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Cohen (1985)

Changes in social control

- Penetration – of law into society
- Size & density – of control apparatuses
- Identity & visibility – more subtle forms, use of private organisations

Feeley & Simon (1992)

Actuarialism

- Change from controlling deviant behaviour to controlling potentially deviant people
 - Prioritising of areas to patrol
 - Defining of potential trouble-makers
- Increased privatisation
- Increase in subtle social control – “disciplining”

Davis (1990)

Control of Space

- Segregation of living spaces
 - Role of police is to contain poor

Punishment

- See previous work on Durkheim (Functionalist viewpoint) and Rusche & Kirchheimer (Marxist viewpoint)

Foucault (1977)

- Change in perceptions of deviance
 - Offence against God / deviance from accepted behaviour
 - Punishment to bring person back under control
 - Use of “experts” to ensure **internalisation** takes place

Policing

- 2 key viewpoints:

1. Consensual

- Close relationship w/ community
- Defence of the majority against the minority
- Police reflect characteristics of community
- Offenders caught as result of community complaints

2. Conflict

- Scraton (1985)
 - Police as occupying force in w/class/minority communities
 - Impose law & order reflecting interests of more powerful groups
- Lea & Young (1984)
 - “military style”
 - Large no.s of police
 - Use of technology to gather evidence

Discretion & the Police

- Decisions about which laws to apply
- Reiner (1992) – 3 possible bases
 - Individualistic
 - Colman & Gorman (1982) – study in inner London
 - Cultural - Canteen culture
 - Skolnick (1996)
 - Suspiciousness
 - Internal solidarity
 - Conservatism
 - Masculinity – Graef (1989)

- Structural – bias of the system
 - Marxist approach
 - Capitalist definitions of crime & deviance
 - Tarling (1988), Morgan
 - Targeting of w/class, ethnic minority groups

The Family

- Family as key in social control
- Farrington & West (1990) – longitudinal study – links betw. family traits & offending
- Dennis (1993)
 - Changes in family
 - Weakening of external & internalised patterns of social control
 - Changing role of women
 - Increase in absent fathers
 - cohabitation

- Murray (1990)
 - The family & the underclass
 - Destruction of poorer “respectable” communities
 - Young people not taught values

Communities

Etzioni (1993) – Communitarianism

- Power & decision-making taken from communities
- Need to reinstate and encourage re-formation of communities