Sociological Theories: Social Process

Chapter Seven
Learning Theories

- Differential Association-
- Edwin H. Sutherland- *Principles of Criminology, 1939*
- Components of Theory- (Handout)
Differential Identification

- Daniel Glaser –
- (Form of Anticipatory Socialization)
- ...the notion of reference groups, whose values, attitudes, and behavior you admire and wish to copy.
Differential Identification

- In relationship to *Differential Association* –
- ...Differential Identification Theory stressed that learning criminal behavior can occur *without* actually interacting with the group influencing you.
Social Learning Theory

- Albert Bandura –
- ...humans are not naturally aggressive, instead, aggressive tendencies are learned later in life.
- Learning occurs because of the association of a stimulus with a response (*classical conditioning*)
Social Learning Theory

□ Or...

□ Learning occurs because of the rewarding of a particular behavior (operant conditioning).
Differential Reinforcement

- Robert Burgess & Ronald Akers –
- ...criminal behavior and attitudes are more likely to be learned when they are reinforced/rewarded by friends and/or family.
Control Theories

- **Containment Theory** – (Reckless)
- A *non-causal* explanation of crime
- There exists in society an *external* (outer) social structure which holds individuals in line and *internal* (inner) buffers which protect people against deviation.
Containment Theory

- Outer (external) Containment - Provided by – society, state, tribe, village, family, other nuclear groups.

Components of Outer Containment:
- A role structure which provides scope for the individual.
Containment Theory

- A set of reasonable limits and responsibilities.
- An opportunity for the individual to achieve a status.
- Cohesion among members, joint activity and togetherness.
- Sense of belongingness. (Identification)
Containment Theory

- Identification with one or more persons within the group.
- Provision for supplying alternative ways and means of satisfaction.
Containment Theory

- Internal (Inner) Containment:
- The ability of a person to direct himself/herself to follow the norms of society.
- A favorable image of self in relation to other persons, groups, and institutions.
Containment Theory

- An awareness of being an inner directed, goal oriented person.
- A high level of frustration tolerance. (Withstand adversity, pressure, etc.)
- Strongly internalized morals and ethics.
- Well developed ego and super ego. (Control and management)
Containment Theory

- The Inner and Outer Containments, these components are not causes. They are buffers against the cause of crime.
Social Control Theory

- Social Control Theory-
- Travis Hirschi- 1969
- ...our bounds to conventional social institutions keep us from committing deviant behavior.
- Social Institutions-
- Family, schools, religion, (Others)
Social Control Theory

- Hirschi’s four Elements of Ties:
- (The individual has to society)
- **Attachment** – The degree to which we care about the opinions of others.
- **Commitment** – Refers to the amount of importance an individual place on *conventional* pursuit.
Elements of Ties: Cont’d

**Involvement** – The amount of time an individual spends on some conventional pursuit.

**Belief** – Refers to acceptance of the norms of conventional society. (The *internalization* of societal norms.)