“The Institutional Construction of Deviance”

I. Announcements:

Midterm Exam, Grades, etc.

Writing assignment, Prof. Flacks.

Politeness

Questions?
Thanks to Honors Section “Stats Team” and Blair Erickson
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The Institutional Construction of Deviance

Lecture Outline

I. Finish-up Inequality

II. Deviance Today. Crime and Punishment in America Today

III. Individual — Bad People. Bad Behavior. Bad Treatment.

IV. Institutional — (1) What counts as bad. (2) What creates bad behavior.

V. Duality (Lead into Flacks).
Finishing up on Inequality

I. Finish-up Inequality:

A. Recap Individual Centered Explanations.

B. Institutional Centered Explanations.

C. A Duality Perspective.
Finishing up on Inequality

I. Finish-up Inequality:
   A. Recap.

   2. Stats:
      a. Inequality in America — High
      b. Ineq. compared other countries — High
      c. Inequality over time — Increasing
B. Individual Centered Explanations of Inequality:

1. Individual Self Privileged in one way or another —

   Involves both the capacity to act and also the moral responsibility for acts.
Finishing up on Inequality

2. **Social Darwinism** — Extension of logic of Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

Presumes more successful members of species more effective at passing along genes.
Finishing up on Inequality


“Survival of the Fittest”

Poverty is nature's way of "excreting... unhealthy, imbecile, slow, vacillating, faithless members of society" in order to make room for the "fit."

To intervene in this process is to court genetic and social disaster.
3. American Exceptionalism:

a. Frederick Jackson Turner (1861, 1932) (historian)

- “Frontier Thesis”: Spirit and success of America due to unusual conditions of Western Expansion. Created strong, capable, self-reliant individualists
3. **American Exceptionalism:**

b. No Aristocracy (no existing principle of privilege)

c. Calvinism and the Puritans (Max Weber)

- Special founding spirit of the individual as having personal relationship with God.
- Having moral worth defined by own behavior.
4. Ideological **Belief in the Self** —

a. Horatio Alger (1832-1899)
American author. Wrote many short novels featuring poor, city boys who work hard and ultimately succeed in “Pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps.” Wildly Popular early 1900s
4. Ideological **Belief in the Self** —

**b. American Beliefs** about class —

Cited Survey Data showing the Strong presumption of idea that in America people get their “Just deserts”

(e.g., the system is open, fair).
5. Human Capital Theory —
Gary Becker (1930-) American economist

Rational investment in Self Capacity leads to economic rewards.

Individual --> Capital --> Job (Income)
6. Cognitive Elite Theory
(Richard Hernstein and Charles Murray)

a. IQ is basis for success/failure in class system.

- IQ is given genetically
- Best explains outcomes
- To intervene in this process is to court genetic and social disaster.
Finishing up on Inequality

I. Finish-up Inequality:

B. Institutional Centered Explanations.

1. Inequality by Design (reading)
   (Fischer, Hout, Jankowski, Lucas, Swidler, Voss)

   • Criticize Bell Curve arguments and statistical models

   • Provide Institution Centered Explanations
Finishing up on Inequality

a. Bell Curve Findings Disputed by “Inequality by Design” authors you read.

- Intelligence "g"—1 dimension or many?
- Ability to Rank People linearly is fallacious.
- No relationship IQ and later success (control for education).
- Much evidence that poverty varies by social policy.
Finishing up on Inequality

b. Fischer (et. al.):

2 ways that institutions matter:

1. How institutions affect who gets what: (who ends up where on the ladder?)

2. How institutions affect rewards for getting ahead. (why ladder is tall, narrow or short, broad?)
Finishing up on Inequality

B. Institutional Centered Explanations.

2. How is Inequality produced by Institutions? A Macro-Perspective

• Various Types of Inequality Systems:
  • Slavery, Caste, Feudal, Class
Finishing up on Inequality

B. Institutional Centered Explanations.

2. How is Inequality produced by Institutions? A Macro-Perspective

• Various Types of Inequality Systems:
  • Slavery, Caste, Feudal, Class

— Historically Very Prevalent:

Greece 500 B.C.-200 B.C. (30%),
Rome 200 B.C.-150 AD. (10-30%),
Sicily 150 B.C.-150 A.D. (66%),
Zanzibar 1811-95 (75-90%),
(Port.) Angola 1830-90 (75+%),
Korea 660-918 (50%),
Jamaica 1600-1655 (37%),
Grenada 1777-1834 (90-96%),
U.S. South 1690-1860 (15-39%),
Virginia 1715-1860 (24-45%)
Mississippi 1810-1860 (48-55%)
Finishing up on Inequality


- Substitute for Death.
- Usually without Rights.
- Usually Brutal.
- Not Very Efficient.
- Frequent Rebellions.
- Very Little or No Mobility.
Finishing up on Inequality

2. -B-Caste: Religious/Racial Distinctions.

— India + South Africa + Pre-Civil Rights America.
— Caste Membership is Hereditary.
— Castes Ranked Hierarchically.
— Live Separately.
— Duties + Rights Allocated by Caste (ex. Only Untouchables can touch animals, "unclean" substances).
— (Rare) Group Mobility
Finishing up on Inequality

2. -C- Estates (Feudal): Land Ownership + Accompanying Legal Distinctions.

— Medieval Europe, Traditional China, Russia (until 1910's).
— Found in Agricultural Societies.
— Hierarchies of Rights, + Duties.
— 1st Estate (Nobels), 2nd (Clergy), 3rd (All Others).
— Largely Determined by Birth.
— (Rare) Individual Mobility.
Finishing up on Inequality

2. -D- Class: Economic Differences.

- Fluid (Not Rigidly Defined by Rights, hence, Not Clear-cut).
- Inequalities Based on Wealth + Income.
- Mostly Impersonal.
- Possibility for Mobility.
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

A. Karl Marx (1818-1883)
   German Social Philosopher

   1. The “Mode of Production” = Forces of Production and the Relations of Production.

   2. Social Class — (Relation to Means of Prod.)
      Slave Owner, Slave, Feudal Lord, Serf,
      Bourgeoisie = Own Means of Production,
      Buys Labor
      Petite-Bourgeoisie = Owns Means of Prod.
      Uses own Labor
      Proletariat = Does not own M. of P.
      Sells Labor
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

   — History as Succession of Classes
     (Feudalism, Capitalism, Socialism, Communism)
     A Necessary logic to history.
     Power is foundation.

4. Capital is theft! Workers Produce Wealth, by rights it belongs to them. Revolution will lead to a better world w/o exploitation
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

5. Ideology (form of power):
   "ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas."

6. Critique/Limitations:
   1. Keynesian Economics.
   2. Labor Unions.
   3. 1-sided View of Power.

Increasingly relevant?
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

B. Max Weber (1864-1920)

1. Status Groups:
   Cultural distinctions, style of life.

2. Class = Group share same Economically Shaped "Life Chances."

3. Ideas, community, shared identity matters (not just material logic).
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

C. Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002)

1. Builds on Weber & Marx:

Cultural Capital" $=\text{df Familiarity with prestigious cultural goods, styles of speech, aesthetic taste, values and manners}$

- Used—Standardized tests, impress gatekeepers, improve "social capital," etc.
- Comes From—family, school, clubs, friends, "style of life" (cf. Domhoff)—Group not Individual
Finishing up on Inequality

3. Institutional Theories of Inequality.

D. Annette Lareau (Reading)

1. Builds on Bourdieu:

   Cultural repertoires about how to raise children
   middle class = transmission of differential advantages
   working class = accomplishment of natural growth

2. Institutional Centered but also mixes with Human Capital type logic so it is also Dual.