

- * Can't have prisons w/o law
 - making of laws
 - breaking of laws
 - enforcement of laws
- 2500+ homicides in NYC - 1990
- 200 - 2018

demographics =
life chances you get

- race, gender, income, location, education, age,

Dani Black
Sociology of Prisons
9/9/19

Income is a big impact of prisoners/geographical location/

Culture:

- dominate cultural narratives: what we believe/are convinced as a society is the right thing to do. (ex: prisons) * individual responsibility*

C. Wright Mills - ~~where~~ main shit is "Sociological Imagination" ^{mills believes:}

all part of groups that connect u to other people in life (choose some, forced in some) ex: gender, race

3 parts: #1 distinction between social vs. individual issues. (he believes most issues are social).

look within the structure to figure out what the issue is if it affects multitudes of people.

#2 social forces existed specifically within a historical moment. ^{work on different ways in different groups. impacts lives (ex: gender and race)}

thesis - pick 3, explain claim
evidence used to explain claim (convincing?)

• relating course concepts to the reading
empirical evidence - use to back up claim, it is evidence that comes from our senses. (must go through peer review)
evidence must be able to be repeated

anecdotal evidence - based on 1 case ^{theory - model of evidence, prediction, must be tested}

rational choice theory - the basis of our prisons (linked to consumer behavior) ^{believed criminals rationally thought + crimes, they act rationally, think of consequences}

↑ evidence does not support this theory.

truthiness? ^{scared straight}

social force is problem

Tipping Point:

1/2 of ppl in poverty lived in concentrated poverty (especially people of color)

2 yrs. ago

Intersectionality: the combination of multiple groups, causing a greater force. ↓ groups u didn't pick.

social capital - net work & connections you have. harder to get into an organization if it's made up of all one group.

Human Cap. = Education

Dani Black

Sociology of Prisons

9/12/19

1990s - a very dangerous time within NYC, approx. 3000 murders (274 murders in 2018)

- most of the murders took place in the same places or a few blocks away.

- happens in concentrated areas of poverty.

- why do 2 people from the same area kill each other?

answer: ~~poverty~~ disrespect

- we continuously go to war with the middle east to show we're not pussies / get revenge for 9/11.

Robert Merton: theory on crime was everyone wants shit in America but the road isn't paved at all for some.

Succeeding in America = "material success" ← objective ← means

merton's crime theory { if the path to material success cannot be accomplished because the road's not there then illegal methods are taken to gain it.

* DOMINATE CULTURAL NARRATIVES *

Americans' idea of what is going on.

- James Q. Wilson: theory of rational choice, they commit crimes because crimes pay.

- Politicians & citizens love this theory because there is "truthiness" (feels true even if it's not)

- truth in sentencing: culture demanded change in policies, system is revolving door, meant to inmates, increase

sentence lengths. mandatory minimums: the minimum amount of time a specific crime's sentence for.

3 strikes rule: if it's your third incarceration, you go to jail for life. bring back capital punishment / death sentences.

Victims' rights: let the victim talk in court and tell their part and how they feel. (Scared straight)

- how we tried to clean up the streets and put criminals in jail. they "deter crime" claims the rational choice theory.

Duc: Monday

Reflection

Revise ← Kira

huge



Dani Black
Sociology of Prisons
9/16/19

assignment:

- take a photograph for coverpage
- explanation of how photo relates
- authors thesis: what is he arguing central argument. (whole IP) America has highest incarceration how does he help us understand
- few examples of the evidence/merit
- personal experiences
- relate what we learned in class to book
- 1.5 space, 1in margin, no space between paragraph

phenomenon
theory
↓

→ ↑ penalties, police
rational choice theory: (scared straight)

- 1970s cultural divide
- economic, political, social → all of the changes in these are the cause of mass/hyper incarceration. why is America worse off?

key: rehabilitation, they got rid of it.

- continuously changes
- trying to use empirical data for first time (science positivism) we can improve by using the scientific method rather than religion.

- welfare was considered a right.
- gave up on rehabilitation

Dani Black

Sociology of Prisons

9/23/19

Our culture determines our ideas of punishment
social imagination - can have a huge effect on
social morals during a specific historical time.
our historical time: backlash of civil rights movement.

look up the
a theorists.

Utilitarianism: greatest good for the greatest #
@ same time. people make decisions based on what
will get rid of pain, what will cause pleasure.
• society should only inflict the amount of pain
that equals the crime.
• need a ^{road} ~~feed~~ to pleasure.

• inflict punishment quickly: should be a certainty
that you're caught & sentenced quick

• high taxes - 1960s - realized not all is black & white: humans have
believed ppl emotions (just as important as rational) may cause
werent respon- emotional decisions vs. rational ones.
sible for their • looked at how normative passage to success is
actions bc blocked: some have to take a different path.
social forces → lead to the uplifting of the poor, "theories"

ideas

started

late 70's to
now

norms - the ways you're expected to act, speak,
think: determined by **culture / social forces**.
Free will is determined by social norms in a
specific historical period.

• **revenge** became a norm because of the **narrative**,
narrative is "people get what they deserve"

helps
explain
the norm

recidivism - the probability you'd go back to
jail after going once (75% after 10s).

social institutions conform the way of thinking
ex: parents, school, government, religion.

Emile Durkheim

socialization - learning the culture through social institutions.

functional theory - his punishment theory.

• all social institutions have a function to reinforce cultural values & ideas.

• only in a just world do people get what they deserve. ✓ karma

Social institutions want us to believe this.

→ "people getting what they deserve" will cause people to stop caring. the world is random.

• how did we develop these ideas to begin with? **dominate cultural narrative.**

moral attitudes

collective conscience - we develop the same shared ideas because we were socialized to believe it by our social institutions.

punishment reinforces the collective conscience

• the success/failure of a social/political movement is depended on the long lasting culture, values, beliefs, etc...

• **function** of prisons is to help the world function.

• **Vicarious Punishment** - someone getting punished for what they do and you live through their punishment vicariously: apparently satisfying

Dani Black

Prisons

9/26/19

French
theorist

Foucault: his main message about discipline and punishment: takes a rather divergent way of

- he is a **conflict theorist**.
- 2 sociological frameworks: function, conflict
- the essence of punishment & conflict theory is **social control**.
- message is similar to **utilitarian** thinkers like **Bentham** & **Beccaria**
- punishment should be looked at in terms of **power** over individuals & to subject their mind, body, action to a certain order of control (political).

functional theory: in prisons, media, education, religion, etc... all serve a particular functions

- well functioning key = **stability w/ solidarity** within ~~the~~ society.
- prison is functional despite how we see it, manifest vs. latent functions

pp learn
the norms

↓
obvious
functions

ex: get the criminals
off of the street.

↓
lowkey
functions

ex: we want to
punish those who
break our norms

→ reaffirm
beliefs

→ torture

norms: way you're expected to act from what you learn (socialized)

if each individual learn from the same norms and develop their own conscience, a group of all of them would be a **collective conscience**: share ideas, values, & norms.

prison system = expressive institution,
no utilitarian
based on emotions
relax for the expression of social issues
and get rid of bad energies. (closure).
punishment = solidarity/strengthen social
bond.

out group vs. in group → deviation in out
group causes solidarity in in group.
Justice has come to mean the opposite
of what it should mean: it now means
punishment.

Dani Black

Prisons

good P = 6-7 sentences

Assignment - Due Monday, October 7th.

9/20/19

assignment: 'Texas Tough'

- photograph & explanation (P)

- interesting thesis (find it)

- good amount of evidence, annictotal

how does it support the thesis?

how do
they relate

↓ analyze thesis compared to various

theories: sociological imagination,

rational choice/ utilitarianism, functional

theory, conflict theory

} most
important
part.

- how would you take these ideas and use them to make government policies

(ex: 3 strikes rule). For 2 policies - what

would be a more human policy?

define the theory through the relationship.

- no outside sources

Robert Merton (Functionalist)

- 1 that tried to upgrade Durkheim's theories.

- people believe in dominate cultural

narratives → socialized to believe them

by social institutions.

- achieve stability by pointing out outcast.

- looks for latent and manifest

functions in each institution.

- change won't happen if we focus on

manifest functions rather than

latent.

Schadenfreude - Find joy in other people's suffering.

Functional theory did not look at perspective, which is key to sociology.

→ pays almost no idea that social institutions are run by 1 person / collective conscience. a lot of theorist believe the head of these institutions use their power to achieve prosper at the expense of less powerful people

Conflict theorist look at how these institutions work.

- all the social institutions & they're importance is a function of the economic system (determines it all)

- not interested in general needs of society, just the 1%.

- logic of America's economic system = self interest (aka capitalism). how the economy grows [This attitude controls all other social institutions]

- everything based on ~~society~~ ~~class~~ conflict, all depends on economics

- 1% = ruling class, always constant conflicts essence of all social life is conflict

between classes for economic power, use to dominate other groups.

Conflict theorists base their work on

Karl Marx. - dominate cultural narratives are based on economic conflict & system.

We'd look for justifications to say this system is good.

Scientific racism - used to justify slavery, actual scientists looked for this information. hierarchy is based on "biology": → taken from bad evidence from students education at school, people of color obviously had less of a chance to get an education.

priests tried to use the bible to say people of color are inferior.