Crime - Key scholars

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Albert Cohen

Sub cultural theory

1955

Working class boys feel 'status frustration' as they have little chance of achieving success legitimately. As a result of this they join subcultures that value crimes such as vandalism, which in turn gives them status amongst their peers.

Crime

Stanley Cohen; LSE/Nigel Stead

Robert K Merton

Functionalism

1957

When people feel pressured to follow societies accepted goals, people can either conform, or respond in a variety of ways, such as crime as an alternative way of achieving these goals. Also known as Strain Theory.

Crime

Robert Merton; Unable to trace copyright, please contact us if you are the copyright holder

Howard S Becker

Interactionism

1963

In his study 'The Outsiders' it is shown that once labelled as deviant by society then a 'deviant career' may be the result. It is society that defines people's actions as deviant.

Crime

Howard Becker; Wikimedia Creative Commons
http://bit.ly/2jnXIKl

William Chambliss

Marxism

1973

In 'Roughnecks and Saints' study, it is shown that despite participating in similar types of behaviour the working class 'roughneck' boys are arrested more frequently and punished more harshly than their more middle class peers (the saints).

Crime

William Chambliss; Wikimedia Creative Commons
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