Process–Oriented Accounts
How Crime Happens

Outline
- Micro Background
- Differential Association / Learning
- Control Theories
- Life-Course Theories
- Labeling Theory

Differential Association (Sutherland)
- Criminal behavior is learned
  - Operant conditioning: learn to do what gets results
  - Imitation – esp. superiors, and esp. if rewarded
  - Cognitive social learning – figure out what to learn
  - Direct instruction – told how to do it
- Communication w/i primary groups
  - Techniques (how to), Rationalizations (justifications)
  - Definitions Favorable to Violation
- Differential Association Varies
  - Frequency, duration, priority, intensity

Other Learning Theories
- Glaser – Differential Identification
  - Reference groups (vs actual interaction)
  - Real or imaginary
- Bandura – Social Learning Theory
  - Imitation of models, not just rewards
  - Mass media & aggression
- Burgers & Akins – Differential Reinforcement
  - Rewards & punishments outside social circle
  - Schools, cops, media, etc.

Micro Background
- Chicago School
  - Albion Small & Robert Park
  - Social–problems orientation
- Search for Root Causes
  - Discipline Building
  - Relations of causality
  - Progressive Era

Social Control Theory
- Powerful inducements to commit
  - Amorality as natural state
- Most individuals are constrained
  - Internal vs. external
- 4 elements of internalization
  - Bond/attachment – internal
  - Commitment – to society’s norms
  - Involvement – time tradeoff
  - Belief – acceptance of value system
**Social Control Theory – kinds**

- Reckless – Containment Theory
  - Inner (positive self-concept etc)
  - Outer (institutions, esp family)
  - Chicken/egg
- Sykes/Matza – Neutralization & Drift
  - Denial of Responsibility – not my fault
  - Denial of Injury – no one hurt
  - Denial of the Victim – they deserved it
  - Condemnation of Condemner
  - Appeal to higher loyalties – necessary

**Micro Wrap-up**

- Agency – responsibility
  - No provision for individual action, free will
  - Deterministic
- Policy Implications
  - Reduce membership/participation in gangs
  - Scrutinize content of television
  - Etiological shift, esp. in re social justice
- Subsequent developments (beyond inner-city)
  - Routine activities – Cohen/Felson
  - Motivated offenders, suitable targets, absence of guardians
  - Differential identification

**Labeling Theory**

- Unexplored etiology
  - "first causes" are many and varied
- No act inherently criminal
- Behavior criminal when labeled
- Labels have consequences
  - For individual
  - For others

**Micro Critique**

- Adequacy
- Comprehensiveness
- Current appeal

**Subsequent Developments**

- Shaming (John Braithwaite)
  - Reintegrative – bringing offender back
  - Disintegrative – separate offender from others
- Family Structure (Moynihan, Sampson)
  - Family decay & loss of attachment
- Low Self-Control (Gottfredon, Hirschi)
  - “general theory of crime”
  - Lack of parental attachment & supervision