

Criminal Behavior: Psychological and Sociological Perspectives

Voegeli Claire *

Department of Criminology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

DESCRIPTION

Criminology, the scientific study of crime, criminal behavior, and the criminal justice system, is a multidisciplinary field that surround sociology, psychology, law, and forensic science. It seeks to understand the causes of criminal behavior, the nature of crimes, and the societal responses to crime. This essay search into the various aspects of criminology, investigating its theoretical foundations, methodologies, and the practical applications of criminological research.

Criminology is underpinned by several theoretical perspectives that offer different explanations for why people commit crimes. These theories can be broadly categorized into biological, psychological, sociological, and integrated theories.

These theories suggest that genetic and physiological factors contribute to criminal behavior. Early criminologists like Cesare Lombroso believed that criminals could be identified by physical anomalies. Contemporary biological theories focus on genetic predispositions, neurochemical imbalances, and brain abnormalities as factors influencing criminal behavior. Psychological approaches to criminology examine how individual mental processes and personality traits affect criminal behavior. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, for instance, suggests that unresolved internal conflicts and unconscious desires drive individuals to commit crimes. Cognitive-behavioral theories, on the other hand, look at how learning, perception, and reasoning impact criminality. Sociological perspectives emphasize the influence of social structures and relationships on criminal behavior. The strain theory, proposed by Robert K. Merton, posits that crime occurs when there is a discrepancy between societal goals and the means available to achieve them. Social learning theory, developed by Albert Bandura, phasesc that individuals learn criminal behavior through their interactions with others. The social control theory, articulated the strong social bonds and institutions can prevent crime. Integrated theories combine elements from biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives to provide a more comprehensive explanation of criminal behavior. For example, the biosocial theory considers how

genetic predispositions interact with environmental factors to influence criminality.

Criminological research employs a variety of methodologies to study crime and criminal behavior. These methods include quantitative and qualitative approaches, as well as mixed-methods research. Quantitative research involves the collection and analysis of numerical data to identify patterns and correlations. Surveys, experiments, and statistical analyses are common quantitative techniques used in criminology. For example, crime rates and demographic data can be analyzed to understand trends and risk factors associated with criminal behavior.

Qualitative research focuses on understanding the subjective experiences and social contexts of individuals involved in crime. Methods such as interviews, case studies, and ethnography provide in-depth insights into the motivations, attitudes, and behaviors of criminals. This approach is valuable for exhibit complex social phenomena that cannot be easily quantified. Mixed-methods research combines quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a more holistic understanding of crime. By integrating numerical data with detailed narratives, criminologists can gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of criminal behavior. The findings from criminological research have significant implications for policy-making, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system.

Sociological perspectives provide different frameworks to understand society. Structural functionalism views society as a system of interrelated parts working together for stability. Conflict theory focuses on power struggles and inequalities, emphasizing class conflicts. Symbolic interactionism examines daily interactions and meanings individuals attach to symbols. Feminist theory highlights gender inequalities and advocates for women's rights and gender justice. Critical theory critiques power structures and aims for societal change and emancipation. Postmodernism challenges traditional narratives, emphasizing fragmentation, diversity, and the subjective nature of reality. These perspectives collectively offer diverse insights into the complexities of social life.

Correspondence to: Voegeli Claire, Department of Criminology, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, E-mail: clairvoegeli@nottingham.ac.uk

Received: 28-Feb-2024, Manuscript No. SCOA-24-31684; **Editor assigned:** 01-Mar-2024, PreQC No. SCOA-24-31684 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 15-Mar-2024, QC No. SCOA-24-31684, **Revised:** 22-Mar-2024, Manuscript No. SCOA-24-31684 (R); **Published:** 29-Mar-2024, DOI: 10.35248/2375-4435.24.12.304

Citation: Claire V (2024) Criminal Behavior: Psychological and Sociological Perspectives. Social and Crimonol.12:304.

Copyright: © 2024 Claire V. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.