

Criminology

Theories, Patterns, and Typologies

Sixth Edition

Larry J. Siegel



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University of Massachusetts at Lowell



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This book is dedicated to my children, Julie,
Andrew, Eric, and Rachel Siegel, and to my
wife, Therese J. Libby.

Events of the past few years remind us of the great impact that crime, law, and justice have had on the American public. The already famous, such as sports figure O. J. Simpson, actor Hugh Grant, and politician Jim Guy Tucker, governor of Arkansas, made headlines when they were accused or convicted of criminal acts. Some formerly unknown individuals, such as Timothy McVeigh, Susan Smith, Heidi Fleiss, and Theodore Kaczynski, became household names when they were involved in criminal acts that captured public attention. Lawyers who defended people accused of high-profile crimes, such as Simpson's attorney Johnnie Cochran, emerged as public figures whose opinions were sought on TV talk shows. The nation was horrified when Bill Cosby's son Ennis was killed in what appeared to be a random robbery; the Cosby case proved that no one, no matter how well known or affluent, is safe from crime.

The media seem incapable of ever losing interest in notorious killers, serial murderers, drug lords, and sex criminals. It is not surprising, then, that many Americans are more concerned about crime than almost any other social problem. Most people worry about becoming the victims of violent crime, having their houses broken into, or having their cars stolen. People alter their behavior to limit the risk of victimization and question whether legal punishment alone can control criminal offenders. They are shocked at graphic news accounts of drive-by shootings, police brutality, and prison riots. They are fascinated by books, movies, and TV shows about law firms, clients, fugitives, and stone-cold killers.

I, too, have had a lifelong interest in crime, law, and justice. Why do people behave the way they do? What causes one person to become violent and antisocial, while another channels his or her energy into work, school, and family? How can the behavior of the "good boy in the high-crime neighborhood"—the "at-risk" kid who successfully resists the temptation of the streets—be explained? Conversely, what accounts for the behavior of the multimillionaire who cheats on his or her taxes or engages in fraudulent schemes? The former has nothing yet is able to resist crime;

the latter has everything and falls prey to its lure. Is behavior a function of personal characteristics? Upbringing and experience? Culture and environment? Or a combination of all these influences?

I have been able to channel this interest into a career as a teacher of criminology. My goal in writing this text is to help students generate the same interest in criminology that has sustained me during my 25 years in college teaching. What could be more important or fascinating than a field of study that deals with such wide-ranging topics as the motivation for mass murder, the association between media violence and interpersonal aggression, the family's influence on drug abuse, and the history of organized crime? Criminology is a dynamic field, changing constantly with the release of major research studies, Supreme Court rulings, and governmental policy. Its dynamism and diversity make it an important and engrossing area of study.

One reason that the study of criminology is so important is that debates continue over the nature and extent of crime and the causes and prevention of criminality. Some view criminals as society's victims who are forced to violate the law because of poverty and the lack of opportunity. Others view aggressive, antisocial behavior as a product of mental and physical abnormalities, present at birth or soon after, that are stable over the life course. Still another view is that crime is a function of the rational choice of greedy, selfish people who can only be deterred through the threat of harsh punishments. There is thus an ongoing debate over the nature and cause of crime.

Concern also continues about the treatment of known criminals: Should they be punished? Helped? Locked up? Given a second chance? Should crime control policy focus on punishment or rehabilitation? When an American boy, Michael Fay, was flogged in Singapore in 1994, some commentators openly praised that country's government for its tough stance on crime; a few even voiced the opinion that corporal punishment might work well in this country. Would you like to see a whipping post set up in your town?

Because interest in crime and justice is so great and so timely, this text is designed to review these ongoing issues

and cover the field of criminology in an organized and comprehensive manner. It is meant as a broad overview of the field, designed to whet the reader's appetite and encourage further and more in-depth exploration.

Topic Areas

The text is divided into four main sections or topic areas.

Section 1 provides a framework for studying criminology. The first chapter defines the field and discusses its most basic concepts: the definition of crime, the component areas of criminology, the history of criminology, criminological research methods, and the ethical issues that confront the field. The second chapter covers the criminal law and its functions, processes, defenses, and reform. Chapter 3 covers the nature, extent, and patterns of crime. Chapter 4 is devoted to the concept of victimization, including the nature of victims, theories of victimization, and programs designed to help crime victims.

Section 2 contains six chapters that cover criminological theory: Why do people engage in criminal behavior? These views include theories of criminal choice (Chapter 5); biological and psychological views (Chapter 6); structural, cultural, and ecological theories (Chapter 7); social process theories that focus on socialization and include learning and control (Chapter 8); and theories of social conflict (Chapter 9). Chapter 10 covers attempts by criminologists to integrate various theories into a unified whole.

Section 3 is devoted to the major forms of criminal behavior. These four chapters cover violent crime, common theft offenses, white-collar and organized crimes, and public order crimes, including sex offenses and substance abuse.

The text has been carefully structured to cover relevant material in a comprehensive, balanced, and objective fashion.

Features

This edition is in full color, which helps make photos, charts, and figures come alive. The fold-out time line of criminological history has been retained, updated, and redesigned. Each chapter includes a chapter outline, a list of the key terms contained in the chapter, discussion questions designed to focus classroom interaction, and at least one boxed insert, or Close-Up. These boxes contain a detailed discussion or reading of an important and intriguing topic, issue, or program. For example, a Close-Up in Chapter 11 focuses on serial killing and mass murder, while the Close-Up in Chapter 14 covers child prostitution in the United States and Japan.

"Connections" boxes are now located in appropriate places throughout each chapter. These brief inserts link the material being currently discussed with relevant information located elsewhere in the text. Connections either ex-

pand on the subject matter or show how it can be applied to other areas or topics. For example, a Connections box in Chapter 2 alerts the reader to the link between the ancient legal practice of *lex talionis* ("an eye for an eye") and the modern "just desert" philosophy that aims to make punishment "fit the crime," discussed in Chapter 5.

The Internet is becoming an important academic research tool. Consequently, scattered throughout the text are "Internet Bookmarks" that guide the reader to webpages containing material that supplements the text. For example, in Chapter 4 an Internet Bookmark describes the UNCJIN—Countries of the World reference page that provides data on cross-national crime rates.

What's New in This Edition

This edition retains the same organizational features of the previous edition, with some notable differences. A few of the new topics and areas covered include the following:

Chapter 1, "Crime and Criminology," has been updated with new material on international crime rates and the growing problem of international crime. The time line tracing the history of criminological thought has been expanded.

Chapter 2, "The Criminal Law and Its Processes," contains material on new types of criminal laws, including stalking laws and community notification laws.

Chapter 3, "The Nature and Extent of Crime," covers crime trends and patterns. New material is presented on gun control as well as the findings of an important new study that followed chronic juvenile offenders into their adulthood.

Chapter 4, "Victims and Victimization," focuses on the nature and extent of victimization, theories of victimization, and the government's response to victimization. New material is included on repeat victimization and the link between victimization and antisocial behaviors.

Chapter 5, "Choice Theory," offers new material on the efforts to measure the interaction among opportunity, motivation, and crime, as well as a new section on the rationality of drug use.

Chapter 6, "Trait Theories," now includes a discussion of arousal theory as well as expanded sections on evolutionary theories of crime, including "cheater" theory. The discussion of IQ and crime is updated with reference to *The Bell Curve*, the controversial book by Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray.

Chapter 7, "Social Structure Theories," now contains an analysis of William Julius Wilson's new book *When Work Disappears*.

Chapter 8, "Social Process Theories," shows how institutional involvement and belief can influence crime rates.

Chapter 9, "Social Conflict Theory," contains new material on radical feminist theory, left realism, peacemaking, and deconstructionism. There is a new Close-Up on restorative justice.

Chapter 10, “Integrated Theories,” has been updated with Terrie Moffitt’s research on “adolescent limited” and “life course persistent” offenders as well as early- versus late-onset delinquency.

Chapter 11, “Violent Crime,” offers new material on mass murder, hate crimes, spouse abuse, and the causes of violence. There is a new Close-Up on genocide as a form of political terrorism.

Chapter 12, “Property Crimes,” contains sections on combating shoplifting and on the “occupation” of burglary.

Chapter 13, “White-Collar and Organized Crime,” includes new sections on check kiting and Internet crime.

Chapter 14, “Public Order Crimes: Sex and Substance Abuse,” has sections on sex offenders and their victims, child prostitution in Japan, and the monetary value of the sex-for-profit industry.

Ancillary Materials

A number of pedagogic supplements are provided by Wadsworth to help instructors use *Criminology* in their courses and to aid students in preparing for exams. These include:

- Instructor’s Resource Manual by Mike Kaune
- Computerized Testing Items (ESA Software)
- Study Guide by Alex Alvarez
- Power Point Presentation software by Larry Bassi
- CNN video

Additional useful resources and materials include:

- Internet Investigator card (brochurelike card that features the most useful crime-related URLs)
- Guide to the Internet for Criminal Justice (small booklet with basic start-up instructions on how to use the Internet for CJ research)
- Wadsworth Criminal Justice Resource Center web site, which contains many crime-related links
- Blackenship/Vito, *Your Research: Data Analysis for Criminal Justice and Criminology*
- Harr/Hess, *Employment in Criminal Justice*, a monograph that provides information on finding employment, job interviewing techniques, and other criminal justice career information.

Alternative Versions

Once again, there are two versions of *Criminology*. Both have 14 identical chapters covering crime, law, criminological theory, and crime typologies. The larger version, titled simply *Criminology*, contains an additional 4 chapters covering the criminal justice system, while the other, titled *Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*, omits these chapters. The 18-chapter book is designed for instructors who wish to cover criminal justice institutions and practices

within a criminology course, while the 14-chapter version is aimed at programs in which material on criminal justice is taught in a separate course or where time constraints limit the amount of textual material that can be covered.

Perspective

We’ve made every effort to make the presentation of material interesting, balanced, and objective. No single political or theoretical position dominates the text; instead, it presents the many diverse views that are contained within criminology and that characterize its interdisciplinary nature. The text analyzes the most important scholarly works and scientific research reports, while also presenting topical information on recent cases and events, such as the military sexual assault scandal and the Heidi Fleiss prostitution ring. To enliven the presentation, boxed inserts focus on important criminological issues and topics, such as the female burglar and whether crime pays.

Acknowledgments

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occasional face to the names they are reading about. Special thanks must also go to Kathleen Maguire, editor of the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice*; the staff at the Hindelang Research Center in Albany, New York; Joyce Buchanan at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan; and Kristina Rose and Janet Rosenbaum of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

The form and content of this edition were directed by my new editor, Sabra Horne. It has been a pleasure working with Sabra and my other new colleagues on the Wadsworth "team": editorial assistants Kate Barrett and

Jeff Kellner, project coordinator Debby Kramer, production manager Nancy Sjoberg, copy editor Jackie Estrada, photo editor Linda Rill, and marketing manager Mike Dew. This is the first book I have written with my new Wadsworth colleagues, and these folks made me feel right at home. They must be given a lot of credit for putting together a beautiful design and going out of their way to be patient, kind, and sensitive.

Larry Siegel
Bedford, New Hampshire

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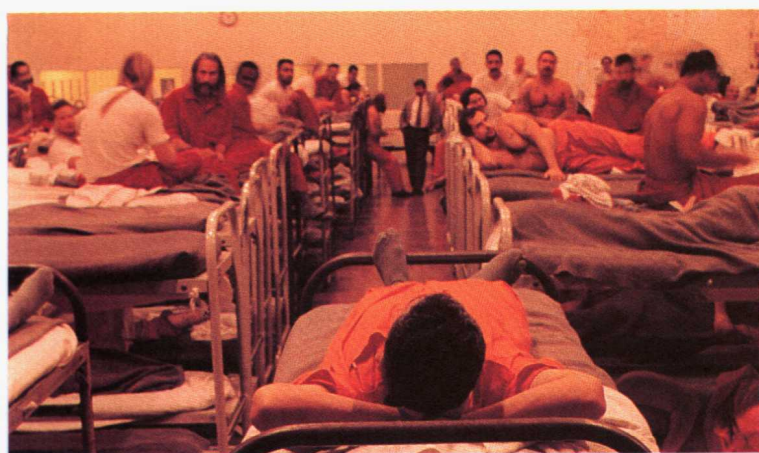
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