QUESTION: Can you think of an example of a social practice that was once understood as deviant, but is not today?
**SOCIAL DEVIANCE**

**DEFINITION:** Any transgression of socially established norms.
- Minor transgressions of these norms can be described as informal deviance.
- Formal deviance or crime involves the violation of laws.

**DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL**

- **Emile Durkheim** *The Division of Labor in Society* (1893)
- Social cohesion: the way people form social bonds, relate to each other, and get along on a day-to-day basis.
- Theorized that social controls are established either through:
  - Mechanical solidarity: based on the sameness of society's parts of members
  - Organic solidarity: based on the interdependence of specialized parts or members.
Thrust: Suicide is not only a function of psychological factors, but also of social forces.

- **Social integration**: how well you are integrated into your group or community.
- **Social regulation**: the number of rules guiding your daily life, and, more specifically, what you can reasonably expect from the world on a day-to-day basis.

**Émile Durkheim, Suicide**

- **Egoistic suicide**: suicide that occurs when one is not well integrated with the social group.
  - low social integration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Suicide</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Altruistic Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Suicide that occurs when one experiences too much social integration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anomic Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Suicide that occurs as a result of insufficient social regulation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **High Social Integration**
- **Low Social Regulation**
Émile Durkheim, *Suicide*

- **Fatalistic suicide**: suicide that occurs when one is too integrated with the social group.
- **High social regulation**

**ROBERT K. MERTON**

**STRAIN THEORY**

- **Strain theory**: Merton's theory of deviance occurs when a society does not give all its members equal ability to achieve socially acceptable goals.
- **Conformist**: individual who accepts both the goals and strategies to achieve them that are considered socially acceptable.
- **Ritualist**: individual who rejects socially defined goals but not their means.
innovator: social deviant who accepts socially acceptable goals but rejects socially acceptable means to achieve them.

retreatist: one who rejects both socially acceptable means and goals by completely retreating from, or not participating in society.

rebel: individuals who rejects both traditional goals and traditional means and wants to alter and destroy the social institutions from which he or she is alienated.

ROBERT K. MERTON
STRAIN THEORY

PART THREE: CONFLICT THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO DEVIANCE
**CONFLICT THEORY**

- **street crime**: crime committed in public and often associated with violence, gangs, and poverty.
- **white-collar crime**: offense committed by a professional (or professionals) against a corporation, agency, or other institution.
- **corporate crime**: a particular type of white-collar crime committed by the officers (CEOs and other executives) of an organization.

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**CONFLICT THEORY**

- **social control**: those mechanisms that create normative compliance in individuals.
- **formal social sanctions**: mechanisms of social control by which rules or laws prohibit deviant criminal behavior.
  - (e.g. laws; authority of police officers)
CONFLICT THEORY

- informal social sanctions: the usually unexpressed but widely known rules of
group membership; the unspoken rules of social life.
- help maintain a base level of order and cohesion in society and form
  a foundation for formal social control.

PART FOUR: SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONIST APPROACHES TO DEVIANCE
SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONIST THEORIES OF DEVIANCE

- **labeling theory**: the belief that individuals subconsciously notice how others see or label them, and their reactions to those labels over time, form the basis of their self-identity.
  - People see how they are labeled and accept that label as being “true.”
  - People behave the way they think someone with their label should behave.

- **primary deviance**: the initial act or attitude that causes one to be labeled deviant.

- **secondary deviance**: subsequent deviant identity or career that develops as a result of being labeled deviant.

- **tertiary deviance**: redefining the stigma associated with a deviant label as a positive phenomenon.

- **self-fulfilling prophecy**: inaccurate statement or belief that, by altering the situation, becomes accurate; a prediction that causes itself to come true.
Psychology experiment where a group of eight adults presented themselves at different psychiatric in-patient hospitals and complained of hearing voices.

They were admitted with a diagnosis of schizophrenia.

They were instructed to stop simulating any symptoms of abnormality once they were admitted; however, the doctors did not suspect these patients were imposters.

Once labeled “insane,” all of their interpreted behavior was determined accordingly.

The white 39 year old male . . . manifests a long history of considerable ambivalence in close relationships, which begins in early childhood. A warm relationship with his mother cools with adolescence. A distant relationship to his father is described as becoming very intense. Affective stability is absent. His attempts to control emotionality with his wife and children are punctuated by angry outbursts and, in the case of his children, spankings. And while he says he has several good friends, one senses considerable ambivalence embedded in those relationships also” (Rosenhan 1973: 253).
**STIGMA**

- **stigma**: a negative social label that not only changes others' behavior toward a person but also alters that person's own self-concept and social identity.
- **passing**: presenting yourself as a member of a different group than the stigmatized group you belong to.
- **in-group orientation**: among stigmatized individuals, the rejection of prevailing judgments or prejudice and the development of new standards that value their group identity.

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- **outsiders**: people living one way or another outside of mainstream society.
- **deviance avowal**: process by which an individual self-identifies as deviant and initiates his/her own labeling process.
BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY

- two abandoned cars in Palo Alto (near Stanford U) and South Bronx (then the most dangerous neighborhood in the country).

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY explains how social context and social cues impact the way individuals act. People who wouldn't exhibit a certain behavior in one social context might do so in another context where the behavior seems more permissible.

- THRUST: The best way to prevent crime is to focus on minor quality-of-life offenses, such as drinking in public, and public vandalism.
- Neighborhood disorder and decay, if left unchecked, combined with public drinking and vagrancy, signal to criminals that when no one is watching, crime will take place.