

SCLG2608 NOTES

Definitions

Deviance = violating social norms, always contextual

Norms = rules/expectations that guide/structure society in both public + private arenas

Normal = socially agreed upon convention

Regulation = create equilibrium

MODULE 1: THEORISING DEVIANCE AND DIFFERENCE

Michel Foucault – Abnormality

→ 3 elements of abnormality:

1. The Human Monster

- Extreme and rare
- Provokes violence, suppression, medical care, pity
- Transgression of natural limits and classifications
- Breach of both natural law and law of God + society
- Politico-judicial powers
- Around since ancient times
- Monstrosity different to disability → monster not welcomed into the civil world

2. The Individual to be Corrected (The Incurable)

- Family exercising its internal power
- Appears much more frequently – regular in his irregularity
- Attempts at training within the family failed to regulate/correct him
- Family and discipline
- Can be rectifiable with ‘super’ correction

3. The Masturbator

- Almost universal individual
- Secret shared by everyone but disclosed to no one
- Root of almost every possible evil
- Individual's body
- Rise of sciences of sexuality → right vs. wrong ways to see ourselves as sexual beings

→ Ideas get conflated in C 19th to form an overarching idea of abnormality

→ Deviance + abnormality are not natural phenomena, have been created as a power play

Identifying and Disciplining Deviance

Foucault

- Maps out ways modern state controls their citizens
- Institution of idea of the norm → central to how power works + how citizens are governed
- 2 key forms of power = *discipline* + *biopolitics*
 - Together form 'biopower'
 - Biopolitics = population; discipline = individuals

Sovereign Power

- Brutal punishment enforced physically on the body
- Centralised in the State/King → top down
- Punishment = public, violent, passionate, repressive
 - Asserting king's power as absolute
- Shift in how power is exercised at end of C 18th → doesn't go away but other forms become more dominant
 - Figure of executioner juxtaposed by the figure of the timetable
 - Punishment becomes secretive, abstract, hidden
 - Discipline works through all layers of society (**capillary**)
- Right to kill or let live

Biopower

- Gentle, yet more effective, way of punishment
- Increasing populations + urbanisation = need for more effective/efficient forms of control
- Growth in economic production means that more productive, healthy workers are needed

Discipline

- Power becomes subtler, yet more ominous
- Relies on us participating for it to be maintained → population becomes both objects and instruments of power
- Centrally concerned with maintaining the norm and correcting the individual
- Instructing people how you should be, and assigns deviance to those who don't fall in line
- Pre-emptive power trying to stop deviance from ever occurring
- Marks the decline of the spectacle → abandonment of the body to focus on the mind
- Economy of suspended rights, body caught up in a system of constraints, obligations and prohibitions
- System of reward carried out by agents of normality/judges of morality
- Internalised form of surveillance
 - Norms and dominant knowledges incorporated into our sense of self
- Goal = to produce a person who is both docile and productive (politically and economically)
 - Linked to the rise of capitalism

Panopticon

- Representative model of how this new form of power operates
- Guard becomes internalised into the psyche of the prisoner
- Self-regulation that limits force that needs to be used and allows a more efficient form of power
- Becomes model for punishment for an entire society
- Discipline focused on normalisation + punishes non-observance
- 3 primary techniques:
 1. Hierarchical observation
 - Breaking surveillance down into parts
 - Becomes a system of looking rather than force
 - Apparatus that makes it possible to induce effects of power _ means of coercion make those on whom they are applied clearly visible
 2. Normalising judgment
 - People ranked according to a norm
 - Idea that we move in a certain developmental pattern and if you don't, you are abnormal
 - Behaviours that fall outside are penalised
 - Individuals work more in pursuit of reward than fear of punishment
 3. Examination
 - Process of examining the subject that combines hierarchical observation and normalising judgment
 - Documentation of who you are as an individual
 - Turns the individual into a case
- A productive form of power that produces certain effects
- Creates who we are, but limits the options of how we can be in the world

Managing and Administering Deviance

Biopolitics

1. Overlays with discipline under the umbrella of biopower
2. Focused on the masses rather than individuals
3. Targets are the biological processes of the population
4. Administering the population + its well-being
5. 3 main fields:
 1. Medicine: main function = public hygiene
 2. Interventions to deal with old age, incapacities, accidents = biological disabilities
 3. Control relations between people and their environments
6. Works through data and forecasting, as well as government policies

Racism under Biopolitics

- Biopolitics embeds racism in the state
- State uses racism to determine who should be made to live
- Foster the lives of some at the expense of others – applies to any group that is undesirable

EMBODIED DEVIANCE AND DIFFERENCE

The Human Monster

The Freak

- Limits of human subjectivity shaped by social, historical, political forces
- Not just atypical – more is needed to classify their social position
- Always a double movement – fascinating but repulsive
- Interpretive occasion – never neutral

Pre-Modern Understanding

- Seen as monsters
- Approached with awe
- Viewed through the lens of wonder, but still as a punishment/threat
- Linked back to mythological characters

Modern Era

- Becomes the focus of study, classification, manipulation
- Subjects of “objective” observation
- Biological anomaly rather than God's design
- Rise of dichotomous thinking
 - Rise of science = rise of classification
 - Human/animal, self/other, male/female, adult/child → absolute boundaries, lines cannot be diverged
- Teratology masters and de-mythologises the ‘freak’
 - Seen as diseased/pathological → no longer wondrous

The Freak Show

- Public ritual that bound the polity together in a collective act of looking
- Identifies who is thought of as abnormal
- Binding the population together with the idea that they are still normal
- Becomes obviously cruel when the medical institution took over
- Everyday life has become standardised
- Filled with hyper-racialization
- Human zoos became incredibly common in 1800s
 - Confirm European normativity and superiority
- Objectification of the individual as a ritual of power
- Freakery doesn't just exist → it is a designation that is tied into displays of power

Obesity and Fatness: Bodies out of Bounds

Disability and the Failure of Universal Design

Disability

- Culture is intolerant → a threat to able-bodied people, reminds them of what's possible
- Seen as being trapped in their bodies
- Seen to either exceed the boundaries of normative embodiment – too much body – or not enough body – the body has failed

Ideal Body

- Idea of mechanistic body emerges during enlightenment
 - Delineation of normal body as one that works 'properly' with all parts in their proper places
 - Idea that humans should be whole, independent, autonomous, directed by self-will
- Resurrection of Ancient Greek mind/body split → mind becomes more important
 - Self is located in the mind and has a body which it controls
 - Those who are disabled lose control of their body + their autonomy
- Idea of the norm starts in life sciences in 1840s, trickles down to society

Medical Model of Disability

- Idea that disability is a result of individual's physical or mental limitations
- Sees disability as purely individual, ignores outside factors that can contribute to disability
- Dominant model in society
- Concludes that solutions should also be focused on individual
- Solution is to find a cure or make a disabled body more normal

Non-Medical Understanding

- Social arrangements + expectations contribute to how we understand disability
- Biological and social interact to create disability
- Social organisation feeds into disability – e.g. architecture values the norms
- Social ideas dictate the boundaries of normal – some cultures value disability
- Omit experiences of disability from cultural knowledge, unless through stereotypes
- Those seen as disabled also seen as genderless → body has already failed
- Stereotypes of disability echo the medical model

The Disability System

- Interprets how we should discipline bodily variations

- Produce what we think of as able-bodied vs disabled
- Functions to preserve and validated privileged descriptors of the normal body

The Social Deconstruction of Disability

- Prevent through better public health/more attention to people's needs
- Sense of purpose – step back from norms of just participating
- Aggressive intent to fix, pushed forward at the expense of creating more accessible areas/better support
 - Reduces society's tolerance for support
- Need for wider representation

The Biopolitics of Disability

- Productively administered by the state
- Institutionalisation, marriage prohibitions, involuntary sterilization, confinement within home, segregated education, immigration restriction
- Physically control disability + predict the future of society
- Individuals disciplined through:
 - Medical diagnosis or regulation
 - Medical efforts of normalisation
 - Confinement to private sphere
- Compelled to internalise the ideas of themselves as lacking

Sexual Difference and the Correction of Atypical Anatomies

- Traditional view: designation of sex is seen to be biological, based on anatomy, unchanging
- Sex is always based in a binary
- Biological determinist view → fundamental and unchanging
- Since at least 1960s, critics (e.g. Feminists) dispute determinism → argued that gender is a construction, doesn't stem from the body
- Idea that gender is biological justifies the idea that men are naturally superior
- Gender appears differently in different cultures

Gender as a Construction

- Socially determined – different traits associated with male/female bodies
- Trained to become gendered bodies
- Internalise ideas of gender into sense of self
- Completely binary and oppositional
- Dichotomous logic also applied to the traits we assign genders
- Men associated with mind, women associated with bodies
- Gender norms enable certain opportunities and disable others
- A learnt set of roles we are positioned within
- Come to adopt them through internalisation

- Form of discipline to produce normatively gendered subject
- Policing of one another to fit these roles
 - Gender as a panopticon
 - Rewards for proper embodiment, disincentives + punishments (including death) if you don't
- Ideals we must reproduce to be seen as normatively human

Sex

- Understood as absolutely binary
- Gender built on sex assignment
- Sex assignment seen as biological

Intersex

- Variety of conditions → umbrella term
- Defined within biomedicine as a congenital abnormality
- Medical + social emergency
 - Represent a threat
 - Body is unintelligible – unable to be categorised into one of two sexes (medical)
 - Without an assigned sex, don't know how to gender a child (social)
 - Biomedicine intervenes to create a normally gendered person
 - Not about health of child but about correcting ambiguity
- Total number of people whose bodies differ from standard male or female = 1 in 100 births
 - No such thing as natural division into 2 categories, because there is such a variety

Sex as a Social Construct

- Historical Change: Pre Modern Period
 - 1 flesh/1 sex model = around for 100s of years, much longer history
 - All bodies alike
 - No concept of sexual dimorphism
 - Difference in degrees of perfection
 - General social idea that men were more perfect than women
 - Based on how much "vital heat" one possessed
 - Masculinity is the yardstick against which all else is measured
- Sex Characteristics Exist on a Spectrum
 - Exists on a continuum
 - Criteria used by biologists = chromosomes, genitals, secondary sex characteristics, hormones
 - Women are breeders → argument that gender is important for reproduction
 - Decision on classification based on size of penis ('phallometer')
 - Ideas about male + female body are rooted in gender division and the ideology produced by that division

- Biomedicine works biopolitically to standardise understandings of sex and relations to gender
- Existence of people who don't fit into this binary prove this isn't natural

