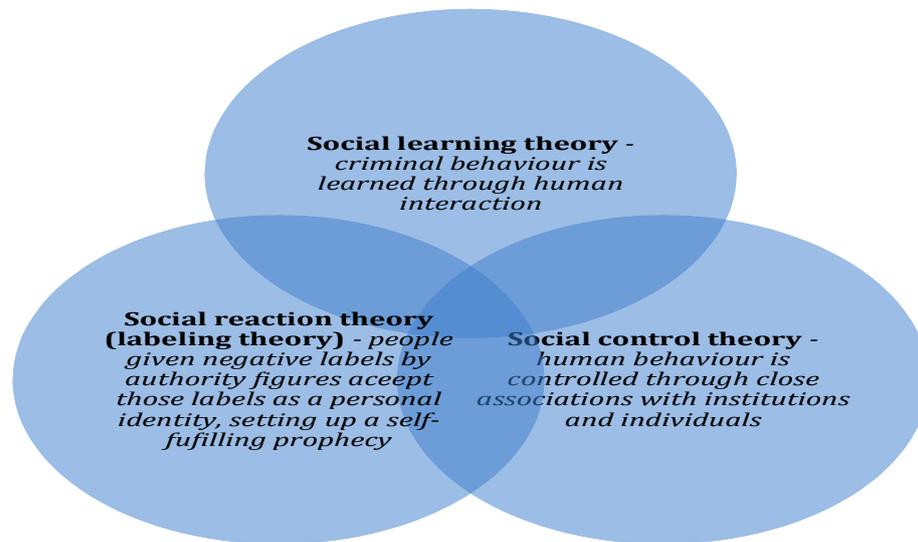


## Social Process Approach



### Social Learning Theories

Social learning theorists believe that crime is a product of learning the norms, values and behaviours associated with criminal activity – social learning can involve the actual techniques of crime (how to hot-wire a car), as well as the psychological aspects of criminality (how to deal with the guilt or shame)

**Differential association theory** is the view that people commit crime when their social learning leads them to perceive more definitions favouring crime than favouring conventional behaviour

### Principles of differential association

- **Criminal behaviour is learned** – criminality is learned in the same manner as any other learned behaviour, such as writing, painting or reading
- **Criminal behaviour is learned as a by-product of interacting with others** – people actively learn as they are socialized and interact with other individuals who serve as teachers and guides to crime
- **Learned criminal behaviour occurs within intimate personal groups** – people's contacts with their most intimate social companions (family, friends and peers) have the greatest influence on their development of deviant behaviour and antisocial attitudes
- **Learning criminal behaviour involves assimilating the techniques of committing crime, including motives, drives, rationalizations and attitudes** – novice criminals learn from their associates the proper way to pick a lock, shoplift and obtain and use narcotics. They must learn the proper terminology for their acts and acquire approved reactions to law violations. Criminals must learn how to react properly to their illegal acts, such as when to defend them and when to show remorse
- **The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from perceptions of various aspects of the legal code as favourable or unfavourable** – because the reaction to social rules and laws is not

Edwin Sutherland's analysis of business-related offenses also helped coin a new phrase, **white-collar crimes**, to describe economic crime activities of the affluent

- *Illegal acts that capitalize on a person's status in the marketplace*
- *May include theft, embezzlement, fraud, market manipulation, restraint of trade and false advertising*

**Penology** involves efforts to control crime through the correction of criminal offenders. Some criminologists advocate a therapeutic approach to crime prevention that relies on the application of **rehabilitation** services that is aimed at preventing future criminal behavior. They direct their efforts at identifying effective treatment strategies for individuals convicted of law violations

Others argue that crime can be prevented only through the application of formal social control, through such measures as **mandatory sentences** for serious crimes and even the use of **capital punishment** as a deterrent to murder

- **Mandatory sentences** are a statutory requirement that a certain penalty shall be carried out in all cases of conviction for a specified offense or series of offenses
- **Capital punishment** is the execution of criminal offenders; the death penalty

**Victimology** is the study of the victim's role in criminal events

- *Victims play a crucial role in the criminal process*
- *The victim's behavior is often a key determinant of crime*

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| <b>Criminal statistics</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gathering valid crime data</i></li> <li>• <i>Devising new research methods</i></li> <li>• <i>Measuring crime patterns and trends</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sociology of law/law and society/sociologic studies</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Determining the origin of law</i></li> <li>• <i>Measuring the forces that can change laws and society</i></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Theory construction</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Predicting individual behavior</i></li> <li>• <i>Understanding the cause of crime rates and trends</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Criminal behavior systems</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Determining the nature and cause of specific crime patterns</i></li> <li>• <i>Studying violence, theft, organized crime, white-collar crime and public order</i></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Penology: punishment, sanctions and corrections</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Studying the correction and control of criminal behavior</i></li> <li>• <i>Using the scientific method to assess the effectiveness of criminal sanctions designed to control crime through the application of criminal</i></li> </ul> |