

Deviant Behavior in Everyday Life

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Background and Aim

Background

- deviance usually tested on crime
- but: deviance contains more than crime
- authors claim general adaption of theories to every deviant act

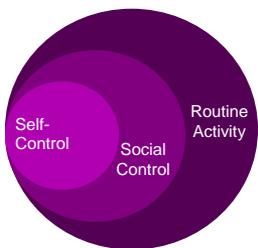
Aim

- Examination of the possibility to
- adopt the theories to non-criminal acts
 - explain everyday life deviance with these theories

Questioning

- Why do some individuals deviate in specific situations?
- Is there a general tendency for deviation?

Theories, Hypotheses and Indicators



Social Control Theory

Hirschi (1969)

Components

- attachment
- commitment
- involvement
- belief



Hypotheses

The greater the four components are marked, the lower the probability of deviance.

Indicators

- bonding to the society
- high reputation/status
- various leisure activities
- acceptance of norms and laws

Self-Control Theory

Gottfredson & Hirschi (1990)

Further development of social control theory

Components

- low self-control
- high self-control



The greater the self-control is marked, the lower the probability of deviant behavior.

- socialisation
- impulsivity
- here-and-now-orientation
- risk-taking

Routine Activity Theory

Cohen & Felson (1979)

Components

- motivated offender
- suitable target
- capable guardians



The lower the routine activity is marked, the lower the probability of deviant acts.

- personal value
- visibility of the act
- access to the target
- existence of guardians
- motivation of the offender

Application and Methodological Approach

Application

3 situations of daily life

- drunk driving
- fare evasion
- jaywalking

Methodology

Observation and short questionnaire

- accompaniment of police traffic checks
- accompaniment of staff members of public transport organisations
- observation of different traffic lights

Specific Indicators

Social control

- bonding intensity with parents/peers
- acceptance of a legal alcohol limit
- acceptance of laws of public transportation
- acceptance of traffic laws

Self-control

- planned or impulsive behaviour
- smoking, drinking, etc.
- relationship to accompanying peers
- usage of seat belts

Routine activity

- advantage for offender (time, money, etc.)
- ever shown that behavior before
- knowing that there might not be a control

Literature

Cohen, Lawrence and Marcus Felson (1979) Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach. In: American Sociological Review 44 (4), 588-608.

Gottfredson, Michael and Travis Hirschi (1990) A General Theory of Crime. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Hirschi, Travis (1969) Causes of Delinquency. New Brunswick, London: Transaction Publishers.