



THIRUTHANGAL NADAR COLLEGE

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Selavayal, Chennai-51.**

**A Self-Financing Co-educational College of Arts &
Science**

Affiliated to the University of Madras

Accredited with 'B' Grade by NAAC

An ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institution

NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT: Criminology

& Police administration

SUBJECT : Fundamentals of criminology

TOPIC : Nature of Criminology

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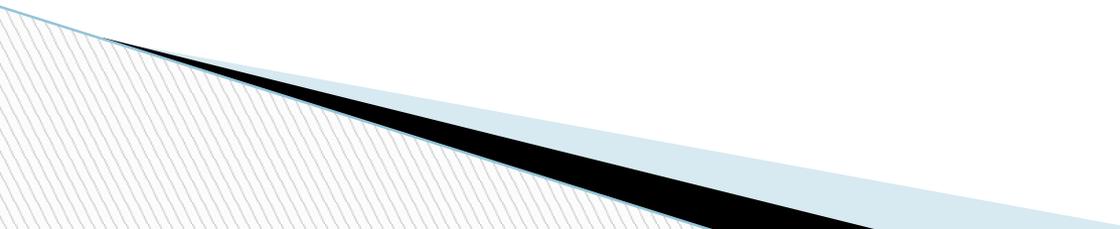
Nature of Criminology

- As we have indicated, there are competing definitions of crime. This produces kinds of responses to crime. Nature of Criminology varies according to crime- time; needs, society, law and corresponding judicial system in force. Criminologists vary in how they approach the study of crime. There are three broad levels-
Nature of criminology;
- Individuals
- Situational and
- Social-structural

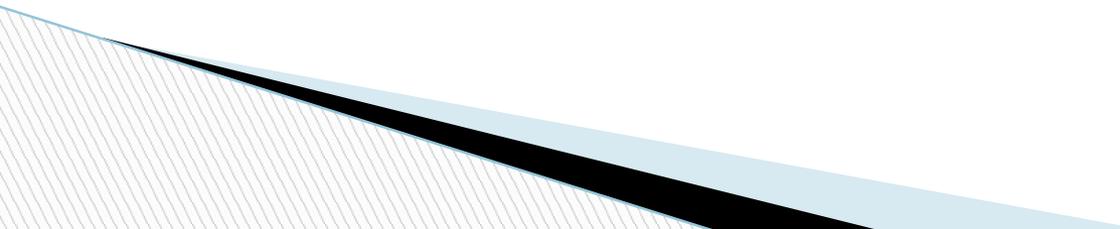
▣ *Individual*

- ▣ The main focus is on the personal or individual characteristics of the offender or victim. The study may consider e.g. the influence of appearance, dress, public image or things such as tattoos. This level of analysis tends to look at the psychological or biological factors which are said to have an important role in determining why certain individuals engage in a criminal activity. The key concern is to explain crime or deviant behavior in terms of the choices or characteristics of the individual person.

▣ *Situational*

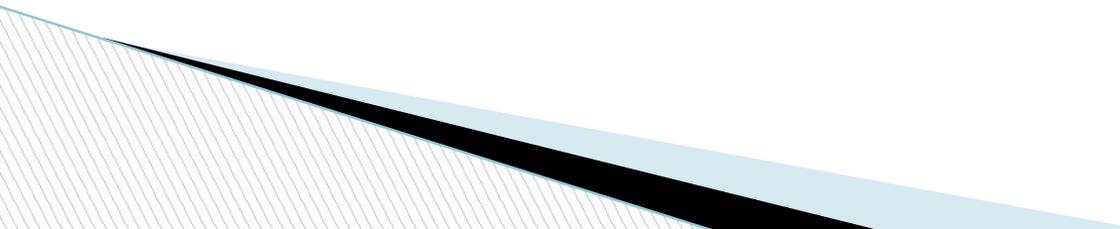
- ▣ The main site of analysis is the immediate circumstances or situations within which criminal activity or deviant behavior occurs. Attention is directed to the specific factors that may contribute to an event occurring such as how the participants define the situations, how different people are labeled by the others in the criminal justice system and the opportunities avail for the commission of certain types of offences.
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▣ *Social-Structural*

- ▣ This approach tends to look at crime in terms of the broad social relationships and the major social institutions of society as a whole. The analysis makes references to the relationship between classes, sexes, different ethnic and racial groups, the employed and unemployed; and various other social divisions in society. It can also involve the investigation of the operation specific institutions such as indication, family, work and the legal system in the construction of social responses to crime and deviant behavior.
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▣ **Scope of Criminology**

- ▣ As there are many different specialties within the field of criminology, it can be difficult to identify one career that encapsulates what “typical” member of the profession is and does. Depending on the background, education, experience and position, a criminologist may perform any number of functions, including crime scene investigation, interview and interrogate suspects, participate in autopsies, or profile criminals. Some within this field focus almost exclusively on research; others work as consultants for government’s agencies or liaisons, while some work as consultants and employees of private security companies.
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- Most criminologists will be involved in data collection and profiling. Criminologists are analysts. They study crimes, collect data and then analyze their findings to provide actionable information and recommendations. Criminologists seek to identify who committed crimes, when crimes were committed, and why they were committed. As part of their analysis, criminologists consider psychological behavior, socioeconomic and economic indicators, and environmental factors.
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- When dealing with high-profile cases, it's not uncommon for criminologists to spend a fair amount of their time corresponding with media and public relations managers. Sometimes criminologists will go as far as publish their experiences and findings in industry journals or even write books. However, the day-to-day routine for most criminologists is far less glamorous -performing much of their work alone, outside of the public eye.
- Much of the work performed by criminologists involves the collection of statistics which are used to develop active profiles to be used by other law enforcement professionals and agencies to better understand and predict criminal behavior. In order for a criminologist's work to be useful and effective, it must be precise and accurate. Consequently, professionals working in criminology must have a good understanding of statistics and math.

- Launching a career in criminology typically requires college level education in criminology, statistics or mathematics. While an associate's degree will qualify candidates for some entry-level positions, a bachelor's degree is usually the minimum entry-level requirement, and a master's degree or PhD is preferred. The best positions and career advancement opportunities are reserved for professionals who have a master's or doctorate degree.
- Even with a degree, success as a criminologist requires dedication, intelligence, the ability to analyze complex situations, and a desire to help improve society. Skills including creativity, verbal and written communication, and an analytical mind are essential attributes of a criminologist.

Criminology as a Social Science

- Criminology is the study of crime, as indicated by the formative Latin terms crimino (accusation or guilt) and logy (study of). As an intellectual domain, criminology comprises contributions from multiple academic disciplines, including psychology, biology, anthropology, law, and, especially, sociology. Although the defining statements of criminology are rooted across these diverse areas, contemporary criminology is becoming ever more intertwined with still additional sciences and professional fields such as geography, social work, and public health.
- This plurality of influences, often referred to as multidisciplinary, is altogether logical given the complex subject matter and diverse nature of crime. Scholarly attention to crime from various perspectives allows for an extensive range of research questions to be addressed, making possible a fuller understanding of the criminal mind, the nature of crime, and social control processes.

Criminology and Sociology

- During the twentieth century, the sociological approach to criminology became the most influential approach. Sociology is the study of social behavior, systems, and structures. In relation to criminology, it may be divided into social-class, social-structural and social-process approaches.
- **Social-Process and Crime** - Social-process theories attempt to explain how people become criminals. These theories developed through recognition of the fact that not all people who are exposed to the same social structural conditions become criminals. They focus on criminal behavior as learned behavior.
- Edwin H. Sutherland (1883–1950), a U.S. sociologist and criminologist who first presented his ideas in the 1920s and 1930s, As Sutherland wrote, "When persons become criminal, they do so because of contacts with criminal patterns and also because of isolation from anti criminal patterns."

Criminology and Politics

- Political criminology is similar to the other camps in this area. It involves study into the forces that determine how, why, and with what consequences societies chose to address criminals and crime in general. There are several forms of Marxist, Radical, Conflict and Critical criminology which forms political criminology. Those who are involved with political criminology focus on the causes of crime, the nature of crime, the social and political meanings that attach to crime, and crime-control policies, including the study of the bases upon which crime and punishment is committed and the choices made by the principals in criminal justice. Although the theories of political criminology and conflict criminology overlap to some extent, political criminologists deny that the terms are interchangeable. The primary focus points in the new movement of political criminology similarly overlap with other theories, including the concerns and ramifications of street crime and the distribution of power in crime-control strategies. This movement has largely been a loose, academic effort.

❑ **Criminology and Economics**

- ❑ Crime really pays, the economic connections with crime is evident from increasing crimes against property. Crime has economic links between victim, offender and criminal justice functionaries. Bonger's *Criminality and Economic Conditions* was first published in English in 1916 and provided a Marxist-informed analysis of 'capitalist exchange' and economic disadvantage. He identified how an unequal distribution of property and wealth was created by labour-market exploitation. Such economic injustices thereby created a context for crime to be more likely to occur. Here we begin to see the importance of social structure, society, and marginalization to the problem of crime. Such seminal works and ideas as these were to have profound impacts on subsequent and early developments in critical thinking about, for example, class, white-collar crime and political economy

Criminology- Forensic Medicine and Science

- The discipline of criminology is based on other social sciences just like medicine is based on anatomy, physiology, physics, chemistry etc. that neither medicine nor criminology is purely the identical, they have a meaning which derives from their practical approach.
- Forensic science is a vital instrument for the detection or investigation of crime and the administration of justice, providing crucial information about the evidence found at crime scene; Forensic Experts work both at the crime scene and in the laboratory often must be used in court, it is especially important that the training and education of forensic scientists provide a solid scientific background and a broad base in Criminalistics.

- The validity of those results depends on the knowledge, skills, and experience of the forensic scientists working to obtain them. A forensic scientist must be capable of integrating knowledge and skills in the examination, analysis, interpretation, reporting, and testimonial support of evidence.
- Forensic Sciences deals with crime with basic- Ethics, Rules, Laws and Procedures. Expert involves in Cross Examinations or been crossed, Investigating the Crime Scene (The Crime Scene and the Collection of Evidence); Investigating and Processing Physical Evidence. They also involve in Microscopic analysis of forensic evidence and Forensic identification of Hair and Fibers, Toxicology, Forensic Medicine, DNA and Serology.

- **They contribution in crime investigation includes the analysis of**
- **Questioned Documents**
- **Handwriting**
- **Fingerprints**
- **Tool marks and other impressions**
- **Firearms and ammunitions**
- **Arsons**
- **Explosives**
- **Bombings (Ballistics)**
- **Criminal Profiling.**
- **Forensic Psychology**
- **Forensic Anthropology**
- **Forensic Engineering and**
- **Forensic Entomology**

❑ **Criminology- Forensic Medicine and Toxicology**

- ❑ The earliest documented forensic specialty could probably be considered to be forensic medicine, also known as legal medicine or medical jurisprudence, and is the application of medicine and medical science to answer legal problems. Forensic or Legal Medicine (forensic = of or used in courts of law) deals with the application of medical knowledge to aid in the administration of justice. It is used by the legal authorities for the solution of legal problems. Some examples: are applying the medical knowledge in deciding cases of injuries, Asphyxial deaths, sexual offences, infant deaths, poisoning, etc. In short it deals with the medical aspects of law.

□ **Criminology and Law**

- Criminology is study of breaking of law, and process of making of law; while law itself is a special variable of crime that is supported by the government in identifying the act as crime, its level and punishment for commission of such act and factors relating purely to justice dispensation. Criminologists also work with law firms and courts to provide expert testimony in criminal proceedings and a few works within the prisons systems assisting in the rehabilitation of convicted criminals.

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