Fundamentals of Criminology
New Dimensions

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Contents

List of Tables and Figures xv
Preface xix
Acknowledgments xxiii

Part I • Introduction

Chapter 1 • Introduction 3
  What Is Crime? 3
    Types of Crime 4
  What Is Criminal Law? 5
    Normative Systems 5
    Changing Times, Changing Laws? 7
  What Is Criminology? 7
    The Evolution of Criminology 8
      Codified Laws and Prescribed Punishments 8
      The Emergence of Classical Criminology (1700s) 9
      The Emergence of Positive Criminology (1800s) 12
      Box 1.1 Sir Francis Galton: Overlooked in Criminology? 12
      Box 1.2 The Criminal Mind 15
      The Precursors of Sociological Criminology (1800s) 16
      The Emergence of Criminology as Its Own Discipline 19
      A Word about Theory 19
        Box 1.3 A Timeline of Criminology 20
  Conclusion 21
Websites to Visit 22
Discussion Questions 22
References 23
Chapter 2 • How Much Crime Is There, and How Do We Study It?  27
   Introduction  27
   Official Crime Statistics  27
      The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)  27
      Box 2.1 The Crime Rate  30
      The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)  30
   Victimization Statistics  32
      The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)  32
   Self-Report Surveys  33
   International Crime Data Sources  35
   Research Designs in Criminology  36
      Secondary Analysis and Record Reviews  37
      Surveys  38
      Field Research  39
      Longitudinal Studies  40
      Meta-Analysis  41
   Conclusion  43
   Websites to Visit  43
   Discussion Questions  44
   References  44

Part II • Theories and Correlates of Crime

Chapter 3 • Why Do They Do It? Psychosocial and Biosocial Answers  51
   Introduction  51
   Psychosocial Theories of Crime  52
      Intelligence and Crime  52
      Box 3.1 The Heritability of Antisocial Behavior and Eugenics  52
      Traits and Crime  53
      Psychopathy and Crime  58
      Box 3.2 Is Psychopathy a Mental Illness?  61
   Biosocial Theories of Crime  61
      Body Type and Appearance  62
      Brain Dysfunction  63
      Arousal  63
      Neurochemistry  65
      Box 3.3 What about Testosterone?  65
      Genetics  66
   Strengths and Weaknesses of Psychosocial and Biosocial Theories of Crime  67
   Conclusion: Policy Implications of Psychosocial and Biosocial Theories  68
   Websites to Visit  69
   Discussion Questions  69
   References  70
Chapter 4 • Why Do They Do It? Social Structural Answers

Introduction
Social Disorganization
Research on Social Disorganization
Strengths and Weaknesses of Social Disorganization
Anomie/Strain
Institutional Anomie Theory
Classic Strain Theory
General Strain Theory
Research on Anomie/Strain
Strengths and Weaknesses of Anomie/Strain
Subcultural Theories
Gangs
Research on Subcultural Theories
Strengths and Weaknesses of Subcultural Theories
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Social Structural Perspectives
Social Disorganization
Anomie/Strain
Subcultural
Websites to Visit
Discussion Questions
References

Chapter 5 • Why Do They Do It? Social Process Answers

Introduction
Differential Association/Social Learning
Research on Differential Association/Social Learning
Strengths and Weaknesses of Differential Association/Social Learning
Social Control
Research on Social Control
Strengths and Weaknesses of Social Control
Self-Control
Research on Self-Control
Box 5.1 How Is Self-Control Measured?
Strengths and Weaknesses of Self-Control
Labeling
Research on Labeling
Strengths and Weaknesses of Labeling
Neutralization
Research on Neutralization
Strengths and Weaknesses of Neutralization
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Social Process Perspectives
Differential Association/Social Learning
Social Control
Self-Control
Labeling and Neutralization
Websites to Visit
Discussion Questions
References
Chapter 6 • Why Do They Do It? Critical Answers 129
   Introduction 129
   Marxist Criminology 129
      Early Marxist Criminology 130
      Modern Marxist Criminology 130
      Research on Marxist Criminology 132
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Marxist Criminology 133
   Conflict Criminology 134
      Research on Conflict Criminology 135
      Box 6.1 Green Criminology and the Ecocidal Tendencies of Late Modernity 136
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Conflict Criminology 137
   Peacemaking Criminology 137
      Research on Peacemaking Criminology 139
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Peacemaking Criminology 140
   Feminist Criminology 140
      Liberation Perspective 142
      Patriarchy Perspective 143
      Maleness and Crime 143
      Research on Feminist Criminology 143
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Feminist Criminology 144
   Conclusion: Policy Implications of Critical Theories 145
      Marxist Criminology 145
      Conflict Criminology 145
      Peacemaking Criminology 146
      Feminist Criminology 146
   Websites to Visit 147
   Discussion Questions 147
   References 147

Chapter 7 • Why Do They Do It? A Lifetime of Answers 153
   Introduction 153
   Robert Agnew’s General Theory of Crime and Delinquency 156
      Research on Robert Agnew’s General Theory of Crime and Delinquency 159
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Robert Agnew’s General Theory of Crime and Delinquency 159
   David Farrington’s Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory 160
      Research on David Farrington’s Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory 162
      Strengths and Weaknesses of David Farrington’s Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) Theory 164
   Terrie Moffitt’s Dual Pathway Developmental Theory 165
      Research on Terrie Moffitt’s Dual Pathway Developmental Theory 167
      Strengths and Weaknesses of Terrie Moffitt’s Dual Pathway Developmental Theory 170
   Robert Sampson and John Laub’s Life-Course Theory 171
      Research on Robert Sampson and John Laub’s Life-Course Theory 174
CONTENTS

Strengths and Weaknesses of Robert Sampson and John Laub’s Life-Course Theory 175
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Developmental Theories 176
The Individual Domain 176
The Family Domain 177
The Environmental Domain 178
Summary of Criminological Theories So Far 181
Websites to Visit 183
Discussion Questions 183
References 184

Chapter 8 • The Pushes and Pulls of Crime 191
Introduction 191
The Pushes: Covariates of Crime 192
Social Class 192
Box 8.1 The Culture of Poverty: A Double Edged Sword? 193
Gender 194
Race 196
Age 198
Drugs 199
Box 8.2 What Are Drug Related Homicides, Anyway? 200
Mental Illness 201
Box 8.3 What about Veterans and PTSD? 202
Guns 202
The Pulls: Seductions of Crime 203
Enriching Oneself in the Short Term 204
Proving Manhood 205
Demanding Respect 206
Conclusion 207
Websites to Visit 207
Discussion Questions 208
References 208

Part III • Where, When and to Whom Does Crime Happen?

Chapter 9 • Crime in Context: Choices and Opportunities to Offend 215
Introduction 215
Deterrence Theory: Setting the Stage for Rational Choice 215
Choice and Crime: Rational Choice Theory 218
Research on Rational Choice Theory 220
Strengths and Weaknesses of Rational Choice Theory 222
Opportunity and Crime: Routine Activity Theory 222
Research on Routine Activity Theory 224
Strengths and Weaknesses of Routine Activity Theory 225
Settings and Crime: Situational Crime Prevention 226
Research on Situational Crime Prevention 226
Strengths and Weaknesses of Situational Crime Prevention 227
Situational Action Theory 228
# CONTENTS

Spatial Distribution of Crime: Hot Spots and Broken Windows 229  
  Hot Spots 229  
  Broken Windows 231  
Criminal Opportunity in Context: Disasters 232  
  9/11 233  
  Hurricane Katrina 233  
  Other Disasters 236  
Other Criminal Opportunity 237  
  White Collar Crime 237  
  Political Crime 238  
  Cybercrime 239  
  Organized Criminal Enterprises 241  
  Box 9.1 Organized Retail Crime? What’s That? 242  
Conclusion: Policy Implications of Choice and Opportunity 243  
  Theories of Crime 243  
Websites to Visit 243  
Discussion Questions 244  
References 244

Chapter 10 • The Victims of Crime 253  
  Introduction 253  
  Who Is Victimized? 256  
    Child Abuse 256  
    Box 10.1 What about Recurring Victimization? 257  
    Bullying 258  
    Workplace Violence 259  
    Box 10.2 Are Schools Safe Places? 260  
    Box 10.3 Going Postal? 260  
  Hate Crime Victims 261  
  Box 10.4 Hate Crimes against the Amish . . . by the Amish 262  
  Theories of Victimization 262  
    Victim Precipitation Theory 262  
    Routine Activity and Lifestyle Theories 263  
    Box 10.5 Tourism: A Risky Lifestyle? 263  
  Changing Perspectives on Victims of Crime 264  
  The Problems of Crime Victims 264  
  Legislation and Services to Assist Victims 265  
  Box 10.6 Some Other Legislation Designed to Assist Victims 266  
Conclusion 267  
Websites to Visit 267  
Discussion Questions 267  
References 268
## Part IV • Explanation of Crime Types

### Chapter 11 • Violent Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Murder</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide-Suicide</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining and Measuring Rape</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Rape</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motives for Rape: Sex or Power?</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evolution of Rape Definitions and Laws</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 11.1 Stalking: An Intimate Problem</strong></td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“New” Forms of Violence</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Trafficking</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 11.2 Terrorism: In the Eye of the Beholder?</strong></td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Theoretical Explanations of Violent Crime</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites to Visit</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Chapter 12 • Property Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Brief History of Property Crime</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wide Variety of Theft</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of UCR Larceny-Theft: Shoplifting</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of UCR Larceny-Theft: Pocket Picking and Purse Snatching</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Part I UCR Property Crimes, but Theft Just the Same:</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgery, Fraud, Embezzlement and Looting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary and Related Crimes</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 12.1 Did My House Get Robbed While I Was at Work?</strong></td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disentangling Robbery and Burglary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 12.2 What about Carjacking?</strong></td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimes that Cause Property Damage: Arson and Vandalism</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 12.3 Cyber Vandalism: Is That Even a Thing?</strong></td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion: Theoretical Explanations of Property Crime</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Websites to Visit</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 13 • White and Other Collar Crime 337
  Introduction 337
  White Collar Crime 337
  Types and Examples of White Collar Crime: Occupational and Professional Occupational Crime 339
  Pink Collar Crime 339
  Types and Examples of White Collar Corporate Crime 342
    Corporate Theft and Fraud 342
    Box 13.1 Corporate Theft and Fraud in the Late 1990s and Early 2000s 345
    Corporate Violence 346
  Theories of White Collar Crime 349
  Khaki Collar Crime 353
  Conclusion 356
  Websites to Visit 357
  Discussion Questions 357
  References 357

Chapter 14 • Public Order Crime and Criminalized Lifestyles 363
  Introduction 363
  The Extent of Public Order Crime 363
  Alcohol
    Box 14.1 The Evolution of Blue Laws 366
  Drugs
    Box 14.2 Before the Harrison Act 367
    Box 14.3 Where Is Marijuana Legalized? 371
  Prostitution 373
  The Criminalization of Some Lifestyles 375
  Homosexuality 376
    Box 14.4 Is There an Epigenetic Basis for Homosexuality? 378
  Pedophilia 379
    Box 14.5 Jerry Sandusky 380
    Box 14.6 The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) 381
  Child Pornography 382
  Homelessness 385
    Box 14.7 A Police Initiative to Aid the Homeless 386
  Mental Illness 386
  Conclusion 388
  Theoretical Explanations of Public Order Crime 388
  Criminalized Lifestyles 388
  Websites to Visit 388
  Discussion Questions 389
  References 389
CONTENTS

Part V • Connecting Criminology and Criminal Justice

Chapter 15 • What Criminology Means for Criminal Justice
   Now and in the Future

   Introduction 395
   Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Punishment 395
       Box 15.1 Three Strikes and You’re Out Laws 397
   Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Prevention 401
   Criminology and Criminal Justice Policymaking: Rehabilitation 403
       Box 15.2 What about Drug Courts? 404
   Some Lingering Issues for Criminology and Criminal Justice 406
       Changing Crime Rates in the United States 406
       Box 15.3 The United States’ Imprisonment Rate: How and Why? 409
       Gun Control 413
       Box 15.4 Conceal Carry Laws and Crime 414
       Box 15.5 What about Gun Marketing? 416
       Wider Legalization of Prostitution and Drugs 418
       Sex Offender Policies 420
       Box 15.6 Confinement of Sexually Violent Predators 423
       The Death Penalty 424
   Conclusion 426
   Websites to Visit 427
   Discussion Questions 427
   References 428

Appendix • Details of the Major Theories of Crime Causation 441

About the Authors 447

Index 449
List of Tables and Figures

Tables

Table 2.1. Uniform Crime Reports Part I and II offenses  28
Table 2.2. NIBRS Group A and B offenses  31

Table 3.1. A summary of Miller and Lynam's (2001) personality models and dimensions  55
Table 3.2. Description of MPQ scales and higher order categories  57
Table 3.3. Summary of personality traits associated with crime  58
Table 3.4. Diagnostic criteria for antisocial personality disorder from two recent versions of the DSM  59

Table 4.1. Merton's strategies and responses to goals and means  83

Table 5.1. Characteristics of high and low self-control individuals  111

Table 7.1. Risk and protective factors across life stages and domains  155
Table 7.2. Selected interventions that prevent crime  180
Table 7.3. Brief summary of criminological theories  182

Table 8.1. Percent of arrestees testing positive for any of 10 drugs, 2009  199

Table 9.1. Disaster phases  234
Table 9.2. Instances of fraud after three disasters  236
Table 9.3. Assassins, targets and categories  238

Table 10.1. Demographic characteristics of violent and serious violent crime victims, 2011  254
Table 10.2. Percentage of victimizations reported to the police by type and seriousness of crime, 2011  255
Table 10.3. Characteristics of those likely to be bullied and to bully  258
Table 10.4. Warning signs for bullying and being bullied
Table 10.5. Tangible and intangible costs per offense for each of 13 crimes in 2008 dollars
Table 11.1. Multiple murder types and definitions
Table 11.2. Holmes and DeBurger’s (1998) typology of serial killers with examples
Table 11.3. The characteristics of homicide-suicides compared to homicides and suicides in the United States, 2004–2006
Table 12.1. Shoplifters’ motivations
Table 12.2. Some small and big cons
Table 12.3. Motor vehicle theft top ten cities and cars
Table 13.1. Some pink collar criminals
Table 14.1. Number of arrests and arrestee characteristics for public order crimes in the U.S., 2011
Table 14.2. DEA’s drug schedules
Table 14.3. The legal status of prostitution around the world
Table 14.4. A typology of child pornography offenders

Figures
Figure 2.1. Percent of 8th, 10th and 12th graders who used marijuana in the last year
Figure 3.1. Hare’s Psychopathy Checklist Revised (PCL-R)
Figure 4.1. Burgess’ concentric zone concept
Figure 4.2. Social disorganization theory
Figure 4.3. Graphic illustration of GST
Figure 4.4. Some currently active gangs in the United States by region
Figure 5.1. The labeling process and its outcomes
Figure 6.1. Number of men and women arrested for Part I UCR crimes in the U.S. in 2010
Figure 7.1. Effects of life domains on one another and on crime
Figure 7.2. Integrated Cognitive Antisocial Potential (ICAP) theory
Figure 7.3. Dual pathway developmental theory
Figure 7.4. Life-course theory
Figure 9.1. A rational choice explanation for a specific crime
Figure 9.2. Routine activity theory
LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

Figure 11.1. Murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011 274
Figure 11.2. Murder rate per 100,000 in the United States, 1960–2011 275
Figure 11.3. Number of arrests for murder by age in the United States, 2011 276
Figure 11.4. Percent of relationships between murder offenders and victims (where the relationship is known, 56 percent of murders) in the United States, 2011 276
Figure 11.5. Number of arrests for rape by age in the United States, 2011 282
Figure 11.6. Percent of robberies committed by location in the United States, 2011 286
Figure 11.7. Number of arrests for robbery by age in the United States, 2011 287
Figure 11.8. Percent of weapons used in aggravated assaults in the United States, 2011 290
Figure 11.9. Number of arrests for aggravated assault by age in the United States, 2011 290
Figure 12.1. Property and violent crime rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011 305
Figure 12.2. Larceny-theft, burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson rates in the United States per 100,000, 1960–2011 306
Figure 12.3. Percent of different larceny-theft in the United States, 2011 306
Figure 12.4. Number of arrests for larceny-theft by age in the United States, 2011 307
Figure 12.5. Percent of daytime and nighttime residential and commercial burglaries in the United States, 2011 317
Figure 12.6. Number of arrests for burglary by age in the United States, 2011 318
Figure 12.7. Number of arrests for motor vehicle theft by age in the United States, 2011 322
Figure 12.8. Percent of arson offenses involving structures, mobile and other property 326
Figure 12.9. Number of arrests for arson by age in the United States, 2011 327
Figure 12.10. Number of arrests for vandalism by age in the United States, 2011 328
Figure 13.1. Percent of men and women arrested for embezzlement in the United States, 1995–2011 340
Figure 15.1. Violent crime rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011 406
Figure 15.2. Property crime rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011 407
Figure 15.3. Homicide rate in the United States per 100K, 1960–2011 407
Figure 15.4. Homicide rate for New Orleans, LA and the United States per 100,000, 1985–2011 408
Preface

There is a large number of criminology textbooks out there and a smaller yet still sizable number of excellent books, so why add another into the mix and why call it *Fundamentals of Criminology: New Dimensions*?

We believe that this book well captures the fundamentals of criminology through its descriptions of the extent of crime, major theories of crime causation and crime types. While many criminology textbooks do this, there are several things that set *Fundamentals of Criminology: New Dimensions* apart from other criminology texts. First, for each theory of crime, we provide a description of the tenets of the theory as well as a discussion of empirical research that tests the theory in a variety of settings; an evaluation of each theory’s strengths and weaknesses; and an explanation of its policy implications. We take care to introduce readers to that empirical research that supports or does not support the theories of crime causation, we include empirical research that attempts to extend the theories of crime in new directions and in both instances, we refer to both past and very current empirical work. We believe this, in combination with a discussion of strengths and weaknesses and policy implications, assists readers in understanding each theory of crime in and of itself and in relation to the others, as well as what these theories mean for the real world. Providing this assistance is all the more important for readers who have had little to no exposure to theories of crime causation prior to opening this book and to that end, we also created a useful Appendix summarizing the details of the major theories of crime.

Second, we provide the most up-to-date information on crime commission in our descriptions of the different types of crime as well as changes in the amounts over time. This assists readers in understanding the extent of the crime problem as a whole and as broken down into specific offenses, as well as the characteristics of people involved in crime both as offenders and as victims. Third, we devote a lengthy chapter to the connection between criminological theory and the criminal justice system, in which we consider the theoretical bases for punishment, prevention and rehabilitation and how they are connected to the criminal justice system. We also consider a handful of lingering issues for criminology and criminal justice that make the connection between these two disciplines explicit and comprehensible for readers. Throughout the book,
we attempt to connect relevant concepts in a way that makes it easier for readers to obtain a complete and comprehensive picture of criminology. We also provide some historical context so that readers may draw on what they already know to better understand the concepts in this book.

That explains the Fundamentals of Criminology, but what about the New Dimensions? There are a number of different concepts we explore in this book that to our knowledge are absent from the majority if not all other introductory criminology texts. We include them not just to be able to subtitle this book New Dimensions but to give readers the richest, most complete understanding of what crime is, how much of it there is, what causes it and what we can do to stop it. These new dimensions include but are not limited to research designs in criminology, new theories of crime causation, crime in different contexts, connections between criminology and criminal justice policy and a number of lingering issues for both disciplines. In more detail, the new dimensions of this book include:

Sir Francis Galton
The criminal mind and the concept of mens rea
International data sources
Criminologists’ commonly used methodological techniques
Crime control through eugenics
The Jukes family
The Grasmick scale for measuring self-control
Green Criminology
The pushes and pulls of crime
Situational action theory
Organized retail crime
Crime and disasters
Active shooter situations
Hate crimes and victims
Tangible and intangible costs of victimization
Homicide-suicide
Cyber vandalism
Pink collar crime
Khaki collar crime
Criminalized lifestyles
Theoretical basis for crime punishment, prevention and rehabilitation
Explanations for changes in the crime rate
Gun control and crime
Wider legalization of prostitution and its effect on crime
Wider legalization of drugs and its effect on crime
Sex offender policies
The death penalty and deterrence

The Organization of This Book

This book is organized into five parts. Naturally, we begin at the beginning. Part I provides introductory material and Chapter 1 addresses what crime is, how society responds to crime and what criminology is. Chapter 2 raises and answers the related questions of how much crime is there and how we study it.
Part II of the book deals with theories and correlates of crime. Here we ask the question why do they do it and we find myriad answers, including psychosocial and biosocial answers (Chapter 3), social structural answers, social process answers (Chapter 5), critical answers (Chapter 6) and a lifetime of answers (Chapter 7). We conclude this section with a thorough treatment of the pushes and pulls of crime (Chapter 8).

Part III ask the questions where, when and to whom does crime happen. Chapter 9 considers the contexts in which choices to offend are made and opportunities for offending are present. In Chapter 10, we cover the nature and extent of criminal victimization as well as consider explanatory theories.

Part IV is an explanation of crime types beginning with violent crimes (Chapter 11), including both traditional and new forms of violence and a discussion of their causes. Our explanation of property crime in Chapter 12 begins with a brief history of stealing and continues with what we know about the many forms of theft and the people who engage in it. Chapter 13 explores white and other collar crime and shows how different positions people hold in the workplace and other organizations, especially the military, give rise to different forms of criminality. In Chapter 14, we discuss public order crimes as well as the criminalization of certain lifestyles.

Finally, Part V connects criminology and criminal justice in a variety of areas such as punishment, crime prevention and rehabilitation. It also explores lingering issues that have implications for both criminology and criminal justice. We conclude in Chapter 15 that these need to be addressed forthrightly lest the criminological enterprise ring hollow. We believe this text will provide those who read it with a thorough understanding of what crime is, what causes it and what can be done about it, as well as the ability and desire to pose important questions for the future of both criminology and criminal justice.
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