

IV. CONFINING (constraining) IDENTITIES AND DIFFERENCES

A. What do we mean by the term "social control"

Social processes and structures used to (intended to) reduce or prevent deviance; anything that people do that is understood as "doing something" about deviance, whatever that something may be.

The effort to do something means that social control varies in its success, in its ability to achieve that something.

Social control is not simply punishment, but reduction, rehabilitation, regulation, prevention of particular behaviors.

B. Major questions concerning social control?

What forms of social control have historically, cross-culturally, been used in response to deviant behavior? Is there a relationship between the type of control and the type of social arrangements (organization, structures, and culture of a society)?

All else being equal, to whom is social control like to be directed? Why?

C. Informal Social Control: Family and Community

What behaviors are forms of informal social control?

Ridicule, public degradation/criticism
gossip, slander, reputation, information
ostracism, banishment, exclusion, black-listing
ex-communication, shunning
threats to resort to more drastic forms of informal control or formal control
withholding of resources (material, symbolic, emotional) (perhaps largest and vaguest category)

Under what conditions will information social control be effective?

Close knit, highly integrated society with a great deal of cultural consensus; in close knit enclaves within urban societies (family, workplace, clubs, schools)

Why? Must know each other to gossip about them,
Must share moral judgment about the action gossiped about
Must lack mobility for ostracism to be threat
Must be in an interdependent relationship otherwise cannot withdraw resources that one does not possess

General Propositions:

- The more dependent on others, the more vulnerable to exertions of social control
- Because we have become more dependent on macro social institutions (e.g. the state), social control shifts from informal to formal (state or governmental social control)
- As societies become more complex, heterogeneous (multiple, pluralistic norms; many subcultures) increasing formalization of social control
- Decreasing ground for informal social control

D. The amount of informal social control varies inversely with formal social control.

$$\text{informal social control} = \frac{1}{\text{formal social control}}$$

Examples: families: courts/police
treatment of juveniles varies by family organization/status
recourse to courts varies in Mexico depending on authority of males (inheritance, arranged marriages etc.)
communities: Israeli kibbutz im (centralized and decentralized)
Bunyoro
Pedi of South Africa
Baptists in Georgia
business communities
organizations: universities
large corporations
shifts in public policy

Who is subject to social control? Those subject to greater informal control are subject to less formal control: women, juveniles, priests, soldiers

F. Formal Social Control: by government and profession (occupation)

Structure, organization, interests and operating definitions of professional social control determine the existence, prevalence and type of deviance.

Deviants are created in the images of control agents.

Example: Currie: witchcraft in medieval Europe.

reactive and proactive systems produce different amounts of deviance/ witches

G. Modern Transformations in Social Control

The "classical" model, 18th-19th century

- a. Increasing involvement of the state
- b. Increasing differentiation and classification of deviant groups; scientific knowledge, expertise, professionalization
- c. Increasing segregation in closed institutions: prisons, asylums, "the great incarcerations" parallels creation of schools, barracks, hospitals
- d. Decline of physical pain punishment, increasing attention to changing minds; Foucault *Discipline and Punish*
- e. Purpose: transform, cure, normalize; a pre-Durkheimian anomie theory; remove from anomic society into perfect social order and discipline, regulation (grids of control)
- f. Reactive

Transition, 19th-20th Century

- a. Ideals not borne out, try to change prisons
- b. Transform from custodial to rehabilitative institutions (case method, probation, parole, indeterminate sentencing, juvenile court)
- c. Failed ideals once again
- d. Movement to attack entire system, attacked four pillars of classical model away from state, experts, institutions, mind
- e. Locate in alternatives in community, among peers, through behavioral modification (camps, mediation, homes)
- f. Expansion by widening net of control: more institutions, some with shallower control, none disappearing; diversions, alternatives alongside old institutions; community institutions colonized by formal control; diagnostic testing, Stan Cohen, *Visions of Social Control*; Nik Rose, *Governing the Soul*.

Summary of transitions 18-20th century

Control exercised in community
concentrated and isolated in prison, prison model of perfect society
prison reform attempted to make prison more like community,
the community brought into the prison
deinstitutionalize, modality of prison dispersed, exported back into
the community

21st Century transformations, governmentality and waste management

- a. Shift from normalization to management, shift from changing to controlling consequences of having deviant persons in society
- b. Shift from focus on individuals to groups
- c. Shift from public to private
- d. Blurring of deviance, medicalization, disease models
- e. Shift from confinement to circulation; coopting resources through spatial regulation, from grids to selves (e.g. labs)
- f. Purpose: shift from punishment to prevention and protection; site hardening, audit society
- g. Style: proactive

G. The Criminal Justice System - a form of governmental social control

1.
 - a) Each subsystem is arranged hierarchically
 - b) Each subsystem screens material/cases for the next
 - c) Each subsystem functions as a check on the others
 - d) Cumulatively, the criminal justice system provides a series of checks on the use of social control; system itself acts to regulate the use of social control
2. Some decisions open to review, others never: case not passed along, almost never reviewed. While system is hierarchical ascending in legal authority, those actors in the system with least authority exercise most control over who and what passes through the system.
3. Citizens initiate criminal justice process: gatekeepers, bottom of the hierarchy; factors influencing citizen decisions to call the police:
 - insurance coverage
 - relationship between victim and offender
 - social similarity
 - victim attitudes toward police
4. Police: responsive criminal justice; little police-initiated criminal justice; what factors influence police decision to arrest:
 - victim preference
 - deference and demeanor of suspect
 - degree of deference expressed by complainant
5. Prosecutor: organization demands, workload, plea bargaining process, racial discrimination in capital punishment.
6. Judges, appeals courts, corrections, parole.....

Repeat observations about entrepreneurial vs. market model, proactive vs. reactive models of social control.