Anthropology 21A.218
Identity and Difference
Class #9

Becoming Deviant

I. Consider in the analysis of the interactive process of becoming deviant:

      a.   Interpretation of the situation:
              What is the individual's perception of reality?
              How does the actor view the situation?
              What does the actor perceive to be the alternatives?

      b.   Situational Resources:
              What are the immediate situational conditions that
              facilitate deviance? Does the situation provide the means
              to achieve a deviant act?

      c.   If deviance is socially constructed, what constrains or enables
              deviance?
              Recall rule breaking (violation of a norm) ---- negative response (label)
                    Conditions influencing negative response (labeling)
                    Visibility
                    Resources/power of individual
                    Goodness of fit/ alternative roles for individual
                    Social distance - fit between agent of social control
                    and individual
                    Tolerance of community - heterogeneity

      d.   Some examples from popular cinema: Donny Brasco, Goodfellas,
                  La Femme Nikita, New Jack City, Bound, Pretty Woman

II. Two types of deviant acts, each with different process

      a. instrumental deviance, rational response to threat
      b. expressive, thrill seeking

III. Instrumental or Defensive Deviance as a process of narrowing alternatives; conditions for "doing the deed;" responding to threat

Stages in process: threat, encapsulation, closure (Lofland, *Becoming Deviant*). What factors affect adoption of deviant action

STAGE in PROCESS   PERCEPTION/RESPONSE
                                    CONDITIONED BY/ CETERIS PARIBUS

a. Threat:
        physical   familiarity, experience, routinization
        economic   social dislocation, transitions
        social
        .
b. Encapsulation:
        consider alternatives   short term v. long term concerns
                                    biography - available explanations/
                                            interpretations
                                    degree of social support for
                                            conventional solutions
                                    e.g. dislocation; type of problem

c. Closure, doing the deed
        cultural and material   faciliating places
        resources   facilitating hardware
                                    facilitating others
                                    facilitating aspects of the actor
                                    subjective availability;
                                            techniques of neutralization

IV. Expressive Deviance - seeking pleasure and thrills (Katz, *Seductions of Crime*).

V. Deviant careers -
            increasing social organization leads to longevity,
                    stability of deviance (career)

            social organization varies by:
                    degree of association with others/interaction
                    subculture, codes of conduct (norms, language)
                    degree of hierarchy of authority
                    degree of specialization and division of labor

            variation in social organization of deviance;
                    loners, colleagues, peers, teams, formal organizations