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Inequality, Crime and Control. George S. Bridges and Martha Myers.

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Stuart H. Traub and Craig B. Little (Eds.). *Theories of Deviance* (Fourth edition). Itasca, IL: F. E. Peacock, 1994. \$30.00 papercover.

Sociologists have made an enormous contribution to understanding the nature and causes of crime, deviance and social problems over the last fifty years. But their insights have not produced a uniform theoretical perspective which structures and organizes the diverse findings of research in the field. Today, very different conceptual approaches compete with each other, and there is little agreement among sociologists about which of their theories offer the most useful framework for analyzing crime in society today.

While many will be critical of sociology's inability to formulate a coherent body of theory on crime and deviance, it should be remembered that the subject is very complex and that there are many different facets to the issue. It is not surprising, therefore, that sociological analysis should reflect different facets and accentuate different aspects of the problem. In addition, it can argue that the existence of diverse theoretical insights contributes to the richness of the field and fosters deeper insights than would be possible through adopting any single perspective.

The fourth edition of Traub and Little's successful textbook on theories of deviance reveals the richness of sociological research into crime and deviance. The book is organized chronologically covering the well documented functionalist, social disorganization and anomie approaches as well as the interactionist labeling perspective. Attention is also given to existentialist, phenomenological, Marxist and other less well known approaches. The final section, which deals with new direction in deviance theory, is particularly interesting. This textbook is comprehensive, useful and highly recommended for student use.

George S. Bridges and Martha Myers (Eds.), *Inequality, Crime and Control*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1994. \$59.95 hardcover; \$22.95 papercover.

It is a well established axiom in criminological research that there is a direct relationship between crime and social class.

Low income people and those from ethnic minorities are over-represented in the proportion arrested and prosecuted for criminal acts and in the proportion accommodated by the correctional system. The popular assumption that this skewed representation reflects the true distribution of crime patterns in society has been challenged by those who claim that agencies of social control discriminate in the way they select people for processing by the criminal justice system. In addition, they argue that these discriminatory tendencies reflect wider inequalities in power and wealth in society. The criminal justice system does not operate primarily to protect the community against criminals but to maintain existing structures of power and inequality.

Although the issue is not a new one, Bridges and Myers point out that the relationship between crime, social control and inequality is poorly understood. This book presents the findings of a group of twenty scholars drawn from different social science disciplines who met at the University of Georgia in 1992 specifically to investigate the issue. The book deals with different aspects of the problem including the theoretical basis for discussions about crime and inequality, the role of the police, racism and gender discrimination in punishment, the treatment of minorities by the criminal justice system and the role of social agencies in controlling behavioral variations among children. Two chapters dealing respectively with white collar criminals and lynching and capital punishment in the South are particularly trenchant. The book is essential reading for anyone interested in the issue of crime and inequality today.

Patricia A. Adler. *Wheeling and Dealing: An Ethnography of an Upper-level Drug Dealing and Smuggling Community*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993. \$45.00 hardcover; \$14.00 papercover.

The 'War on Drugs' has been waged for many years but there is little evidence that drug consumption has decreased. Although vast sums of money have been spent on law enforcement, expanded prison facilities, interdiction and similar programs, drugs continue to play a central role in American society. In the light of these facts, the continued pursuit of policies designed to suppress drug use appears to be futile. Their