Deviance

- Joseph, Rajiv, Hunter,



What is Deviance

• Deviance is the violation of social or cultural norms with words or actions of aggression and offence. Some obvious examples of this are using swear words, stealing, physically attacking, and harassing another human being. Some things that are considered deviant in some cultures may not be considered deviant in other cultures. Since the 19th century researchers have concluded that deviant acts from humans may be due to a combination of factors both nature and nurture (genetics, environmental influences, past and present trauma). Some sociologists such as Durkhein even said that Deviancy is important to us as humans because upon seeing something wrong we are prone to great change.

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Some examples of deviance brought to life

 Say a scenario occurs where a man well call Alan goes up to another man named James and starts to cuss him out for taking the last parking spot. Alan is extremely aggressive and uses very harsh language accompanied by his loud shouting. Alan is being deviant towards James as he is breaking a lot of social norms. In this example it can be concluded that Alan's response to this situation should have been more polite.



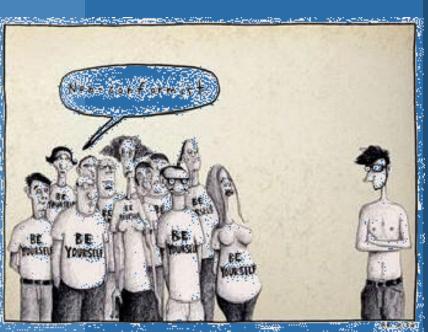
Real Life Example of Deviancy

On Friday, December 2nd in Kitchener a 31-year-old man was arrested for participating in an armed robbery, along with 2 other suspects. The incident took place around 11:00 pm when 3 men with large knives walked into the Laurraine Ave and Heritage Drive Area and threatened the workers in the business with their weapons. They proceeded to steal a large amount of cash, but thankfully nobody was injured. Now this is an example of deviancy because it breaks a lot of social norms in a wrong manner. Firstly, the idea of stealing is bad enough because it is a norm to not touch what does not belong to you. Pulling out lethal weapons, in a public place, and threatening employees there to stay out of your way while you loot their cash is a violent act. It puts people in danger, it is theft, and it is also an invasion of privacy. All of which are characteristics of deviancy because of how wrong they are.



Theories on Deviancy: Do you agree?

- Emile Durkheim: Says that deviancy is actually an essential thing that teaches us a lot about humanity and is crucial for initiating change.
- Robert K. Merton: Says that the fault of devious actions does not always lie
 with the one who commits the actions but instead with the system having
 strict social norms to promote deviant acts.
- Edwin Sutherland: Suggests that a persons rate of deviancy depends on how much contact they have had with the social environment around them (Interactions with other people).
- Travis Hirschi: Suggests that having role models and mentors along with being given as much opportunity as possible, reduces rates of deviancy among humans.



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 Social deviance isn't always a bad thing. For some people, doing minor social deviance can feel therapeutic. An example can be running up an escalator or even throwing garbage in the wrong bin. Minor things such as that might feel great to someone who doesn't do it often.

To some, social deviance is a way to learn. For example, in several Asian countries if you order food at a restaurant you are not supposed to compliment them or the food they make. As westerners we are taught to always be nice to the ones making our food. If you are not aware of this, this could be accidental social deviance and it can be used as a learning experience.

- Positives of Social Deviance

Reasons Why Some People Might Not Like Social Deviance

- It is different from the norm.
- Makes them uncomfortable.
- It isn't what they are used to seeing or doing themselves.
- Could be classified as rude, gross, insensitive, e.t.c.
- Not okay with change or differences.
- Racist, sexist, homophobic, e.t.c.
- Invasion of privacy.

The 5 kinds of Deviancy

Deviancy is typically split into 5 categories

- 1. Deviant Conformity
- 2. Deviant Innovation
- 3. Deviant Ritualism
- 4. Deviant Retreatism
- 5. Deviant Rebellion

Deviant Conformity

 As stated before, deviance is a type of response to a situation that is against the social standard, however, this usually comes in the form of anger. Conformity is when one agrees or accompanies an idea made by peers. Deviance and conformity are both responses to external pressures but are also opposites.



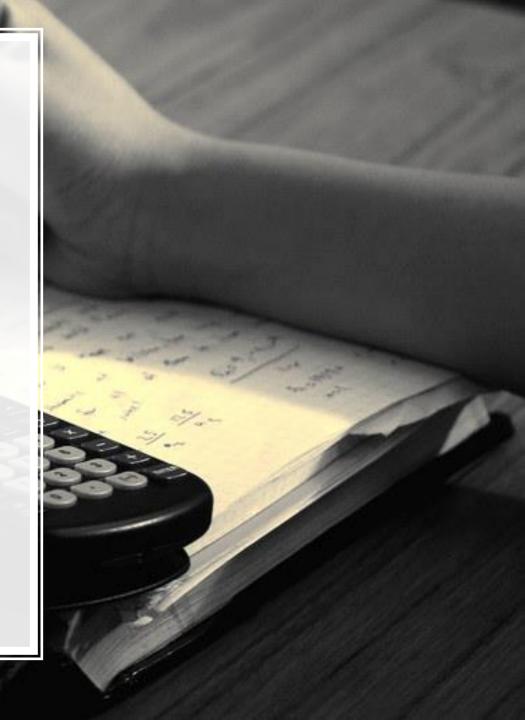


Deviant Innovation

• Innovation is the creation of something new, or changes in something pre-existing by introducing new methods. Deviant innovation, being one of the forms of deviance, requires illegal matters to be used for the gain of an ordinary goal. For example, robbing a bank to try and get rich would fall under this form of deviance.

Deviant Ritualism

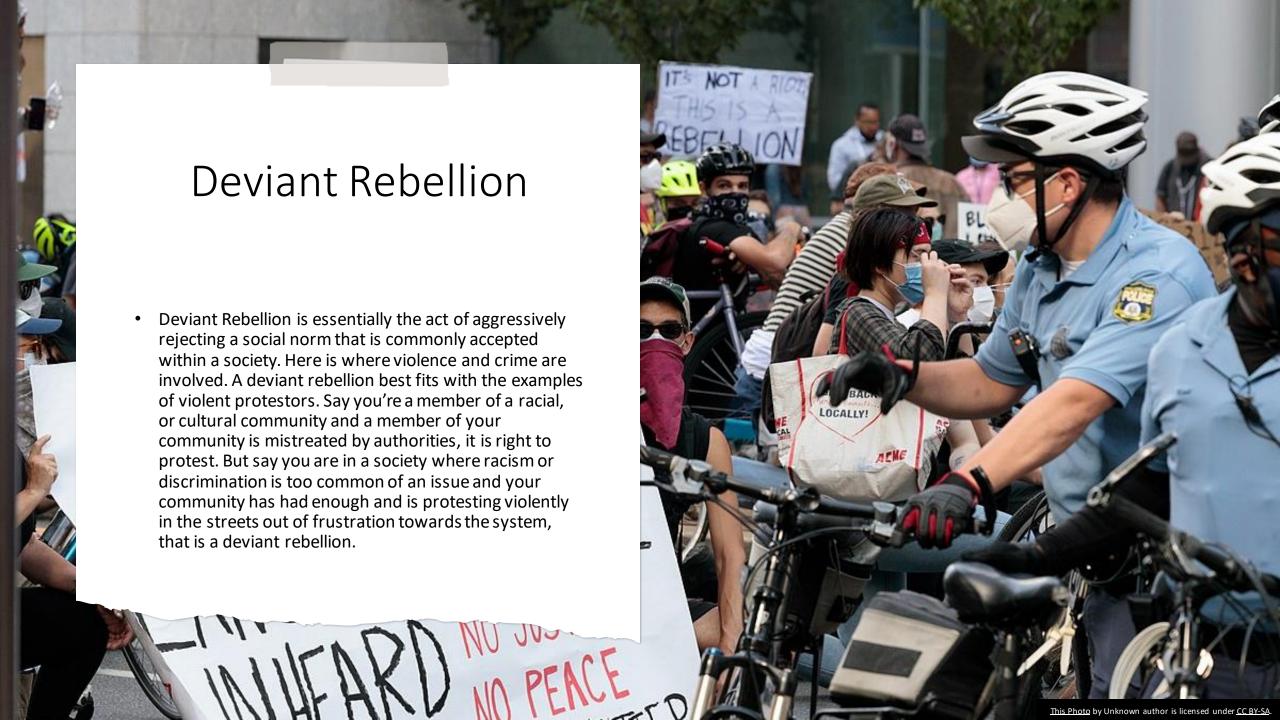
 Ritualism is going by cultural standards that were put in place, to achieve a goal. In deviance, this would mean that the cultural standards would be rejected, and a new routinized way to achieve the goal would be put in place. For example, someone who put very little effort in high-school but still attended a post-secondary institution would fall under this category.

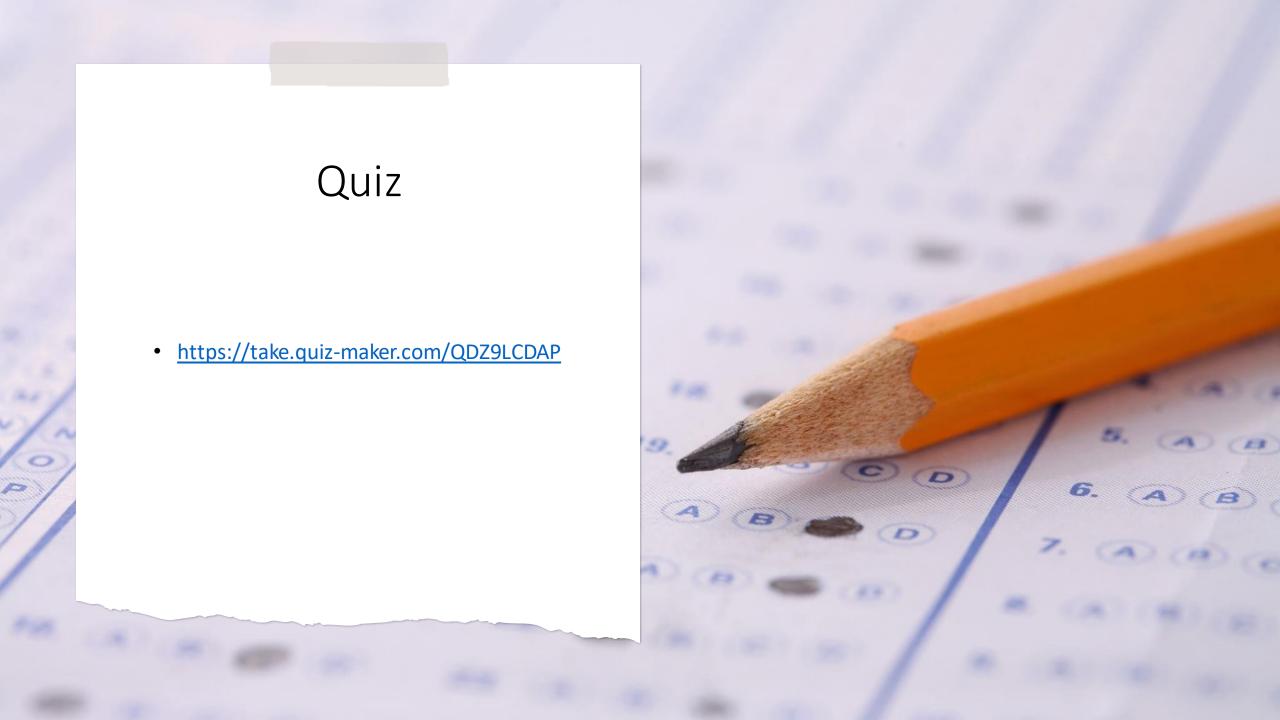


Deviant Retreatism

 Deviant retreatism is when cultural goals or standard behaviours are either rejected or not followed. Ritualism and retreatism are both similar, however, retreatism offers a double negative. An example of this would be if a drug addict ended up dedicating his life to obtaining more drugs.







Websites Used

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