

# Book Review

**Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew, (eds.). 2006. *Criminological Theory: Past to Present. Essential Readings*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press. 606 Pages.**

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The editors begin the book by acknowledging that there is a wealth of theoretical imagination in the field of criminology. Francis Cullen and Robert Agnew then assemble an impressive fifty-chapter anthology, which sequentially explores the criminological theory from the past to present in a way that is sure to shape future thinking regarding crime causation. The book is organized into five sections, namely, (i) In Search of Criminal Man, (ii) The Rise and Growth of American Criminology, (iii) Rethinking Criminology, (iv) Choice, Opportunity, and Punishment, and (v) The Future of Criminology. Section one comprises two parts that incorporate, the origins of modern criminology and the role of individual traits in crime causation. In this section, the editors put together finely selected readings that include Cesare Beccaria's essay on crimes and punishment; Cesare Lombroso's criminal man; and Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck's unraveling juvenile delinquency. Included here are also the gene-based evolutionary theories in criminology by Lee Ellis and Anthony Walsh; David Rowe's biological characteristics and criminal disposition; and the role of personality in crime by Avshalom Caspi et al.

In the second section, which the editors organized into three parts, the focus changes to the more contemporary works such as the Chicago School writings of Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay, Robert Sampson, and William Julius Wilson. The editors also considered mainstream contemporary theories of crime in this section including the major learning theories by Edwin Sutherland, Donald Cressey, and Ronald Akers. Other selections include Sykes Matza's neutralization techniques, Marvin Wolfgang and

Franco Ferracuti's subculture of violence and also Elijah Anderson's code of the street. In addition, this section contains anomie and strain theories according to Albert K. Merton, Albert K. Cohen, Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin as well as the general strain theory of Robert Agnew. Along with these contributions, the editors also include a more recent and equally compelling theory of crime and the American dream by Richard Rosenfeld and Steven Messner. Lastly, the section features a selection of control theories focusing on such writers as Travis Hirschi, Michael Gottfredson, Robert Sampson, John Laub, and John Hagan.

The third section features emerging criminological thought. It delves into labeling, interaction, and crime and incorporates such leading works as Edwin Lemert's primary and secondary deviance, John Braithwaite's shame and reintegration, and Lawrence Sherman's defiance theory. Critical criminology is covered and sections that focus on social class and crime causation are presented by, *inter alia*, Willem Bongers, Richard Quinney, Elliott Currie and Mark Colvin. Analysis of feminism, gender, and power and brings together Freda Adler's *Sisters in Crime*, Meda Chesney-Lind's feminist theory of delinquency; Karen Heimer and Stacy De Coster's *Gendering of Violent Delinquency*, and James Messerschmidt's masculinity theory, as well as Darrell Steffensmeier and Emillie Allan's gendered theory of female offending.

The editors further considered such theoretical underpinnings as deterrence and rational choice by featuring the works of Mark Stafford and Mark Warr, and Derek Cornish and Ronald Clarke. Environmental criminology is also covered by the editors, and is epitomized by the works of Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in routine activity theory and Ronald Clarke's situational crime prevention. The section includes ideological diversity as conservative theories of crime are presented, including the broken windows by James Wilson and George Kelling, and significance of moral poverty in crime causation by William Bennett et al.

Cullen and Agnew also illuminated the future of criminological thought by taking into account the developmental perspectives of crime, pathways in the life course of crime, and persistence offending and desistance by such authors as Gerald Patterson et al., Terrie Moffitt, and John Laub and John Sampson. Integrated theories of crime including the leading works of Delbert Elliott, et al., Terence Thornberry, Charles Tittle, Francis Cullen and Robert Agnew ensure that the reader of this anthology will find it to be provocative throughout.

Overall this book is suitable for students at all levels of higher education. For the lower undergraduate students who may not be completely accustomed to reading original works, the editors have included elaborate introductory remarks for each section, part, and chapter throughout the book. These introductions comprise a synthesized book within a book. For the upper level undergraduate students, the careful selection of original works in this compendium forms sufficiently challenging materials for weekly readings. Finally, the theoretical paradigms throughout the book are grouped into major schools of thought in a way that helps graduate students appreciate the contribution of individual theorists as cogs of a wider wheel that epitomizes the crime theory. One feature of the book that keen readers may not readily embrace, however, is the occasional content repetition in the editors' multi-stage introductions, which occur for each section, each part, and each chapter, but this may as well serve as an important emphasis for the beginning students.

