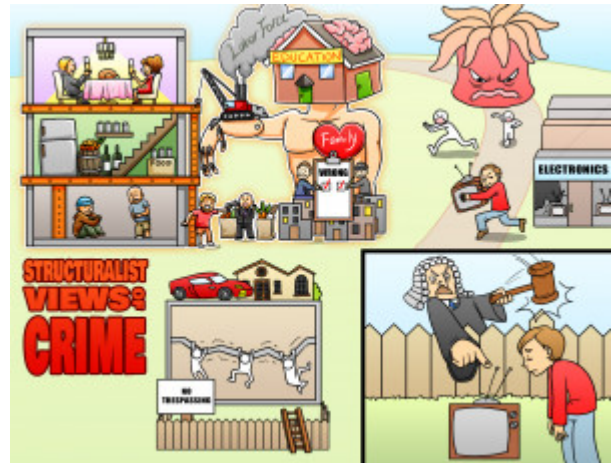


Structuralist views of Crime (Functionalist)

The structuralist view of crime states that there is a consensus amongst society's members about what behaviors are acceptable and unacceptable under normal conditions. It states that anomie, or a state of normlessness (ex. natural disaster), may suspend the rules of society. In this view, the public is made aware of various acts of wrongdoing through boundary maintenance. Furthermore, the functionalist views that if legitimate access to nice goods isn't provided to society's various members, then crime or deviant activity will give them access, through social strain.



PLAY PICMONIC

Consensus on Right and Wrong (under normal circumstances)

Consensus on Wrong

According to the functionalist view, under ordinary circumstances, there is a consensus among society's members about what behaviors are good, right and correct, and which behaviors are wrong, bad and inappropriate. Thus, behaviors that are significantly bad become "crimes."

Anomie

Anemone-attacks!

When situations arise that are outside of the ordinary, citizens break the rules. This state is described as anomie, and explains that rules are or appear to be suspended. Examples include looting during Hurricane Katrina, or fighting during the LA riots.

Boundary Maintenance

Boundary Maintained by judge

Boundary maintenance describes how the public is made aware of various acts of wrongdoing, and the subsequent consequences. This is exemplified by high-profile court cases, TV news, and court shows like Judge Judy.

Structural Strain

Structure showing Strain

The structural strain theory explains that all levels of society are socialized to want the same "good things of life," such as cars, income, houses. However, all do not get equal access to the means of legitimately (lawfully) getting these items. If legitimate ways are cut off through social structure, people will find a deviant, or criminal way to get access to these items.