

LECTURE ONE

What is crime?

- Determining what behaviours should/should not be considered crime
- Conducting field research and collecting data about crime

- Dictionary Definition
 - An action or mission which constitutes an offence and is punishable by law.
 - An action or activity considered to be evil, shameful, or wrong.
 - Moving away from law and focusing on social sensis of morality and how crime is combined with moral sentiments and develops with time.
 - Changes at a faster pace than first definition

- Not self-evident and unitary concept
- Diverse and historically relative
- Continually challenged
 - Contest the values of society
- Depends on the theoretical position taken by criminologists, states, governments, policy makers, law makers, power etc.
- Sporting matches such as boxing can challenge the definition of crime

- Law Definition
 - "The crime is what the law says"
 - Behaviours that violate criminal law as defined by the state.
 - Attracts state sanction
 - What happens next?
 - Enforced by state agencies
 - State police forces
 - Federal agencies
 - AFP
 - Border force
 - Laws change over time
 - Same sex marriage laws
 - Rape laws
 - Vary between jurisdictions
 - Cannabis laws

- Legal definitions and the problems
 - Laws vary according to jurisdiction and change across time
 - Ignoring serious dangerous and harmful activities
 - It focuses on street level crime rather than corporate offence
 - Does address state crimes
 - Genocide torutre
 - Abuse of state power (apartheid or the stolen generation)

- Harm based definitions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enables criminology to move beyond legal definition of 'crime' ○ Particularly narrowed by social perspective ○ Immoral, wrongful and injurious ○ May or may not be deemed illegal ○ May require an abandonment of criminology ● Used to achieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Used by sociologists and criminologists as an alternative or legal definition ○ Involves assessment to the harm or damage caused by different acts or behaviours ○ Capture a wider range of acts which are including outside of the law (stolen generation) ○ Can form a basis of social movements to challenge definitions of crime (changing laws)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crime does not exist, only acts exist. Defined by various social frameworks ○ To become an offence the act must be labelled as deviant and have a level of threat to society ○ Pressure is placed on politicians by various groups to act ○ The state must then formally define the offence and pass legislation against it
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Criminalisation is a complex, contested and multi-stage process ● Different interest groups publicly advocated for and against changes to the criminal law ● These produce changes that reflect the priorities of interested parties and politicians. Generating significant opposition or division ● Laws should therefore be seen as 'not consensual', 'given' but as sites of negotiation and dispute ● This process can result in inequitable, discriminatory or otherwise problematic outcomes for people from suspect or marginalised communities.

LECTURE TWO

Doing criminology	
<p>How do we measure crime ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources and types of official statistics • Interpreting the numbers 	<p>Stats come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cops/police • Courts • Correction • Supporting agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Department of human services ○ Departments of health ○ Tax office • Specific events or crimes, not being able to compare against non-specific crimes or ones that have not been reported • The crime statistic will never say why a certain crime has increased (sexual assault) (financial crime) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heightened recognition ○ Not aware • Why <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ past/current levels of crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comparing crimes over time/places ○ Is crime getting worse? ○ The effectiveness of policing ○ Who is at risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Victims ■ Offender practicing ○ Managed intervention strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Who is it helping and how ? ○ More or less policy/policing ? • Publishers of crime statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Australian institute of criminology ○ Australian Bureau of statistics ○ NSW Bureau of crime statistics and research ○ Attorney-general's department • Snapshot in crime - homicides in 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Australia 244 ○ Spain 387 ○ Japan 442 ○ Lithuania 211 ○ However when putting the homicides per 100,000 in 2011 lithuania is the largest rate of homicides ○ Statistics only tell you what you ask them • Statistics over time are measured by longitunable analysis
<p>What influences crime stats (apart from crime) ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal justice system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the criminal justice system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laws - criminalistics ○ Recording practices - different focus areas ○ Policing strategies - targeting offences, blitzes etc

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social factors ● The dark figure of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvements in crime detection technology ○ Displacement - lock out laws, homelessness ● Changes to society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shifts in public priorities/sensitivity ○ High profile crimes - 'signal crimes' (crime that catches the public's imagination) ○ Increased media reporting ○ Public awareness campaigns ○ Attitudes to police ● The dark figure of crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 'Hidden crimes' which are experienced by public but not recorded in official crime statistics (2002) ○ Most crime is not recorded by police, can be as high as 90% depending on type of offence (2009) ○ Only 19% of female victims of sexual assault are reported to the police (2005) ● Why do people not report crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Too minor or inconsequential to bother (trivial and depending on individual) ○ shame, embarrassment (personal) ○ Do not know they are victims (financial crime) ○ No wish for the offender to be punished ○ Fear of reprisals ○ Lack of faith in police/CJS ○ Fear of police ○ Involvement with crime
<p>Misusing crime statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law enforcement (false narrative) ● Media and politicians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law enforcement agencies misrepresent crime figures by (cooking the books) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cuffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Downgrading an offence ○ Nodding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Getting people to admitting to crimes they have not committed ○ Skewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If targeting low level of offences you can seem productive but not helping large sums of society ■ Seem to be tough on crime ○ Stitching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Proceeding with prosecution without enough evidence (similar to nodding) ○ Patrick, 2001 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Linking to who we get statistics from ● Question statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What they say and what comes from these ○ How was this generated, sample size, comparing it to ○ Date of statistics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Is prevalence high enough○ What crimes are not being looked at○ Question the statistics from the media
Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Crime statistics can sometimes be useful in determining crime trends● They are also social constructs - as with legal definitions they only capture a limited range of activities● Statistics do not accurately represent reality - they can help us to build an impression, that is all● Crime statistics are complex and influenced by a range of variable - not just changes in crime - difficult to get right even when we try● Frequently misused and falsified by stakeholders with vested interest, including media, politicians and law enforcement● Regularly fail in what they are supposed to do - educate and inform the public about crime

LECTURE THREE

Crime and the media