

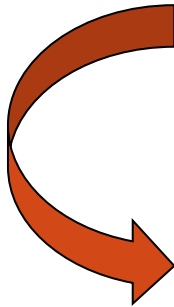


LABELLING CRIME & DEVIANCE

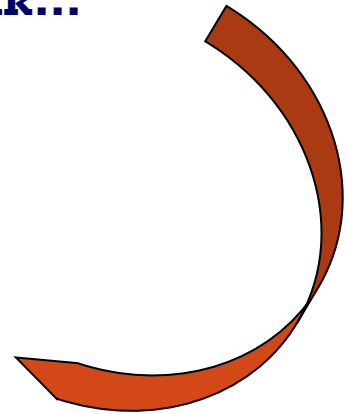
A TALE OF TWO GIRLS.....



**This is Emma,
she did well at
school and got a
job in the
bank...**



**This is Paula, she did well
at school and got a job in
the same bank...**





**One night the girls
went out after
work.....**

**and they were convinced to
take cocaine for the first
time.....**



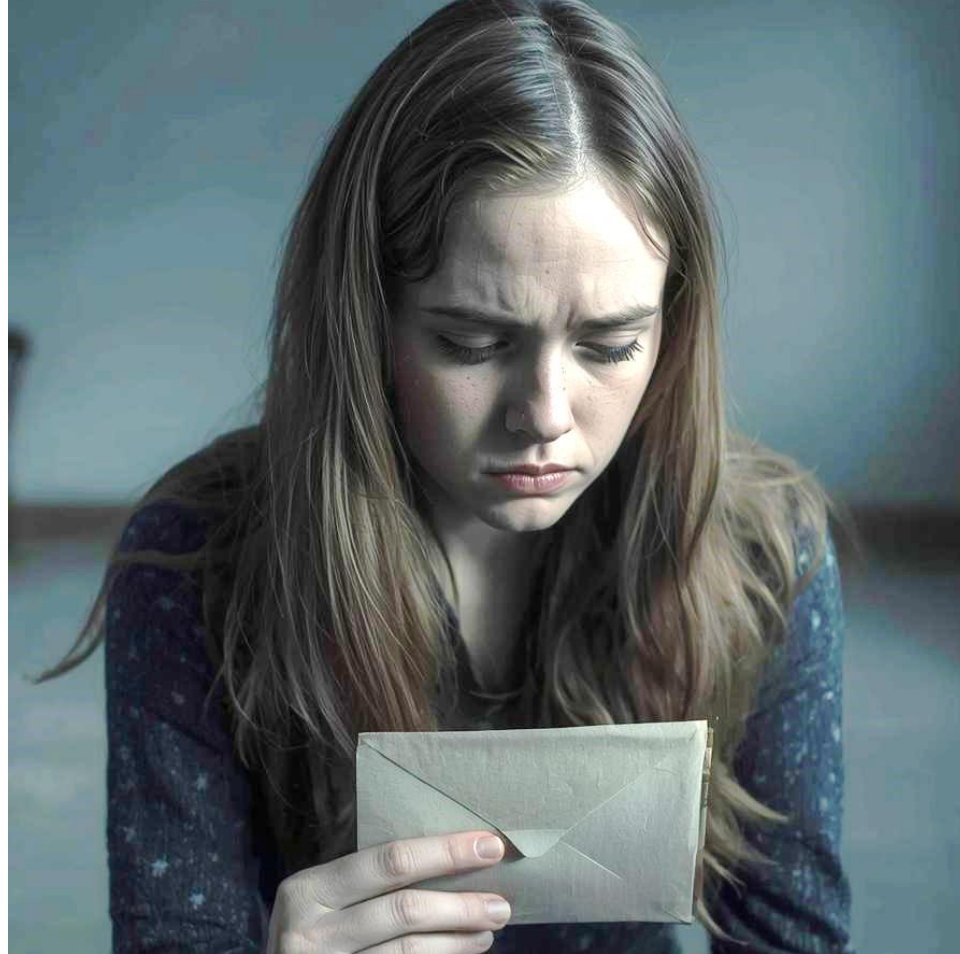


**Paula got away with it..
There were no
consequences....**

**Emma was caught
and made an example
of.**

**She lost her job and
got a criminal record
and community
service order.**





Emma was labelled as a drug user, struggled to get work



Paula got promoted and continued on her successful career path.....





Emma became depressed, turned to hard drugs and had a troubled life....



Paula had a happy and successful family life and great career.....



THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF CRIME

- Labelling theorists believe it is not the act itself that is inherently criminal – it becomes criminal when labelled by society.
- They come from an ***INTERACTIONIST*** viewpoint
- Crime is a social construct – it varies based on time, place and culture.





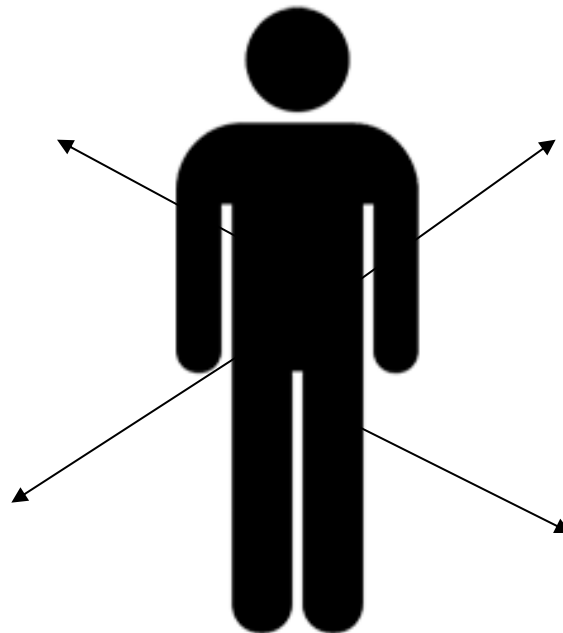
BECKER

- **Becker** is one of the most influential labelling theorists. He is interested in examining how and why laws are made.
- He explores the role of ***Moral Entrepreneurs***; people who lead moral crusades to get laws changed.
- These laws often create a new group of outsiders and give more powers to social control agents to enforce the new laws and label offenders



WHO GETS LABELLED?

What are the characteristics of someone in society who is likely to be labelled by society?





SUSPECT A



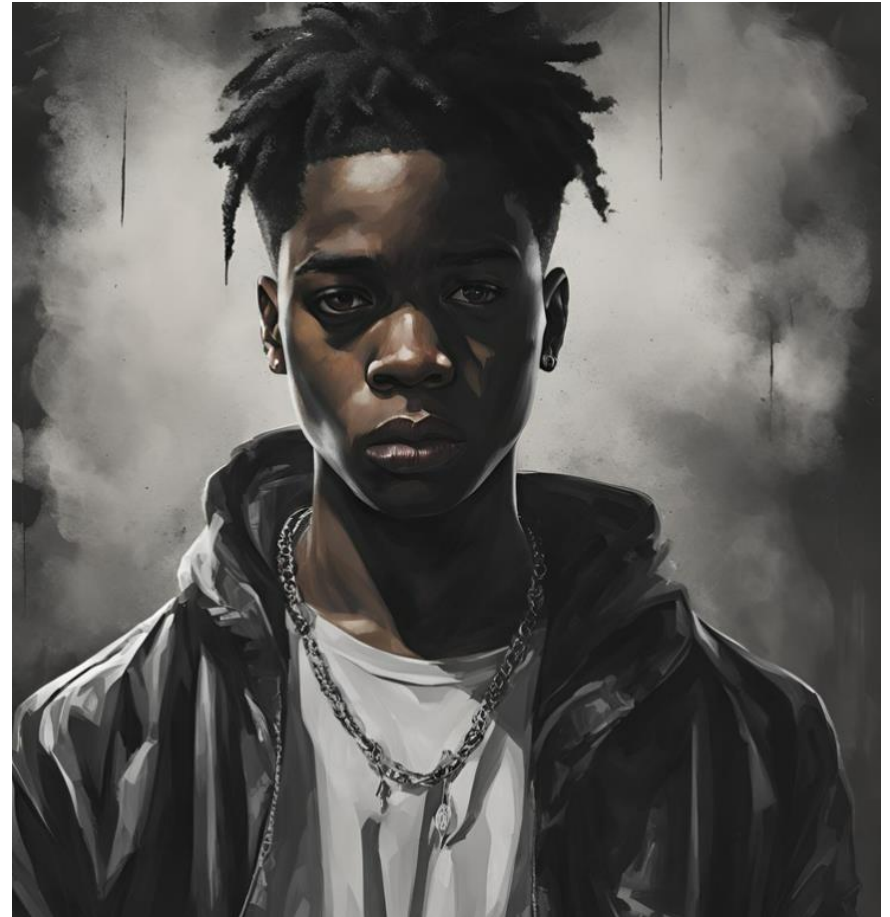
SUSPECT B

- Discuss which suspect is more likely to be labelled and explain why.



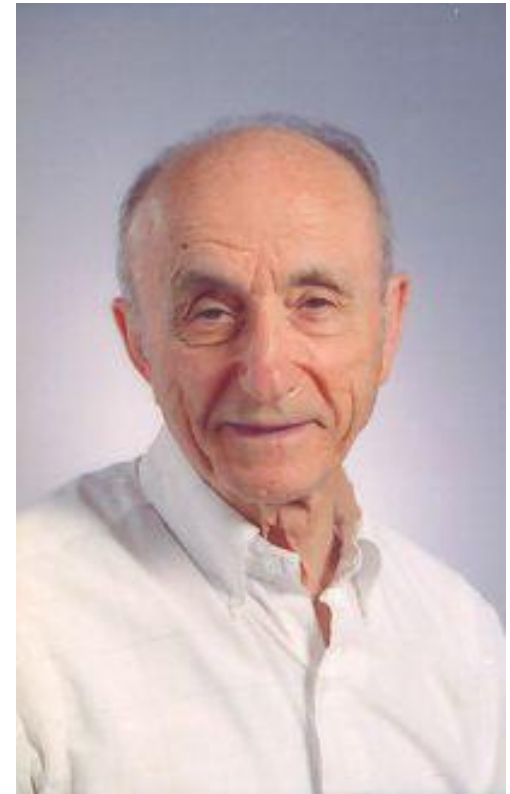
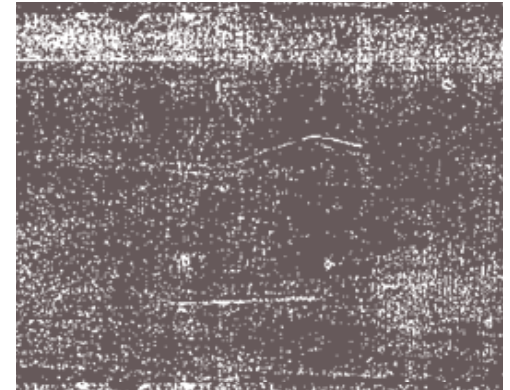
PILIAVIN AND BRIAR (1964)

- Police decisions to arrest a youth were mainly based on physical cues (e.g. manner/dress) in which they made judgements
- ⑩ Other factors which influenced officers' decisions were class/ethnicity/gender
- ⑩ 1964 - lacks temporal validity



CICOUREL (1964)

- Claims that police have stereotypes of a typical delinquent. ***What do you think these are?***
- He calls these ***typifications*** – this leads to police patrolling areas more intensely that have a higher proportion of working class people.
- Other social control agents reinforce this bias e.g probation officers
- Middle-class youths can '**negotiate**' their way out of justice, what do you think this means?





STATISTICS..

- Cicourel's ideas lead interactionists to seriously question official crime statistics.
- Official stats should not be used as a **resource** by sociologists but should be studied as a **topic**.
- We should investigate how and why these stats are created and what this tells us about the CJS



EFFECTS OF LABELLING

How can labelling encourage deviance?

- Lemert:

- **Primary Deviance** – acts that have not been publicly labelled. Very hard to establish cause of such deviance.
- **Secondary Deviance** – The result of societal reaction and labelling. Once others see someone as a deviant it can begin their **master status** or controlling identity. Once a person has a master status, it affects their self-concept.
- They may accept the deviant label leading to a **self-fulfilling prophecy**.
- Any deviance resulting from this is secondary deviance.
- This may reinforce their outsider status resulting in a **deviant career**.
- Due to a lack of employment opportunities the next step may be joining a **deviant subculture**.

Convert

The information on Lemert into a flowchart, showing how labelling encourages deviance.

KEY STUDY JOCK YOUNG THE DRUGTAKERS

- Jock Young studied hippy marijuana users in Notting Hill, showing how societal reactions can help shape deviant behaviour
- Initially, drug use was a minor part of the hippies' lifestyle, an example of primary deviance
- Police labelling and persecution led the hippies to see themselves as outsiders, triggering secondary deviance
- They formed a deviant subculture, adopting a distinctive style and making drug use a central activity, thus creating a self-fulfilling prophecy
- Young's work supports interactionist theory, which argues that deviance is not inherent in the act itself, but created through labelling and societal reaction
- This can be linked to Lemert's theory that control can increase deviance.

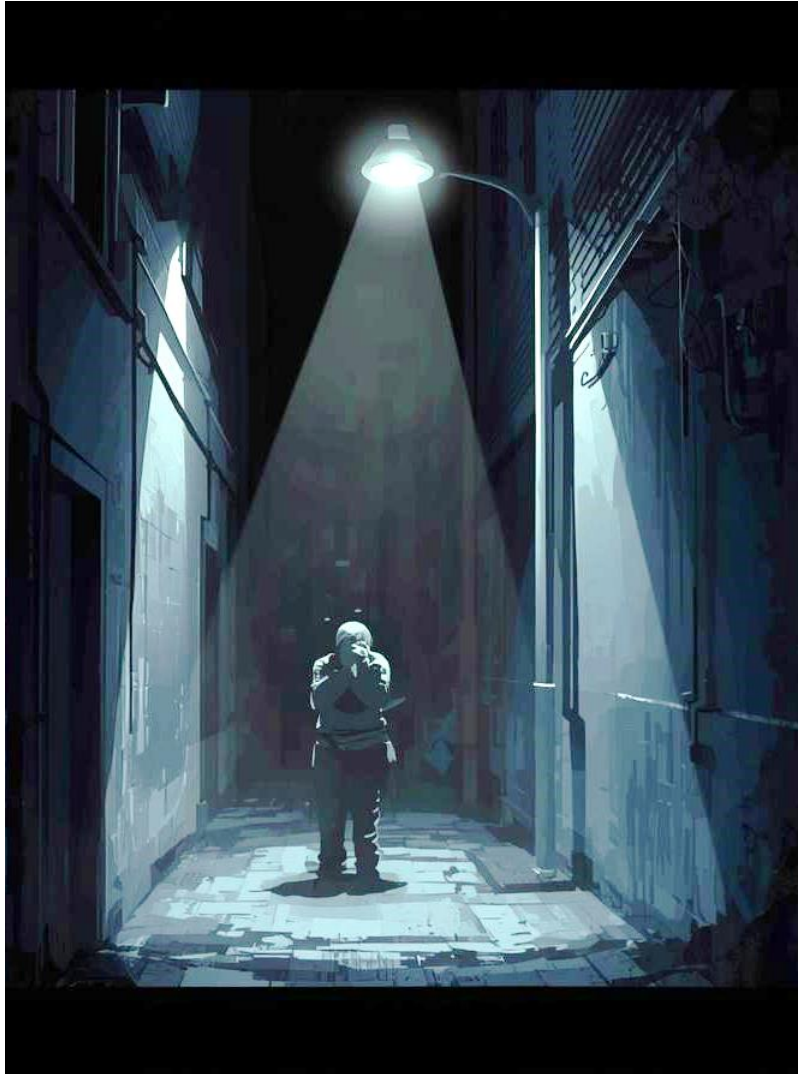


A01 CHECK....

1. Explain the effects of new law being created according to Becker.
2. According to Piliavin & Briar, what influences the police decision to arrest someone?
3. Explain what is meant by the term typification.
4. Why are middle-class youth less likely to be charged?
5. What are the implications of Cicourel's work for the study of official crime statistics?
6. What is a 'master status'?
7. According to Young, why does deviance increase?



DEVIANCE AMPLIFICATION



‘when the action of the rule enforcers or media in response to deviance brings about more deviance’

Young’s study is an example of the Deviancy Amplification Spiral



MORAL PANICS



- This is the application of the deviancy amplification spiral to group behaviour
- **Stanley Cohen** focuses in particular on how the media plays a key role in creating further deviancy.
- His famous study ***Folk Devils & Moral Panics*** demonstrates how societal reaction to fights between mods and rockers amplified the deviance





LABELLING & POLICY

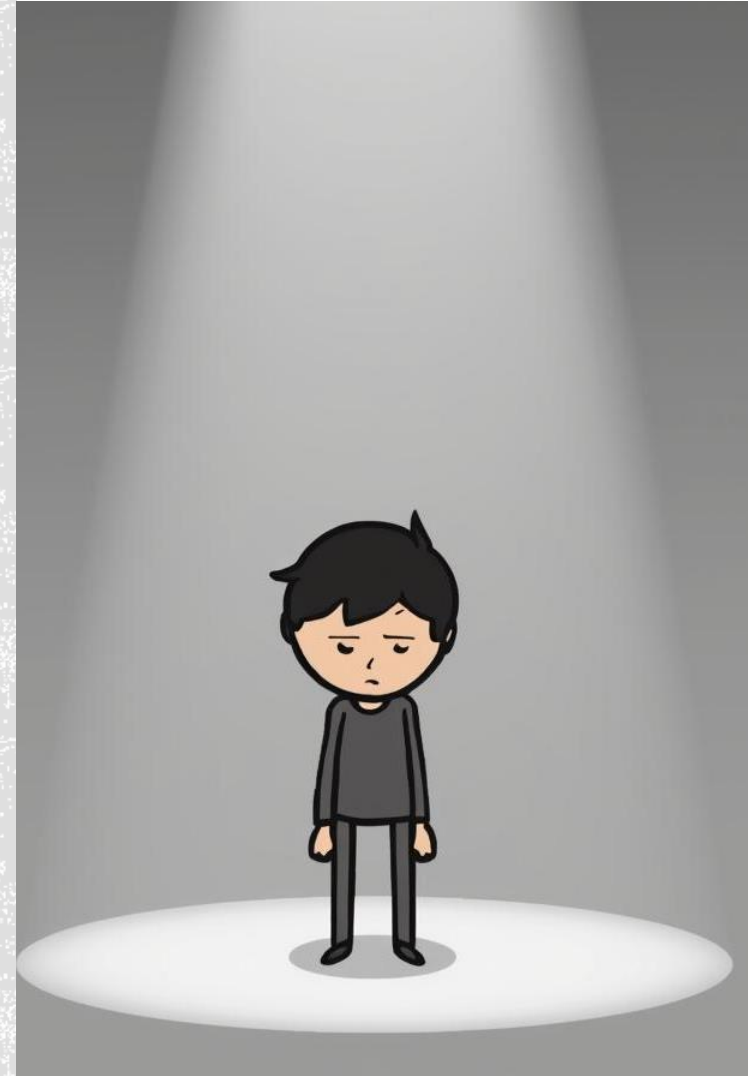
If the labelling theorists are right this has a real impact on how we should deal with crime.

We need to make and enforce fewer rules for people to break in order to avoid secondary deviance.

We should also avoid naming and shaming people publicly – why?

REINTEGRATIVE SHAMING BRAITHWAITE

- Labelling can be useful if done in the right way:
- **Disintegrative shaming** – labels criminal and crime as bad.
- **Reintegrative shaming**- labels the act but not the actor
- Reintegrative shaming avoids stigmatising the offender but makes them aware of the negative impact of the crime





Plummer (2011) argues that labelling theory has been enormously influential and is embedded in a vast range of contemporary sociology

- Interactionism provides an insight into deviance not provided by structural theories
- It challenges the idea that deviants are different from 'normal' people
- It shows the importance of the reactions of others in defining and creating deviance
- It highlights the role of entrepreneurs, like the media, in defining and creating deviance and generating moral panics.





Downes and Rock (2003) argue we cannot predict whether someone who has been labelled will follow a deviant career, because they are always free to choose not to deviate further.

- Interactionism tends to remove the blame for deviance away from the deviant and onto those who define them as deviant
- It doesn't explain the cause of deviant behaviour in the first instance
- It is too deterministic, labelling does not always lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy
- It has little to say about the victims of crime

