



Criminology

EIGHTH EDITION

A Canadian Perspective

RICK LINDEN

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Criminology

A Canadian Perspective

Rick Linden

University of Manitoba

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Criminology: A Canadian Perspective, Eighth Edition

by Rick Linden

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To Christopher, who gave so much and asked so little,
and
to Dan Koenig, a wonderful colleague and friend.

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Preface

Since it was first published in 1987, *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective* has been used to introduce this field to more than 100,000 students across the country. At that time, most criminology courses in Canada were taught using American texts. It was our intention to provide a text that was written *by Canadians, for Canadians*. Over the past three decades, the discipline of criminology has grown from a few widely scattered faculty members to a large community of academics, researchers, practitioners, and students. The eighth edition of *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective* continues to reflect their work. That said, criminology remains a small and underfunded discipline in Canada. As a result, much of the new theoretical and empirical work in the field continues to come from the United States and Europe. This new edition represents our continued effort to provide you with the best Canadian scholarship in combination with the most relevant research from other countries.

Advantages of a Multi-authored Text

The many different theories proposed to explain criminality are continually being revived and revised. Often the popularity of a particular theory owes as much to ideological commitment and academic fashion as it does to its explanatory power. As a result of this unresolved diversity, the pages of many texts are littered with the bodies of straw men, set up only to be sacrificed to the author's favourite approach. The authors of this text are among Canada's leading criminologists. The advantage of a multi-authored text is that the diverse perspectives of criminology can be fairly represented. In this book, each chapter is written by someone who has used the perspective in his or her own research and who understands its strengths and weaknesses.

Organization of the Text

This book is intended as a text for a one-term course in introductory criminology. While the book deals extensively with theories about the causes of crime (which have largely been developed elsewhere), its purpose is to provide students with information about crime in Canada.

The chapters have been organized into three parts. **Part 1: Crime and Society** provides some of the basic information about crime: the sources of criminal law, the legal elements of crime, the sources of information about crime, the social correlates of criminal behaviour, a discussion of women and crime, and a look at victimization and at the role of victims in the justice system. This part provides the student with the background necessary to assess the theories of crime causation presented in **Part 2**. In **Part 2: Explanations of Crime**, all of the major theories are covered, including biological, psychological, and sociological explanations. In **Part 3: Patterns of Criminal Behaviour**, three serious and frequent types of crime—organized crime, white-collar crime, and cybercrime—are discussed. Street crimes such as break and enter, robbery, and assault are discussed throughout the text. This arrangement

of chapters is just one way of presenting the material; instructors are encouraged to assign these chapters in whatever order best suits their course needs.

Features of the Text

Each chapter begins with a brief *Introduction* and a list of *Learning Objectives* and concludes with a *Summary* and *Net Work* (Internet activities). *Questions for Critical Thinking* are at the end of each chapter section. This text also features margin notes. In the margins, *Google Terms* refers students to interesting related websites. Also in the margins is a running glossary, which defines the key terms next to the paragraphs in which they first appear. A full *Glossary* and *Bibliography* are at the end of the text.

New to the Eighth Edition

This edition of *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective* provides us with the opportunity to update crime statistics, add new research material, and make some major revisions that have been suggested by reviewers. In this edition, these major revisions include two new chapters:

- Chapter 5, “Correlates of Criminal Behaviour,” written by Temitope Oriola, replaces an earlier chapter covering the same topics.
- Chapter 18, “Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance,” written by Michael Arntfield, is a new chapter dealing with a relatively new type of crime that has quickly become a major global problem.

We have also made many revisions and updates to the remaining chapters. Chapter 1, “Crime, Criminals, and Criminology,” continues to introduce new areas of criminology with the discussion of the new criminological field of surveillance studies. Chapter 3 reflects a number of recent court decisions and has several new Focus boxes. These new boxes discuss assisted suicide; legal issues emanating from the trial of those charged with the murder of Nina Courtepatte in Edmonton; and the controversial issue of the criminalization of the failure to disclose one’s HIV-positive status. Besides updating crime statistics, Chapter 4 has added a Focus box on the uses and abuses of police crime figures. In 2014, the federal government introduced legislation creating a Victim’s Bill of Rights, and Chapter 7 includes an extensive discussion of this proposal. It also has a new Focus box on Saskatchewan’s Adult Restitution and Civil Enforcement Program. Chapter 10 has an expanded discussion of Agnew’s work on strain theory and places greater emphasis on the role of strain in white-collar crime. Chapter 11 has a new Focus box dealing with the federal government’s controversial Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act. It has also added an extended discussion of the tragic honour killing of four women from the Shafia family. Chapter 12 now includes a discussion of Wacquant’s extension of Bourdieu’s work on the bureaucratic field, which includes police, courts, and prisons as part of the right hand of the state; in the same chapter, we have added a discussion of some of the criticisms of critical criminology. A new Focus box in Chapter 13 discusses the moral entrepreneurship of the federal

Liberals' promise to legalize the use of marijuana in Canada. In Chapter 14, we have added a discussion of the consistency between life course theories and social control theory and have updated the research on the role of religion in criminality. A new Focus box in Chapter 15 examines whether moving to a cashless society will mean less opportunity for crime. Chapter 16 has an expanded section applying network theories to organized crime. Chapter 17 has expanded the discussion of workplace health and safety issues and has extensively updated many of the examples of white-collar and corporate crime.

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NETA Test Bank: This resource was written by Stephen Schneider of Saint Mary's University. It includes over 700 multiple-choice questions written according to NETA guidelines for effective construction and development of higher-order questions. Also included are 320 true/false, and 190 essay questions.

The NETA Test Bank is available in a new, cloud-based platform. **Testing Powered by Cognero®** is a secure online testing system that allows you to author, edit, and manage test bank content from any place you have Internet access. No special installations or downloads are needed, and the desktop-inspired interface, with its drop-down menus and familiar, intuitive tools, allows you to create and manage tests with ease. You can create multiple test versions in an instant and import or export content into other systems. Tests can be delivered from your learning management system, your classroom, or wherever you want. Testing Powered by Cognero for *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective* can be accessed through <http://www.nelson.com/instructor>. Printable versions of the test bank in Word and PDF versions are available with the instructor resources for the textbook.



NETA PowerPoint: Microsoft® PowerPoint® lecture slides for every chapter have been created by Stephen Schneider of Saint Mary's University. There is an average of 35 slides per chapter, many featuring key figures, tables, and

photographs from *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective*. NETA principles of clear design and engaging content have been incorporated throughout, making it simple for instructors to customize the deck for their courses.

Image Library: This resource consists of digital copies of figures, short tables, and photographs used in the book. Instructors may use these jpegs to customize the NETA PowerPoint or create their own PowerPoint presentations.

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Rick Linden
University of Manitoba

Crime and Society

PART

1

Part 1 of this book provides some basic information about crime: the origins of our criminal law, the legal elements of crime, the sources of information about crime, and the social correlates of criminal behaviour.

Chapter 1 introduces you to the discipline of *criminology*, the scientific study of crime and criminals. This chapter examines the role played by rules and shows how these rules are sometimes formalized in laws. The chapter also looks at different ways of defining crime and shows that because crime is socially defined, the definition of crime can change over time. The chapter concludes with discussions of “green” criminology, terrorism studies, and surveillance studies, three of the newest sub-fields of criminology, to show how the discipline continues to evolve.

In Chapter 2, we learn how our legal system has developed as we have evolved from simple hunting and gathering societies to modern industrial ones. With the increased complexity and growth of modern societies comes the need for a formal legal system to maintain order. We also learn why some social harms are defined as illegal while others are not.

The legal elements of a crime are *actus reus* (the physical element) and *mens rea* (the mental element). These are discussed in Chapter 3, along with the defences available to an accused, a history of criminal procedure, and an outline of the social factors affecting the definition of specific types of crime.

We cannot study crime unless we can measure it. Chapter 4 describes how we count crime using official government statistics, victimization surveys, and self-report surveys. None of these methods is completely adequate; you will learn the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Before we can explain a phenomenon such as crime, we must know how it is distributed demographically. In Chapter 5, several correlates of crime are discussed, including age, sex, race, and social class. Chapter 6 considers issues involving women and crime in more depth. The explanations of crime discussed in Part 2 of the book should be judged according to how well they account for these regularities.

Finally, Chapter 7 discusses issues faced by victims of crime. About one in four Canadian adults are victimized by crime each year, and the cost to these victims is estimated at \$80 billion a year. Several important international protocols guide the ways in which countries treat victims, but Canadian governments have failed to provide adequate victim services. Instead of investing to support victims and to prevent future victimization, governments have chosen to invest billions of dollars in the traditional institutions of police, courts, and prisons.

1

Crime, Criminals, and Criminology

Rick Linden
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Canadians have an endless fascination with crime. Newspapers and television news broadcasts are saturated with stories about crime and criminals. Movies, television shows, and video games are filled with depictions of violence and other criminal behaviour. While crime is a matter of public concern and a favourite form of entertainment, it is also the subject of serious academic study. This chapter will introduce you to the discipline of criminology, the scientific study of crime and criminals.

Learning Objectives

After reading this chapter, you should be able to

- Define the term *criminology*.
- Understand the different subjects studied by criminologists.
- Explain the role played by rules in our lives and understand how these rules can become formalized in law.
- Understand the different ways of defining crime: a strict legal definition; an expanded legal definition that goes beyond just considering the criminal law; a definition based on the protection of people's human rights; and a definition that places acts of deviance and crime on a continuum ranging from minor acts of deviance to serious offences that almost everyone agrees are wrong.
- Explain how crime is socially defined and how people's ideas about crime change over time.
- Understand the two main theoretical perspectives (conflict and consensus) on how some acts get defined as criminal and others do not.
- Understand the new sub-fields of green criminology, terrorism studies, and surveillance studies.

A Violent Crime: The Sand Brothers

Robert and Danny Sand grew up in an Alberta family with their father, Dennis, and their mother, Elaine. Robert was born in 1978 and Danny was born in 1980. Dennis Sand, who had served time in jail in his youth for a variety of crimes including armed robbery, gave up crime when he was 20 and supported his family through a variety of jobs. He lives in a small Alberta community, where Elaine runs a business and both are respected community members

(Staples, 2002). As youngsters, Robert and Danny were constantly in trouble, along with several of their closest friends, who made up a group composed of the only mixed-race boys in their town. The boys had difficulty in school and were frequently suspended. In junior high they got into more serious trouble, and at age 15 Danny was sent to a youth centre for beating up another student. The boys began to steal cars and use drugs. Journalist David Staples described the situation of the brothers and their friends:

Their contact with adults was minimal. No teachers, because the teens had all dropped out. No parents, because most didn't live at home. They relied on each other to figure out the world, believing their friends were closer and wiser than any adult. They're all there to protect each other, and they can't see past that, says [one of the mothers]. The teens suffered from the moral blindness of those who have achieved nothing in life and have nothing to lose. But they weren't entirely lacking in vision. They had an inkling of the difference between right and wrong. They certainly understood when someone did wrong to them, or to one of their closest friends. They just didn't see it as a problem to rob or injure someone outside of their group. It was us vs. them, with them being teachers, the RCMP, car owners, property owners, anyone with something they wanted to grab. (Staples, 2002, D2)

In 1998, Robert received a seven-year jail sentence for armed robbery. He became a model inmate, though counsellors said he could never explain why he had committed crimes. Danny also ended up in jail for several crimes, including attacking a police officer. After his release, Danny got involved in another incident that foretold the crime that would result in his death. An Edmonton police officer used his cruiser car to block an alley where Danny was suspiciously parked in a stolen truck. Instead of giving up, Danny sped toward the cruiser and seemed to swerve toward the police officer. After this incident, he joined Robert in Drumheller Penitentiary, where he continued to get into trouble and where he got a tattoo that read "Fearless, Painless, Senseless." After his release, Danny told people that he would never go back to jail.

In October of 2001, Robert was released to a halfway house. He could find only menial work, and he reunited with Laurie Bell, a former girlfriend who was a heavy drug user. He left the halfway house, which violated his parole. On December 18, Robert and Laurie—along with Danny, who was also violating his parole—headed for the Maritimes, where they had vague plans for making a new life. They never made it past Manitoba.

In the midst of a crime spree that included robbing a bank, breaking into homes, and stealing several vehicles, the three made it to the town of Russell, Manitoba. Shortly after midnight on December 21, 2001, Danny drove onto the main highway without first stopping at a stop sign. When RCMP constables Brian Auger and Dennis Strongquill tried to stop the vehicle, Robert fired several shotgun blasts at the police. When the police drove away, Danny chased the police SUV into town. He rammed the SUV after it stopped at the Russell RCMP Detachment. Robert jumped out of the truck and fired at Constable Strongquill, who was trapped in the damaged police vehicle. Four shots hit Constable Strongquill, who died almost immediately.

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The RCMP tracked the trio to a motel near Wolseley, Saskatchewan. A police sniper fatally wounded Danny Sand; Robert Sand and Laurie Bell were captured and charged with first-degree murder. While awaiting trial, Robert kept a diary in which he reflected on the shooting:

I was in one of my moods so I asked to see the pictures again of my case. There are pics of trucks burnt, crashed shot up etc. Homes broken into, property of ours and others and of course pics of the dead cop, shot up cop cars and Dan. Now I've seen them before and without emotion, I've no more tears to shed. But I was looking at this man, on a table. And I started to think, he's just a man, and shouldn't be dead. He had a family and friends, and now he's a body on a table. I realized it's not the man I hated, but the uniform he wore. His flag, colours of war. But seeing him without his uniform I felt bad for the loss of his life. But then I flipped to the pics of Dan, and my thoughts changed. Cause now I felt that the other man is right where he should be. And losses on both sides are to be expected, only Dan took my place. And when I looked upon the cop car I felt pride, and remembered the battle, I remembered how these enemy soldiers fled in fear and [sic] cowardess. I saw how much damage I'd caused to their unit and smiled, from the knowledge that the enemy isn't as strong as they want us to believe. But they should beware that the moment they fly their flag, wear their uniform. That they're at war and people die in war, everyone has their enemies.*

Robert Sand, who physically attacked his own lawyer in court at the end of his trial, is serving a life sentence after being convicted of first-degree murder; Laurie Bell was convicted of manslaughter.

One of the challenges of the discipline of criminology is to make sense of cases such as this one. Why did the Sand brothers live such wild and undisciplined lives? Why did they aggressively pursue Constable Strongquill and his partner? Why did Robert see the world as a war zone? Is there anything we can do to prevent tragedies like this in the future?

Criminologists have considered a wide range of theories to explain crime. Some focus on biology—could Robert and Danny have inherited traits from their parents that made their criminality more likely? Others look at an individual's psychological make-up—were the Sand brothers psychopaths, or could other mental conditions have caused their behaviour? Other theories are sociological—what role did their family and friends play in their violence? Could the schools have done a better job motivating the brothers to study and to become involved in legitimate outlets for their energy? What role did racism and the brothers' poor economic prospects play in their lives?

These questions are very complex, and we may never be able to adequately explain individual cases such as this one. However, even if we could explain the factors that led Robert Sands to kill Constable Strongquill, the same explanation would not apply to another homicide that occurred at about the same time. This case involves Diego Zepeda-Cordera, a Toronto barber, who was a

*Excerpt from McIntyre, Mike. (2003). *Nowhere to Run: The Killing of Constable Dennis Strongquill*. p. 195. Winnipeg: Great Plains Publications. Reprinted with permission.

member of the Missionary Church of Christ (Galloway, 2003). His 19-year-old son, Walter, began to behave in a way that troubled Zepeda-Cordera. Walter began going out to bars, smoking, and wouldn't help out around the house. His parents found a satanic magazine in his room. His father became extremely concerned when Walter began to speak in gibberish at a religious meeting. Believing his son was possessed by the devil, Mr. Zepeda-Cordero and a friend tied Walter to two metal chairs in their apartment building. Their minister and many church members came to the home to pray over Walter to exorcise the devil they believed was inside him. Walter remained tied to the chairs, often with duct tape over his mouth, for seven days before he died of dehydration. Although the judge in the case believed that the men genuinely thought Walter was possessed and sought to help him, he sentenced them to four years in jail after they pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

As these two examples suggest, different homicides may have little in common other than the death of a victim. Some involve intoxicated people who stab friends during drinking parties; others involve a settling of accounts among organized criminals; some abusive men kill their wives and children; some corporate executives kill their customers by selling defective products in order to enhance their profits, or kill their employees by providing unsafe working conditions; and some predators kill children after having sex with them. In your criminology course, you will learn about these and many other patterns of criminal behaviour.

A White-Collar Crime: The Downfall of Conrad Black

A very different case illustrates the diversity of the behaviour studied by criminologists. During the spring of 2007, Canadian media covered the trial of Conrad Black and several co-accused, who had been charged in the United States with several offences relating to the fraudulent acquisition of funds that should have gone to shareholders of Hollinger International. The funds instead had been taken by the accused, who were managers (but not owners) of the company.

Black's background was very different from that of the Sand brothers. His father was a wealthy businessman, and Conrad had a very comfortable childhood. As a boy he attended Toronto's Upper Canada College, an elite private school, but was unhappy with its discipline. While at the college, he broke into school offices to steal and alter school records. On one occasion, he and several accomplices stole some final exam papers. Perhaps anticipating his later business career, Black had earlier copied the academic records of all the students, so he knew who would be prepared to pay the most for the exam papers. His motivation was not entirely commercial:

I was going to reduce the school's whole academic system ... to utter chaos while achieving a spectacular mark for myself having done virtually no work ... By the last week of the school year, I had almost completely undermined the system ... I had more power than our jailers. I penetrated the Masters' Common Room and reassigned the faculty to supervisory tasks by typing up and substituting my own assignment

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REUTERS/MARK BLINCH/LANDOV

Conrad Black, once the head of Canada's largest newspaper company, spent more than three years in a US jail for fraud and obstruction of justice.

sheet, assuring among other things that our examinations were presided over by the least vigilant people available, the music and printing teachers, as I recall. (Black, 1993, 15)

The scheme unravelled when one of Black's customers confessed to cheating and Black was expelled from the school.

After graduating from law school, Black entered the newspaper business. Along with two partners, he bought a small, money-losing Quebec paper, the *Sherbrooke Record*. Black and his partners quickly discovered a formula that would eventually make them rich. They fired 40 percent of the employees

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(a step that Black reportedly described as “drowning the kittens” (Plotz, 2001, n.p.), modernized the production process, and began to make a profit. They cut costs relentlessly. When one employee brought Black’s partner David Radler a petition signed by newspaper staff complaining about some of the cost-cutting measures, Radler deducted two cents from the man’s pay for wasting the piece of paper (Black, 1993). At the same time, Black reports beginning a pattern of behaviour that later led to serious legal problems:

[At the same time as they were cutting even the most minor expenses at the newspaper] we operated ... what amounted to a modest slush fund for our preferred causes and tenuously business-connected expenses. (Black, 1993, 72)

Several times throughout his business career, Black attempted to transfer money from the corporations he ran—but that were owned by public shareholders—to his personal accounts.

Black purchased other small papers and eventually acquired an important British paper, *The Telegraph*, as well as the *Jerusalem Post* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He also launched the *National Post* in Canada. Through his corporation, Hollinger International, he ran hundreds of daily papers—including 60 percent of the papers published in Canada—and controlled the world’s third-largest newspaper chain (McNish and Stewart, 2004). Black moved to London, England, and in 2001 gave up his Canadian citizenship so that he could accept admission to the British House of Lords and the title Lord Black of Crossharbour. In 2001, shortly after taking his seat in the House of Lords, Black’s financial empire began to unravel when he was challenged by investors at Hollinger’s annual shareholders’ meeting. Some investors wanted to know why their investment in Hollinger was not profitable while Black and other senior executives were getting very wealthy. He was forced to step down from his position as chief executive officer of Hollinger. Meanwhile, an investigation committee established by the board of directors accused Black and other executives of running a “corporate kleptocracy” that had conspired to steal \$400 million from Hollinger that should have been paid out to shareholders. The report concluded that “Black and Radler were motivated by a ‘ravenous appetite for cash’ ... and Hollinger International, under their reign, ‘lost any sense of corporate purpose, competitive drive or internal ethical concerns’ as the two executives looked for ways to ‘suck cash’ out of the company” (McNish and Stewart, 2004, 288).

While he was under investigation, Black continued to demonstrate the imperious attitude that had characterized his career. In response to criticisms of his extravagance, such as his use of company jets, he responded:

There has not been an occasion for many months when I got on our plane without wondering whether it was really affordable. But I’m not prepared to reenact the French Revolutionary renunciation of the rights of nobility. We have to find a balance between an unfair taxation on the company and a reasonable treatment of the founder-builder-managers. We are proprietors, after all, beleaguered though we may be. (McNish and Stewart, 2004, 92)

In 2005, criminal fraud charges were filed in the United States against Black and three other executives for conspiring to take funds from Hollinger International for their own personal gain. This was illegal because the corporation was owned by the shareholders, not by the men who ran the company. How did they take the money? Over a period of years, Black had sold off Hollinger's newspapers. When he did so, the buyers paid for agreements that Hollinger would not start competing papers in those markets. However, these noncompete fees were not paid to Hollinger and its shareholders; instead, they went directly to Black and his colleagues, who were alleged to have diverted over \$83 million by these transactions. In some cases, the noncompete agreements had not even been requested by the purchasers but had instead been put in the agreement at the request of Black and his colleagues. The money to pay these fees was diverted from the purchase price; thus, the funds that went to Black had essentially been taken from Hollinger's shareholders. In one transaction, Black himself purchased a newspaper from Hollinger; thus, he was actually paid a fee to agree to not compete with himself (McNish and Stewart, 2004). This was done at the expense of Hollinger shareholders, who actually owned the papers being sold.

Black was also charged with misusing corporate money for personal expenses. A key example of this presented by the prosecution at his trial was his use of more than \$40,000 of Hollinger money to pay for a lavish birthday party for his wife. Black and his chauffeur were videotaped violating a court order by removing a number of boxes of documents from his Toronto office, so he also faced charges of obstruction of justice. Key to the case against Black was testimony from his partner, David Radler, who had pleaded guilty and received a relatively lenient 29-month sentence in exchange for his testimony against Black.

Black's lawyers claimed that the noncompete payments had been approved by Hollinger's board of directors and were therefore legal. They also claimed that his use of Hollinger funds for parties, trips, and other expenses was legal because the expenses were business-related. For example, his wife's birthday party followed a board meeting and involved contacts with other business people. Also, Black had paid some of the expenses from his own funds to cover the personal component of the event. Finally, they claimed that David Radler was lying in order to get lenient treatment. Indeed, Radler had consistently lied about his involvement prior to his guilty plea, and he had received lenient treatment, so his testimony was vulnerable to those charges by the defence.

In July 2007, Black was convicted on four charges and acquitted on nine others. He was convicted of obstruction of justice because of the documents he had removed from his office. The other convictions related to noncompetition agreements that had not been requested by the buyers of several Hollinger newspapers and to the sale in which Black was paid for agreeing not to compete with himself. He was sentenced to six-and-a-half years in prison and ordered to make restitution of \$6.1 million (US). In 2010, after serving two years of his sentence in a Florida prison, the US Supreme Court set aside his fraud convictions and sent the case back to the lower courts for reconsideration, and Black was released from prison on bail. An appeal court upheld both his convictions for fraud and for obstruction of justice. His sentence was reduced to 42 months,

and he was ordered back to prison to serve the remainder of his term. He returned to Canada in 2012 and is currently writing a column for the *National Post* (which he had founded) and hosting a television talk show.

Conrad Black and the Sand brothers have little in common except for their criminal convictions. However, these cases show the diverse nature of criminal behaviour and the task faced by theorists who are trying to explain criminality.

What Is Criminology?

The term **criminology** is used in several different ways. Detectives in mystery novels, forensic scientists, and crime analysts on television shows are sometimes referred to as criminologists, as are physicists and chemists who specialize in studying the trajectories of bullets or the ink used in counterfeit money. Most commonly, the term is applied to academics who study crime and the criminal justice system. In this text, we will follow the definition given by two famous American criminologists, Edwin Sutherland and Donald Cressey: “Criminology is the body of knowledge regarding crime as a social phenomenon. It includes within its scope the processes of making laws, of breaking laws, and of reacting to the breaking of laws ... The objective of criminology is the development of a body of general and verified principles and of other types of knowledge regarding this process of law, crime, and treatment” (1960, 3). This definition implies that criminologists take a scientific approach to the study of crime.

Why Should We Study Crime?

It is important for us to know more about crime. Social scientists believe it is intrinsically worthwhile to learn more about all aspects of our social lives, including criminal behaviour and society’s response to this behaviour. Learning about crime can tell us a lot about our society. For example, the United States has a much higher rate of violent crime—particularly firearms crime—than Canada. The United States also has a much harsher justice system than Canada (see Chapter 15). These differences highlight important value differences between the two countries. Also, just as an understanding of a disease helps medical scientists develop cures, we need to understand crime before we can reduce it. For example, Richard Tremblay tracked the behaviour of children in Montreal as they grew up. He found that boys whose violent behaviour had not declined by age 16 were more likely than other boys to be the sons of young mothers with low levels of education. The Quebec government has used this research to develop support programs for mothers who fit these risk profiles to try to reduce the criminality of their children (Blumstein, 2003). Finally, crime directly or indirectly affects all of us. Many of us have been victims of crime, and all of us pay for the costs of crime and the crime control system.

The Discipline of Criminology

The discipline of criminology includes six major areas: the definition of crime and criminals, the origins and role of law, the social distribution of crime, the causation of crime, patterns of criminal behaviour, and societal reactions to crime.

criminology

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