

3 questions in criminal justice and deviance

Law



**ASSIGN
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1. How can corporate deviance be combated? What can be done to reduce the occurrences of corporate deviance? There are many ways to combat corporate deviance and the most important place to start is by targeting the culture that rewards or provides incentives for elite deviance. Simon (2008: 93) has given the examples of monopolies as deviant because they redistribute wealth to favour the already wealthy and powerful, and they create a culture that permits and even encourages deviancy. Secondly colluding to fix prices (page 96) is also an example of a type of corporate deviance. Combating elite deviance therefore means enacting the necessary legislation to counter monopolies and price fixing, but also to make sure that these laws are implemented. Ermann and Lundman (1982) also offer some suggestions on how to reduce occurrences of corporate deviance, such as “changes in corporate chartering, the protection of whistleblowers, and the punishment of executives involved in corporate criminality.” All these propositions must be taken together and combined with greater vigilance from the public. This includes ensuring that corporate wrongdoers know that their actions will not go unpunished.

2. Are common threads apparent in the four articles found in Part 5 of Readings in Deviant Behaviour?

Yes, I think there are common threads apparent in the four articles in the book by Thio, Calhoun and Conyers (2008.) One clear apparent commonality is that it demonstrates that human beings who are victims of violence do not always react to violence in the way that other people might think to be commonsensical. Instead of automatic resisting or abhorrence of the abuser, we see a complex mix of pity, self-blame, guilt, feelings of helplessness, and

this is true for mothers who are victims of their children's violence (Jackson, 98), stalkers from previous relationships (Dunn, 94) and battered wives (Bates, 89). This is also true for victims of exclusion who then found themselves as sexual molesters (Lawson, 108.) Also, these articles demonstrate that motivations for committing crimes are more complicated than we think and have psychological motivations. Akers and Sellers (2004) described psychological theory as one wherein the understanding of crime can be traced back to an underlying personality or psychological disorder.

3. Are there identifiers visible that would indicate potential self-destructive deviance? If so, what are they and what can be done once observed? If not, what can be done to attempt to identify indicators of future self-destructive behaviour?

Yes, the research in the field of self-destructive deviance have shown some possible indicators of suicidal tendencies, although the research is also quick to point out that one might need to scratch the surface deeper before these tendencies manifest themselves. For example, a person who is about to commit suicide might appear happy and well-adjusted by conventional standards. For example, "escalating interpersonal disconnection" manifesting through language and syntax was one of the observations among poets who had killed themselves (Thio, et. al. 2008: 124). Those who suffered losses and who are feeling lonely are also possible candidates for suicide. Thio also said (page 128) that "the desire for death is composed of two psychological states: perceived burdensomeness and failed belongingness." These indicators must be searched for in those that are deemed likely to commit suicide. Stengel (1964: 1) however, reminds us that

we must distinguish between suicide, which is attended by hopelessness and personal unhappiness and attempted suicide, which might have an element of appeal. Thio et. al. (page 137) also demonstrated the difficulty of demonstrating whether one person is sane or insane - thus making it difficult to come up with any definitive rules on how to determine deviance and capacity for self-harm in others, and more importantly, how to stop it.

References

Akers, R. And Sellers, C. (2004). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation and Application*. (4th ed.. California: Roxbury Publishing.

Ermann, M. And Lundman, R. (1982). *Corporate Deviance*. New York: National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

Simon, D. (2008). *Elite Deviance* (9th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Stengel, E. (1964). *Suicide and Attempted Suicide*. Oxford, England: Penguin Books.

Thio, A., Calhoun, T. & Conyers, A. (2008). *Readings in Deviant Behavior* (5th ed.). Boston: Pearson. Education, Inc.

Are common threads apparent in the four articles found in Part 5 of Readings in Deviant Behavior?

3. (readings on deviant behavior pages 115-143)

to identify indicators of future self-destructive behavior?