



Explaining Criminals and Crime: Essays in Contemporary Criminological Theory

By Raymond Paternoster, Ronet Bachman

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Explaining Criminals and Crime is the first collection of original essays addressing theories of criminal behavior that is written at a level appropriate for undergraduate students. These clear, concise, accessible essays were written expressly for this book, either by the original author(s) of each theory or by a scholar who has written extensively about it.

All major contemporary criminological theories are covered in this book, including:

- * Biological (Pauline Yaralian and Adrian Raine)
- * Strain (Robert Agnew, Steve Messner, and Richard Rosenfeld)
- * Social and Self Control (Travis Hirschi and Michael Gottfredson; John Laub, Robert Sampson, and Leanna Allen)
- * Social Reaction (Ross Matsueda and John Braithwaite)
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Explaining Criminals and Crime also offers section introductions that provide a historical background for each theory, key issues that the theory addresses, and a discussion of any controversies generated by the theory.

Each theoretical essay contains:

- * A discussion of the key theoretical concepts.
- * The specific hypotheses derived from the theory.
- * Existing empirical research on these hypotheses.
- * Criticisms of the theory and efforts to deal with those criticisms.
- * Policy implications of the theory.

Most criminological theories are published in journals or specialized texts and are written in language intended for other scholars. As a result, undergraduate

and even graduate students in criminology and criminal justice find these readings quite difficult, which limits their understanding of the material. The essays and chapter introductions in *Explaining Criminals and Crime* are written with the undergraduate audience in mind.

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About the Author

Raymond Paternoster is at University of Maryland. Ronet Bachman is at the University of Delaware.

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