

[REDACTED]  
Intro, Research Question?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

{1} Jack Katz in this book *Seduction of Crime* argues that criminologists have traditionally explained crime in terms of background variables such as race, class, gender, urban location, and so on. However, he argues that it is far more important to understand the background variable of what it feels like to commit a crime when you are committing it.

Over and over, Katz asks what people are trying to do when they commit a crime and focuses on the meaning that crime has for the criminal.

Katz studies a wide variety of sources, including biographies and autobiographies of criminals, journalistic accounts and participant observation studies. From all this he tries to find the real explanation for criminal behaviour, and then applied this technique to five types of crimes: passion murder, adolescent property crime, gang violence, persistent robbery, cold blooded murder. ✓

In each of these cases, he finds that the criminal is engaged in a project, the project here is what they are trying to accomplish in committing the particular crime.

{2} Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist, introduced the concept of anomie in his book *The Division of Labour in Society*, Published in 1893. He used anomie to describe a condition of deregulation that was occurring in society.

This meant that rules on how people ought to behave with each other were breaking down and thus people did not know what to expect from one other. Anomie, simply defined, is a state where norms such as the expectations of behaviours are confused, unclear or not present.

There is no norm; Durkheim felt that led to deviant behaviour. In 1897, Durkheim used the term again in his study on *Suicide*, referring to a morally deregulated condition. Durkheim was preoccupied with the effects of social change. He best illustrated his concept of anomie not in a discussion of crime but of suicide. ✓

In *The Division of Labour in Society*, Durkheim proposed two concepts, first, that societies evolved from a simple, non specialised form, called mechanical, towards a highly complex, specialised form, called organic. In the former society people behaved and think alike and more or less perform the same work tasks and have the same group oriented goals. When societies become more complex, or organic, work also becomes more complex. In this society, people are no longer tied to one another and social bonds are impersonal.

No lists!

Anomie refers to a breakdown of social norms and it a condition where norms no longer control the activities of members in society. Individuals cannot find their place in society without clear rules to help guide them. Changing conditions as well as adjustment of life leads to dissatisfaction, conflict, and deviance. He observed those social periods of disruption, such as economic depression, for instance brought about greater anomie and higher rates of crime, suicide, and deviance.

Durkheim felt that sudden change caused a state of anomie. The system breaks down, either during a great prosperity or a great depression; anomie is the same result.

{3} Cesare Lombroso {1835-1909} in his book, *The Female Offender* Lombroso replaced the notion of free will and rationality with the notion of determinism. Together with his followers, Enrico Ferri and Raffaele Garofalo, he developed the positivist school of criminology which sought experimentation.

Lombroso believed in the Criminal born man and woman. He believed they had physical features of ape like creatures that were not fully developed as humans were. Lombroso measured thousands of live and dead prisoners to prove his theory.

He noted that criminals lacked moral sense, had an absence of remorse and used much slang. Lombroso later added social and economic factors to his list of crime causation but said they were second in nature to biological, predetermination factors. His theory however has been kept alive, not by agreement but by much criticism.

{4} Ngaire Naffine *Feminism and Criminology* reveals criminology's ill-founded disparagement of feminism and its unwillingness to engage theories that would invigorate the discipline.

Naffine questions why criminologists are still reluctant to adopt a feminist perspective and continue to deny the contribution feminism has to make in this field.

Naffine criticise the mind set that sees women as deviant, even when they are more normal and law abiding than men, she goes on to analyse the treatment of female offenders by the criminal justice system and looks at women as victims of crime, particularly violent crime. She further points to such questions as what makes women commit fewer crimes? She suggested two different kinds of understanding of the impact of femininity and masculinity on both criminals behaviour and criminology's worldview.

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PRACTICAL RESEARCH SKILLS  
ASSIGNMENT

CRITICALLY ASSESS FREDA ALDER'S FEMINIST THEORY ON  
WOMEN AND CRIME

The title of my research question may suggest one perspective, but from my reading of the subject, I came across many viewpoints developed from different feminist writers, some very distinct from each other while others consist of a collection of ideas from several perspectives.

Feminist perspective over the last thirty some thing years have brought new topics of careful considerations under criminology and the study of women. Most importantly, they have challenged the theories, concepts, assumptions and methods of the earlier people involved of the study of crime in this area.

Criminology, for feminist theorist and researchers was a constraining rather than a constructive influence. Theories of criminality have been developed from studies and had focused primarily on men and crime with little reference to women. The danger has been assumed that these theories would be extended to include women criminals, but it has not in a way done so, [Gelsthorpe and Morris 1990] 6

Feminism in the context of Gender and Crime has also brought about problems, as women as offenders have been discussed within the boundaries of sexual and petty offences such as prostitution and shoplifting [Naffine 1997].

[Criminology and Justice, a book by] Voigt et al<sup>(1994)</sup> mentioned the inadequacies of criminology text suggesting that criminology is nothing more specialised theories of male delinquency and crime. This in short tends to be based on the offender and not the crime they commit. This sexism attitude in criminology is what Gelsthorp talk about as a discrimination against women in the area of crime.

Gelsthorp warns that this attitude is extended to sentencing, punishment and incarceration of women [1986: 138-149] with this argument, she went on to accuse the police welfare institutions and judges as seeing crime as something men should do, simply because they are men. [Gelsthorpe 1986: 149]

Women in this sense are not expected to commit or be criminals and if they did anything, contrary to this belief they were defined as mad and not bad, [Lloyd 1995] \*

Women were therefore perceived as sexual objects and expected to remain within male dominated ideologies such as homemakers and carers taking second place after

Method  
Aims, ... etc. ?

men [Oakley 1985:56], women that did not conform to this norm were severely punished with no opportunity to explain their actions.

The major intervention to address these issues was started by Elizabeth Fry in the early nineteenth century, who campaigned for women to be housed in separate prison from men and offered rehabilitation.

Later on in the century was when writers Lombroso and Ferrero [1895], Thomas [1967] and Pollock [1961], whom are known as the pioneers in this area of criminology theories, started their classical study in the area of women and crime.

Lombroso and Ferrero were the authors of the book "The Female Offender" their main theory was based on "Atavism". ←

Which basically refers to the belief that all individuals that displays anti social behaviour were biological throwbacks to an earlier evolutionary stage, people more primitive and less highly evolved than their noncriminal counterpart? [Smart 1978: 32]

The genesis of this particular mode of thought is found in the work of Lombroso, who has called the founding father of the biological positivist school in criminology. Lombroso's brand of positivism removed the study of crime and criminals away from legal experts and social scientists and made it the domain of human biologists, that is medical doctors and subsequently psychiatrists and psychologists. [Carol Smart, A feminist critique, Women Crime and Criminology]

This brought the conclusion that the born female criminal has the criminal qualities of the male and the worst characteristics of a woman.

Lombroso and Ferrero [1895] supported this argument and included deceitfulness and other traits that were not common in men; subsequently it made it look as if criminal women were genetically more males than female.

Other classical theorist such as Thomas [1967 and later, Pollack [1961], believed that criminality was a pathology and social induced rather than biologically inherited. Thomas explained that girl as a child does not know any values until she picks from others.

Pollack [1961] also believed it is the behaviour that they adapt from that tender age that leads girls into a masked character of female criminality. He went on to say in a male dominated culture, women have always been seen strange, secretive and sometimes dangerous [Pollack 1961: 149]

Edwards [1984] also believed that the enemy is within every woman, but not her reproductive biology, but rather it is the habit regarding it into which she has been led by centuries of male domination [Edwards 1984: 91]

Criminology as you can see has a long history of treating women in crime with a massive measure of indifference. The traditional explanation from which criminology derives its conception of these sexes was criticised by the initial feminist writers.

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These traditional theories had largely ignored to explain the criminal behaviour of a woman, and those who tried to explain it had relied on stereotypical images of women and most importantly, these theories had failed to explain the differences between women and men in their participation in crime.

From these problems, there was a need for these theories to be criticised. Following, feminist criminology developed in the late 1960s and into 1970s. Alongside was the women's liberation movement that brought many issues that were problem to the public domain.

The women's liberation movement having been around the beginning of feminist criminology also helped to blur some feminist writer's perspective about women and crime. Most remarkably, were Freda Adler [1975] and her theory of Sisters in Crime?

The word 'feminism' until now remains in the minds of people as the cause of problems in our society today. Chesney-Lind [1980] argued that Freda Adler [1975] Sisters in crime seem to have done little to alleviate the negative assumptions that come in this area.

Real problems within the criminal justice system appear to have been obscured and such deflection may have provided those opposed to the women's movement with scientific evidence of the dark side of liberation. [Chesney-Lind 1980: 16-17]

Freda Alder believed that the arrival of the Second Wave of Feminism during the 1970's consequently coincided with need to research in women's criminal activity. ☺

She further made claims such as while women have demanded equal opportunity in the fields of legitimate endeavours, others have been determined to force their way into the world of major crimes such as corporate crime [white collar crime], murder and robbery. [Adler 1975:]

It obvious that female white-collar crime has increased since the liberation of women.

Finally, Adler suggested that as women were climbing up the corporate business ladder, they were making use of their vocational liberation to pursue careers in white-collar crime [1975: 83-84] ☺

Alder's theory has been criticised by other feminist writer such as Brown. [1986] She described Adler's theory as an embarrassment to feminism, and instead her conclusions have made female crime more visible through increased reporting, policing and sentencing of female offenders.

Carol Smart argues that Alder's theory is based on statistical illusion.

Carlene argues that Alder's new female criminal is cast as the biological female who is portrayed as masculine. ☺

This theory is in line with the traditional theory of women rejecting their proper feminine role and this concluded that Alder's role in this was in the light of traditional criminology rather than a feminist one.

Alders perspective also seems to exclude factors such as race, ethnicity, age and class, which is seen as the most important issues in the eyes of a feminist writer.

Jane Chapman [1980] in her studies of labour force participation and female crime showed an increase in criminal activities during times of economic hardship.

It appeared that when the economy was good crime was less and had nothing to do with women.

Naffine [1987: 99] believed that the criminal woman's motive appears more rational and straight forward than that of a criminal male

James and Thornton revealed from studies involving women prisoners that those incarcerated were mainly from uneducated backgrounds when they were questioned why they offended, they reasons were not liberation motivated [James and Thornton 1980: 240]

This on the other hand was contrary to Alder's theory of emancipation, feminism that appeared to be a positive force for conformity when there was an opportunity to offend.

## CONCLUSION

It rather looks like Adler, s theory if any thing has caused problem for women in this area, especially when it comes to women's fight for equality. Her views in away appear to have entrenched existing view of women and the women's movement.

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Colloquial  
language

The women's movement has been argued of causing an increase in crime in women especially those of rather serious nature.

It appears that women were forced to commit offences as a result of oppressed condition due to unemployment.

In the 1970,s feminist scholars had stressed the importance of distinguishing biological sex from sociological-cultural gender, and of developing a comprehensive feminist theory that might replace liberal, Marxist or psychoanalytical theories

Somehow, all those efforts that were made could not achieve anything.

Critical theories in various areas were expressed later on, such [Hook 1981] who was a racism critique, suggested a failure of earlier feminist scholarship to reflect on its own white solipsism [Rich 1979 299] and compulsory heterosexuality [Rich 1980]

Feminist that drew from post-modern thought also challenges the term woman

The challenges went on and new concepts in this area were developed such as the emergence of two topics, sex and gender, class race and gender and the doing gender.

Class-race-and gender, is what Pat Carlene argued was the need to theorise inequalities that both recognises and denies structuralism?

In the US, class-race and gender emerged from the struggles of black women in the Civil Right Movement, came into academic institutions in the late 1970s through books of women of colour

Doing gender, Candace West and Donald Zimmerman [1987] describe as a situation accomplishment.

R.W Connell 1987 1995 and James Messerschmidt [1993] have developed linkage between doing gender and gender relations of power.

West and Fenstermaker also published the Doing Difference in this; they tried to incorporate the two.

Their work went on show how gender creates differences between men and women

Many criticised and objected that this theory ignored power and oppression [Collin et al 1995: 491]

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*Should be alphabetical  
+ contain full details re title, publisher + location*

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9. George B Vold [1989] Theoretical Criminology
10. Sandra Walklate [2001] Gender Crime and Criminal Justice

Topic	critically, assess Freda Alder's theory on feminism and crime
Methodology	<p>I had started off with a topic of crime as in general, but I had to narrow down to an area within crime, as the general approach had become too wide.</p> <p>The introduction will discuss traditional and feminist perspectives on women and crime within the social discipline of criminology.</p> <p>The question will bring into view, different ideas from some prominent feminist writers in the field of criminology.</p> <p>Part one: I intend to introduce criminology as a discipline in its traditional form and discuss why a feminist criminology appears necessary.</p> <p>Part two: focus on the book <i>Sisters in Crime</i> (could women's emancipation account for the apparent increase in crime and if not what has?)</p> <p>Conclusion: I intend to focus on modern theories and crime such as rape and domestic violence.</p> <p>I have chosen this methodology because it covers all the necessary issues.</p>
Books to review	<p>{1} Meaning of Crime {Jack Katz's book, <i>Seduction of Crime</i>}</p> <p>{2} Emile Durkheim's book <i>The Division of Labour in Society</i></p> <p>{3} Lombroso and Ferrero's <i>The Female Offender</i></p> <p>{4} Freda Adler's book <i>Sisters in Crime</i></p> <p>{5} Ngaire Naffine's book <i>Feminism and Criminology</i></p>

## Comments

*Research Methods: Entertainment Law*

Marker One

While you have a good topic, you have not written a research proposal—remember the assignment sheet? Nor a literature review. There really is no excuse for this as we covered these topics almost every session in class. Recall I said the lit. rev. should not be a list. Also you give me no idea of what methods you propose using nor any account of analysis.

Marker Two.

This is indeed merely a list of what a variety of authors have said about your topic, summaries rather than evaluation. After your bibliography at pg7 there is an outline of your planned research—this is the type of information you should have focused on during the body of your work. As it stands you give the reader no real sense of your research question / hypothesis or the methodology / methods you will adopt to answer your question / prove your hypothesis.

Agreed Mark 40%