

How does classical criminology inform evidence-based policing?

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Classical criminology derives from the assumption of free will, and that the crime resulted from rational choice and of the impulses of the offender (Newburn, 2005). Control theory suggests that at birth, all people possess a hedonistic drive, which can lead to criminal behaviour. However, most humans control their natural self-serving natures, as it is the prosocial thing to do (Hirschi, 1969). There are four models of social control; direct, internalised, alternative means of need of satisfaction and indirect control. Direct control is from an external force such as teachers, or police. Internalised control is when people regulate their own behaviour, even if there is no external control over them. Control through alternative means of need satisfaction is when there is more than one way of achieving the goal, thus reducing the temptation to commit the crime. Indirect is control through the respect or affection one may have, for example not wanting to disappoint parents (Hirschi, 1969). Rational Choice theory proposed that people calculate the benefits of a crime, and whether this outweighs the chances of being caught, and the severity of the punishment (Clarke & Cornish, 1986). Routine Activity theory analyses the opportunity of crime opportunity, and the situations these arise in. First there must be a suitable target, which is any type of individual or property, which is easily attainable. Next, there must be a motivated offender, which is someone who is capable of committing a crime and is willing to do so. Lastly, there needs to be the absence of a suitable guardian, which is someone or something that deters the crime from happening (Cohen & Felson, 1979). Evidence-based policing means that the police use practices and decisions through the best available evidence. Best available evidence is when appropriate research methods and sources have been used in a carefully conducted, relevant, peer reviewed and appropriate way when asking questions. All conclusions reached should be transparent, and clear about limitations present (College of Policing, 2023). In order to better apply EBP, there are models, such as SARA and Hot Spot Policing, which are used as effective strategies and guides for EBP. Sexual Violence is one of the most prevalent crimes, with 1 in 4 women experiencing sexual violence or assault as an adult (Rape Crisis England & Wales, n.d.).

Control theory suggests that at birth, all people possess a hedonistic drive, which in turn leads to criminal behaviour. If the view of human nature includes the conception of free will, like Control theory suggests, this means that offenders have the capacity of choice, and they hold the responsibility for their behaviour (Kempf-Leonard & Morris, 2012). This could mean that even though police are officers of the law, they may have a hedonistic drive behind their ambitions, for example, the power that comes with being a police officer. By making this choice, they are responsible for their actions while on and off duty. However, if police officers use this theory to reduce crime, it will decrease prejudice against minority groups like people of colour, as the theory states that all people have the potential for criminal behaviour for selfish reasons. Furthermore, the four modes of social control already decrease crime, if there was no social pressure or modes of control, crime rates would be much higher. Evidence based policing models, such as SARA and Hot Spot Policing, are used to help police officers use best practice and available evidence. The SARA model is an acronym which stands for scanning, analysis, response, and assessment, which is used in decision making situations. Scanning involves identifying recurring problems and the consequences of those problems. Next, police prioritize those problems and develop goals to combat them. Lastly, they need to determine how often those problems occur and how these issues have been a concern. The next step, analysis, aims to identify and understand the events and conditions that go with the problems. Relevant data is collected, and research is done to confirm what is known about the type of problem. Next, the way the problem is currently being addressed is investigated, checking for the strengths and limitations of the current response type. Officers will identify resources that may assist in developing a deeper understanding of the issue. Lastly, a hypothesis is made about why the problem is occurring. The response step is used for brainstorming for new ways to deal with the problem and seeing what other communities and people with similar problems have done to combat the issue. A response plan is made, and responsible parties are then identified, and the response plan is carried out. Assessment determines whether the plan was implemented, as a form of process evaluation. Pre and postresponse qualitative and quantitative data is collected, to determine whether the goals and

objectives were achieved. Any new strategies needed to improve the original plan will be identified and ongoing assessment will be conducted, in order to ensure effectiveness is maintained (Eck & Spelman, 1987). Hot Spot policing is a strategy for reducing crime through targeting resources and activities in hot spots. This is based on the idea that crime is not evenly spread out in neighbourhoods but that it is clustered in smaller locations. By focusing resources on more persistent high crime areas, the policing system can tackle crime problems more efficiently (College of Policing, 2022).

Crime is a deliberate act that causes physical or psychological harm, damage to or loss of property, and is against the law (Police.uk, 2023). Criminality on the other hand is the properties and qualities that individuals have, which signify the willingness to commit crimes and other harmful acts (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). If classical criminology derives from the assumption of free will, and that the crime resulted from rational choice and of the impulses of the offender, then criminality relates to the properties the offender already had, prior to committing an offence. If the offender has the free will to commit a crime, and the criminality to do so, a crime will occur.

Sexual violence is any act that is sexual in nature, which happens without a person's consent (NSVRC, 2010). Rape is often considered a crime of passion. However, psychologists have found that reasoning behind sexual violence is mostly the need for domination and control, instead of an inability to control one's sexual urges; rape is an act of power and aggression. A crime of passion is a crime which is committed in a heat of passion or in response to being provoked, instead of crime that was premeditated or deliberated (Cornell Law School n.d.). Sexual violence is one of the most frequently committed violent crimes and its occurrence is steadily increasing. Sexual assault by an acquaintance or date rape is a commonly unreported crime. In a survey sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health where 32 schools took part, 6,159 college students were interviewed regarding rape. 84 percent of the victims of completed rapes knew their offender, with 66 percent of the victims knowing them as a date. 95 percent of the victims did not report the crime to the police (U.S. Department of Justice, 1987). Through classical criminology, which is the assumption of free will, and that crime results from rational choice and of the impulses of the offender (Newburn, 2005), one can assume that a perpetrator of sexual violence knows and understands that what they are doing is wrong, as well as it being a crime. When it comes to sexual violence, the first responder will be a Sexual Offence Liaison Officer. These officers are responsible for acting as a first responder to allegations regarding a sexual offence. They preserve the integrity of evidence and information that is gathered from the victim. Victims are then given information about other police departments and support agencies, that are able to help with the after math of sexual violence (College of Policing, 2021). Evidence-based policing will use practices and decisions through the best available evidence in order to convict someone. A Sexual Offence Liaison Officer may use models such as SARA or Hot-spot policing to gather information and prevent crime, by identifying areas that have higher sexual violence rates.

Classical criminology and Evidence-based policing are big parts of modern day policing, as they set forth a guide which influences decisions. Classical criminology allows for police officers to assume that offenders have free will, and that the crime resulted from rational choice and of their own impulses (Newburn, 2005). Evidence-based policing means that the police use practices and decisions through the best available evidence, which allows for more integrity (College of Policing, 2023). However, classical criminology does not take into account that offenders may be suffering from a mental disorder, or that they were suffering from something like diminished responsibility. Diminished responsibility is a partial defence to murder within the S.2 Homicide Act (1957). This refers to a person or persons who kills someone and is convicted of voluntary manslaughter instead

of murder, due to an abnormality of mental functioning. *R v Byrne* (1960), was a case regarding a man's sexual violence crimes. He argued that his ability to control his sexual impulses and desires was hindered, due to diminished responsibility. However, it was deemed that Byrne could not claim this as a defence, as he was considered vicious and depraved, instead of suffering from mental abnormality (Williams, 1961). Evidence-based policing relies heavily on evidence being gathered, but often sexual violence crimes are not reported until much later, such as the #MeToo movement (Ordway, 2021), meaning that the evidence has been lost. Evidenced-based policing may work with most crimes, but it may not work with older sexual violence cases. Overall, classical criminology and evidence-based policing are important parts of police work, but they may not always be effective.

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