

STUDENT NAME	PORTIA BOATENG
STUDENT ID	2131350
PROGRAMME	BSC PROFESSIONAL POLICING
MODULE	UNDERSTANDING CRIME, JUSTICE AND PUNISHMENT
MODULE CODE	BMPL5010
ASSIGNMENT TITTLE	USING CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES TO EVALUATE WHETHER FRED AND ROSEMARY WEST WERE BORN OR MADE CRIMINALS

Fred and Rosemary West were married couples born in 1941 and 1953 respectively in Gloucestershire, England who were accused of committing at least twelve brutal murders including several young girls and their own family members between the 1960s and 1980s. In 1994, investigators discovered multiple human remains buried in the Wests' property, but Fred West committed suicide in police custody without standing trial while the wife was convicted to life in prison in 1995 of ten out of the twelve murders (Bennell, 2019; Masters, 1995). Factors such as genetics, environment, psychological and social influence have a significant impact on criminal behavior of Fred and Rosemary West.

Biosocial theory as a criminological theory explains that, both biological and environment factors have influence on how one becomes criminal (Piquero, 2008). Considering the case of Fred and Rosemary West, it can be concluded that, both biological environmental factors had roles to play in their criminal behaviour. Growing up, it was suspected that Fred West had sexual abuse in his household from his mother and his father also had sexual relationship with his daughters and taught Fred bestiality (Sounes, 1995). There is 2.4 times higher of children of criminal parents to become criminals as compared to those without criminal parents (Sytske Beseme, 2012). The troubled childhood and exposure to domestic violence of Fred West could have influenced his later violent tendencies (Jones & Farrington, 2018). Moreover, Rosemary West's traumatic experiences of sexual abuse during her childhood since she was subjected to sexual abuse also contributed to the development of her criminal behaviour (Gorst-Unsworth & Fox, 2012).

Fred was involved in a motorcycle accident when he was at the age of seventeen and that put him in a coma for a week. This led him to having a metal plate operated into his head (Crimelibrary, 2009). The brain abnormalities may have contributed to his

development of criminal behaviour. A few experimental considers have recommended a relationship between brain harm and both violent and non-violent criminal conduct (Freedman & Hemenway, 2000; Sarapata, et al 1998; Grafman et al, 1996). Sarapata et al (1998) detailed a 50% predominance of brain harm in people sentenced of non-violent crime or crime violations, compared to 5-15% in comparison tests. This biosocial theory also talks about the influence of abusive or neglectful upbringing, exposure to violence and substance abuse which are environmental factors can increase the likelihood of criminal behaviour. Even though Fred was sentenced for attacking a thirteen-year-old young lady when he was nineteen a long time, he didn't serve any imprisonment time since his specialist said he endured from epileptic fits, but he and his sister were essentially ignored and disowned by the rest of his family.

To add to that, Social Disorganization theory suggests that crimes are rampant in communities with social disorganizations such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment. All things considered, there's another contention that, crime is especially critical in zones with fast social or financial change as compared to where individuals are poor (Sillars, 1998). Another school of thought moreover concluded that, crime isn't caused by poverty since crime rates don't reliably change with the number of poor individuals in a particular zone (Shaw & Mckay, 1969). Be that as it may, it is additionally concluded that, the relationship between poverty and crime portrays that, individuals from a poor foundation have the most noteworthy inclinations to commit crimes because of their hardship (Fadaei, 1990). Frederick Walter Stephen West was born into a poor family of farm workers in Bickerton Cottage, Much Marele (Crimelibrary, 2009).

In addition, the psychological theory which also suggests that certain psychological factors such as lack of empathy, impulse control problems and psychopathy can be a

factor of individual's criminal behaviour (Hare, 2003). Fred West's display of lack of remorse and empathy for his victims are psychopathic traits which shows that he was born criminal (Jones & Farrington, 2018). Rosemary West on the other hand had temper problem and her despise for caring about children who were not hers biologically made her to often treat her stepdaughters badly. Eysenckien (1996) opined that, psychopaths have a nervous system that interrupts with the frequent conditioning and relationship between transgression and punishment and hence they fail to anticipate punishment and therefore feels no guilt.

The influence of peers and the learning of deviant subcultural norms can influence the chances of criminal behaviour (Cloward & Ohlin, 1960). Fred and Rosemary West were in a network of acquaintances who were engaged in criminal activities including several exploitative violence and murder (Jones & Farrington, 2018). The Social learning theory shows that individuals learn criminal behaviour through observations, imitations, and reinforcement (Akers, 1998) and therefore Fred and Rosemary West may not be born criminals but their exposure to criminal activities and reinforcement of criminal behaviour made them develop criminal tendencies (Bandura, 1977). This theory undermines the importance of the individual's own contribution to his development (Berk, 2014). It also didn't take into account the individual differences in personality of Fred and Rosemary West.

Lastly, the Strain theory also believes in the school of thought that, people may be involved in crimes as a response to perceived strain or frustration resulting from societal pressures and their inability to achieve desired goals through legal ways (Merton, 1938). Looking the criminal case study of Fred and Rosemary West, their troubled upbringing, lack of opportunities and dysfunctional family dynamics may have brought about strain which led them to become criminals as a way of coping with the

society, achieving satisfaction or reaching a social status. Rosemary particularly wasn't bright in school and a bit overweight so many a time, she was teased by her colleagues, and she often responded to her bullies by attacking them aggressively.

In conclusion, the limitations of those theories make it difficult to conclude that, Fred and Rosemary West were born or made criminals. The complexity of factors influences criminal behaviour and this criminal case study is not an exception (Gibbons et al, 2016). However, Fred and Rosemary West troubled upbringing, exposure to violence and their peer networking may have made them criminals. Individuals may be influence by various experiences and impacts throughout their lives. The type of violent environment can develop aggressive and criminal action which may lead to individuals adopting similar pattern of behaviour (Bandura, 1977). Inasmuch as that, Fred particularly may be born criminals because of his lack of remorse and empathy for his victims.

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