



Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points through Life

By Robert J. Sampson, John H. Laub

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This new theory of crime over the life course provides an important foundation for rethinking criminal justice policy. It is based on the reanalysis of a classic set of data: Sheldon and Eleanor Gluecks' mid-century study of 500 delinquents and 500 nondelinquents from childhood to adulthood. Several years ago, Robert Sampson and John Laub dusted off sixty cartons of the Gluecks' data that had been stored in the basement of the Harvard Law School and undertook a lengthy process of recoding, computerizing, and reanalyzing it. On the basis of their findings, they developed a theory of informal social control that acknowledges the importance of childhood behavior but rejects the implication that adult social factors have little relevance. This theory accounts for both stability and change in crime and deviance throughout the life course.

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Editorial Review

Review

The book's logical organization, the authors' parsimonious explanation of key concepts and theoretical propositions, and the comprehensive presentation of their findings interact to produce a volume that possesses a high degree of clarity and readability...*Crime in the Making* should be read by all developmental criminologists and those interested in the study of criminal careers.

--Douglas Yearwood (*Criminologist*)

Imaginative and forthright, a well-argued book with broad theoretical and methodological implications.

--John Modell (*American Journal of Sociology*)

This book will be widely read and cited, and it deserves to be. [The authors] have carefully crafted a model which addresses both stability and change in delinquency and crime over the life course, and they have done an impeccable job of testing it.

--Candace Kruttschnitt (*Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*)

Crime in the Making deserves widespread attention.

--Joan McCord (*Contemporary Sociology*)

Review

Hard-headed quantitative variable-oriented statistics are skillfully blended with qualitative person-oriented studies of individual life histories. A 'must' for anyone interested in either criminology or life-span development, and of great interest to a much wider group of readers. *Crime in the Making* is destined to become a classic.

--Michael Rutter, Institute of Psychiatry, University of London

About the Author

Robert J. Sampson is Professor and Chair of Sociology at Harvard University.

John H. Laub is Professor of Criminology, University of Maryland.

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