

OLLI

1/27/22

Interesting book for reading

- Butler, Paul (2017). *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*. The New Press.

Terry v. Ohio (1968): Stop and Frisk

- Reasonable suspicion
- <https://www.talksonlaw.com/briefs/what-is-stop-and-frisk>

Stop and Frisk

- Judge Shira Scheindlin (2013),
- “This case is not about the effectiveness of stop and frisk in deterring or combatting crime. This Court’s mandate is solely to judge the constitutionality of police behavior, not its effectiveness as a law. . . .”
- “The enshrinement of constitutional rights necessarily takes certain policy choices off the table.”

Media Paid Attention

- (2017) Salt Lake City. Nurse Alex Wubbels told to take blood from unconscious patient. She refused: consent, search warrant, under arrest.
- Det Payne arrested her, cuffed and put her in police car. His Lt. approved.
- Why did he arrest her?

Rodney King Beating

- George Holliday, filmed the incident from his nearby balcony and sent the footage to local news station KTLA.
- It was the beating watched around the world.

Media Effects

- **Agenda Setting:** when the mass media pay attention to particular events or issues, they determine, or set the agenda for, the major topics of discussion for individuals or society. They don't tell us what to think, but they tell us what to think *about*.
- Example:



- April 1986 – New York Times and CBS conduct a nationwide poll, asking respondents what they believe is America's biggest problem. Only 2% said it was drugs.

- June 19, 1986 – Famous college basketball player and #2 overall NBA draft pick dies from cocaine overdose.

- September 1986 – same poll,
 - Drugs are now considered #1 problem.

- Remember from last week?

1986 - Ronald Reagan – signed Anti-Drug Abuse Act, which, in addition to strengthening the mandatory minimum sentencing policies, appropriated \$1.7 billion to fund the war on drugs.

What is the agenda today?

- What might we be missing?

Media Effects – Cont'd

- **Cultivation:** Heavy viewing of television leads individuals to perceive reality in ways that are consistent with the portrayals they see on television. The more time an audience spends watching TV, the more likely the audience's view will be “cultivated” by the images and portrayals seen on TV
 - George Gerbner has a term for this – “mean world” syndrome. Viewers with heavy, long-term exposure to television are more likely to see the world as a mean and dangerous place.



McMartin Preschool

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2R21tWs-qCw>

Moral Panic – Stanley Cohen (1972)

Mods and Rockers

1. An event, condition, episode, person, or group of persons is perceived and defined as a threat to societal values, safety, and interests.
2. The nature of these apparent threats are amplified by the mass media, who present the supposed threat through simplistic, symbolic examples. Such portrayals appeal to public prejudices, creating an evil in need of social control (folk devils) and victims (the moral majority).
3. A sense of social anxiety and concern among the public is aroused through these symbolic representations of the threat.

4. The gatekeepers of morality—editors, religious leaders, politicians, and other 'moral'-thinking people—respond to the threat, with socially-accredited experts pronouncing their diagnoses and solutions to the 'threat'. This includes new laws or policies. The police go into action.

5. The condition then disappears, submerges or deteriorates and becomes more visible. Police may still react to original claims

Agents of Moral Panic

- Media — especially key in the early stage of social reaction, producing "processed or coded images" of deviance and the deviants. This involves three processes:^[6]
 - exaggeration and distortions of who did or said what;
 - prediction, the dire consequences of failure to act;
 - symbolization, signifying a person, word, or thing as a threat.
- Moral entrepreneurs — individuals and groups who target deviant behavior
- Societal control culture — comprises those with institutional power: the police, the courts, and local and national politicians. They are made aware of the nature and extent of the 'threat'; concern is passed up the chain of command to the national level, where control measures are instituted.
- The public — these include individuals and groups. They have to decide who and what to believe: in the mod and rocker case, the public initially distrusted media messages, but ultimately believed them.

Importance of Theory – invented by people like me.

- Theories can and do influence policies and lawmakers
 - Superpredators
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YidALyBwat0>

Do Police Reduce Crime?

- Media/police shared agenda says they do
- Crime is more complicated
- If they suspect you, you must be guilty
- Crime control is focus
- “Perp walk”

Shared Agenda

- Public appeals (social media more and more)
- Promote the good work of the police department
- Police need the good will of the media
- Media need the good will of the police (to get stories, etc.)
- Larger departments have Public Information Officers
- Crime makes good news

Competing Agendas

- Police are taught not to trust media
- Most people know about police from media or brief encounter
- Police now recognize the need to work with media (may see as necessary evil) but both want the same thing.
- Both are serving the public
- Good media relations are key – they are ultimately public relations

Law Enforcement responses rated media relations as generally good.

- What they want
 - More honesty,
 - More accuracy,
 - Train reporters to interact with officers,
 - Stop over - sensationalizing events, stop slanting stories to make law enforcement look bad,
 - Report on positive stories,
 - Make corrections,
 - Meet with staff members regularly.
- What relationship can be very good if one of the parties wants the other to make the listed changes?

Study of Media Relations

- Larry Jones Assistant Chief of Crimes against Property at Jacksonville, FL, Police Department.
- Surveyed (55) law enforcement agencies around the state. State and local agencies were included in the study.
- News reporters from four (4) media outlets in Duval County were interviewed. They included three reporters from local news stations and one reporter from the local newspaper.
- <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FCJEI/Programs/SLP/Documents/Full-Text/jones-larry-final-paper.aspx>

Media responses – high ratings for relationship

- What they want
 - honesty,
 - impartiality,
 - proactively,
 - self promotion, and
 - fairness,
 - acknowledgement of the public records laws, (this is big)
 - more consistency, and
 - better explanation of why things are done.

- How can a relationship be considered good if these concerns exist?

- <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FCJEI/Programs/SLP/Documents/Full-Text/jones-larry-final-paper.aspx>

Media Portrayals of Police

- Rogue cops
- Corrupt cops
- Honest cops
- Buddy cops
- Action comedy cops
- Female cops
- Aging cops

Rogue Cops

- Don't follow rules
- Work alone
- Overcome bureaucracy because they are so good
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Xjr2hnOHiM>

Corrupt cops

- Pressure leads them to commit crime
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7Qg_pVwUuU

Honest cops

- The only honest people in a world of corruption
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBZMTHsTQic>

Buddy Cops

- Partners with different personalities forced to work together and eventually solve crimes
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBHvRuBtJqI>

Action Comedy Cops

- Having fun in dangerous situations
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QHk337vv4Y>

Female cops

- Shown as overcoming stereotypes
- Almost always have romantic relationships with male counterparts
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuwaA0BLKr4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAFH3cs88ew>

Aging Cops

- Frustrated by the way that younger officers do things
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIXl1mQcQ4I>