

If it is true that in teaching we learn, we have had the good fortune to do quite a bit of both since the first edition of *Delinquency in Society* was published in 1991. Its continued success is a reflection of what we learn from the comments and suggestions of our students, our colleagues, and their students around the country who read the book. We do enjoy hearing compliments, but we pay very careful attention to the suggestions for improvements. Such suggestions have resulted in a number of changes to the seventh edition, which we have detailed below.

This edition continues to provide a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding the evolving phenomenon of delinquency and society's response to it. Perhaps more exciting, this edition reflects the major innovations within the discipline that have enhanced the understanding of delinquency. While retaining its sociological core, criminology has become more interdisciplinary, adopted a life course perspective that links childhood misconduct to juvenile delinquency to adult crime, and focuses on the most serious, chronic, and violent offenders. This edition incorporates these themes, especially in Chapters 2, 3, 5, and 8. The most notable change in this edition is the addition of a third author, Matt DeLisi, who brings a new, exciting, and refreshing perspective to our discussion of juvenile crime.

## THE SEVENTH EDITION

The seventh edition of *Delinquency in Society* has been thoroughly updated to reflect the most current literature, trends, and developments in criminology, including discussions of the history, institutional context, societal reactions to delinquency, and emerging social policies to prevent adolescent crime. Perhaps the most significant singular change has been the expansion of the theories of delinquency and associated policy implications not only from the fields of sociology, criminology, and criminal justice, but also psychology, human development, neuropsychology, and behavioral genetics. A few examples of changes made in each chapter are presented below:

- Chapter 1, “Defining Delinquency,” has been fully updated with an expanded discussion of the relationship between violent video games and juvenile crime.
- Chapter 2, “Measuring Delinquency,” has been completely updated with a new section on the overlap between official and victimization measures of crime, a new discussion of the importance of concentrated disadvantage to delinquency, and a new *Window on Delinquency* box providing a profile on juvenile delinquents behind bars. In addition, the section on serious, violent, and chronic juvenile offenders has been greatly expanded.
- Chapter 3, “Violent Youth Crime,” has been entirely updated with new sections on juvenile psychopathy, theoretical causes of psychopathy, and

treatment of psychopathic delinquents. There is a greatly revised section on family- and community-based delinquency prevention programs. In addition, there is a new *Window on Delinquency* box about psychopaths and violence.

- Chapter 4, “Illegal Drug Use and Delinquency,” has been totally updated and includes a new *Window on Delinquency* box on the science of ecstasy/MDMA. There is also a new section on the delinquency-drugs link based on Terrie Moffitt’s developmental taxonomy and an improved and reorganized section on responding to adolescent drug use.
- Chapter 5, “Individual Theories of Delinquency: Choice and Trait Explanations,” has been overhauled with new sections on autonomic hypoactivity/ADHD, frontal lobes and executive functioning, hormones and puberty, maternal cigarette smoking, and the interplay between nature and nurture in producing delinquency. There is also a new *Window on Delinquency* box on the dark history of biological criminology.
- Chapter 6, “Sociological Theory: Cultural Deviance, Strain, and Social Control,” has an expanded discussion of these major sociological theories and new discussion of the work of Steven Messner and Richard Rosenfeld.
- Chapter 7, “Sociological Theory: Labeling and Conflict Explanations,” has been updated from top to bottom with a new section on Frank Cullen’s social support theory and its integration with Colvin’s coercion theory. There is also a greatly expanded discussion of our own theory of differential oppression, which is becoming more widely accepted by criminologists worldwide. A new *Window on Delinquency* box describes the current status of America’s children.
- Chapter 8, “Developmental Theories,” has been completely updated and provides an expanded discussion of some of the most contemporary thinking about the causes of juvenile delinquency from a developmental or life course perspective. New additions include discussion of risk and protective factors, and new *Window on Delinquency* boxes on developmental risk factors for delinquency and the effects of child rearing on delinquency.
- Chapter 9, “Female Delinquency Theories,” has been fully updated with new sections on gendered pathways into delinquency and recent biological and developmental explanations of delinquency. In addition, there are new *Window on Delinquency* boxes on improving programming for girls and the relationship between attractiveness and delinquency.
- Chapter 10, “The Family and Delinquency,” has been updated with three new *Window on Delinquency* boxes that discuss family violence, prisoner parents, and child maltreatment. In addition, the family literature has been recast to reflect the life course perspective of contemporary research.
- Chapter 11, “Schools and Delinquency,” has been updated and reorganized with an increased emphasis on bullying. New concepts, such as schools as a source of self-control, communal school organization, and school resource officer programs, as well as new *Window on Delinquency* boxes on school crime statistics and student deaths in American schools have been added.
- Chapter 12, “Peer Group and Gang Delinquency,” has been updated and includes an expanded section on gangs and juvenile justice, and new con-

cepts, such as the selection, facilitation, and enhancement models of gang formation. In addition, the chapter contains four new *Window on Delinquency* boxes on why people are group-oriented, MS-13, gang homicides, and the National Gang Threat Assessment.

- Chapter 13, “Police and Delinquency,” has a new discussion of sealing and expunging juvenile police records. There is also expanded discussion of the role of legal and extralegal factors and their influence on police discretionary arrest decisions.
- Chapter 14, “The Juvenile Court,” has been totally updated and includes new sections on youth courts, juvenile drug courts, the sentencing of juveniles convicted in criminal court, and the use of blended sentences. In addition, there is expanded discussion of restorative justice and the effects of race and sex in detention decisions.
- Chapter 15, “Juvenile Corrections,” has expanded discussions of wrap-around programs, HIV/AIDS in juvenile institutions, and Intensive After-care Programs. There is also new discussion of the use of GPS systems in monitoring juveniles on probation and a new box on the deadly brutality found in a Florida boot camp for juveniles.

## OVERVIEW OF CONTENTS

- **Section 1**, “Nature and Extent of Delinquency,” introduces students to historical and contemporary perceptions of children and how their misbehaviors have been defined as delinquent. It examines the major sources of data on delinquency and problems with measuring the extent of delinquency. Students are also given in-depth coverage of two of the most critical areas of contemporary delinquency in the chapters on youth violence and illegal drug use.
- **Section 2**, “Explaining Delinquency,” provides students with an easy-to-understand discussion of all the major theoretical approaches to explaining juvenile delinquency. Students will be able to examine the substantial contributions of individualistic theories focusing on biological and psychological explanations and the dominant sociological theories ranging from social disorganization, strain, and social control to labeling, conflict, and developmental theories, as well as specialized explanations of female delinquency.
- **Section 3**, “The Social Context of Delinquency,” contextualizes delinquency within three major social settings: the family, the school, and peer groups and the gang. Students will be introduced to provocative discussions dealing with the relationship of family structure and process on delinquency, the nature of delinquency within schools and how schools may contribute to the problem of delinquency, and the extensive problems related to peer-group relations and juvenile gangs.
- **Section 4**, “The Juvenile Justice System,” examines the formal societal response to delinquency within the context of the police, the courts, and corrections. Each chapter provides extensive, cutting-edge coverage of procedures and issues critical in the juvenile justice system’s attempt to prevent and control delinquency.

## LEARNING AIDS

The seventh edition of *Delinquency in Society* contains many of the outstanding pedagogical features introduced in previous editions.

- **Chapter Outlines.** Each chapter begins with an easy-to-follow outline of the major topics that will be discussed. These outlines immediately alert students to the central issues of the chapter as well as to the order in which they are presented.
- **Think about It Questions.** Each chapter contains a wealth of provocative questions focusing on important issues. The questions are located in the margins next to the topics they explore further and are designed to stimulate discussion in class and sharpen student critical thinking.
- **Critical Thinking Questions for Photographs.** The variety of new photographs in the book are accompanied by intriguing questions or extended narratives designed to encourage critical thinking.
- **Theory in a Nutshell Asides.** Many students have difficulty grasping the differences among the various theories of behavior. To make theories more manageable and understandable, each of the more important theories is presented in brief encapsulated form.
- **Key Terms and Subject Glossary.** Students are provided with succinct definitions of commonly used terms and descriptions of important concepts found in bold type throughout the text. For easy reference when students are preparing for exams, each chapter's key terms are defined at the end of the chapter in addition to being included in the Glossary.
- **Name and Subject Indexes.** Separate name and subject indexes are provided at the end of the book to help students in their search for particular issues or concerns.
- **Unique and Exciting Boxes.** To make the text more relevant and interesting for students, we have created four different thematic boxes and inserted them where appropriate within the text:
  - **A Window on Delinquency.** A series of boxes discussing various facets of delinquency personalize the story of delinquency and bring into focus the different life situations of victims and offenders.
  - **Delinquency Around the Globe.** Thematic boxes providing students with brief glimpses into the nature of delinquency in other countries allow students to consider the similarities and differences among nations.
  - **From the Bench.** These boxes focus on the critical judicial decisions in the area of juvenile justice and help students to better understand the impact of legal rulings on the behavior and rights of children.
  - **Delinquency Prevention.** These thematic boxes focus on issues related to the prevention, reduction, or control of delinquency. Some of the programs discussed are well established and appear to most criminologists to be effective in achieving their goals. Other programs discussed hold great promise but are relatively new and untested.

## SUPPLEMENTS

Visit our Online Learning Center Web site at [www.mhhe.com/Regoli7](http://www.mhhe.com/Regoli7).

### For the Student

- On the student side of this open-access, book-specific Web site is content organized by chapter for ease of use in studying for exams or writing papers. This content includes quizzes with instant feedback so students can prepare for exams; flashcards, for studying key terms; and a link to *Theoretical Developments in Juvenile Delinquency* featuring brief descriptive essays and suggested reading.

### For the Instructor

On the password-protected instructor side of the Web site, supplements include:

- *Instructor's Manual/Test Bank*. Chapter outlines, key terms, overviews, lecture notes, discussion questions, a complete test bank, and more.
- *Computerized Test Bank*. Easy-to-use computerized testing program for both Windows and Macintosh computers.
- *PowerPoint Slides*. Complete chapter-by-chapter slide shows featuring text, tables, and illustrations.
- *Course Management Systems Cartridges*. Available with our OLC content for professors who choose to teach the course online.