Conformity and Deviance

.

Deviant behaviors

~ What is deviance? It depends on what is considered "normal"

  ~ crime

  ~ suicide

  ~ addiction (alcohol, drugs)

  ~ mental illness

Explanations

- BIOLOGICAL: the individual is malfunctioning – he was born with his defect

- PSYCHOLOGICAL: the individual is malfunctioning – he was defected as a child

- SOCIOLOGICAL: the society is malfunctioning – it somehow produce too much crime, addiction, suicide etc.

Biological Theories
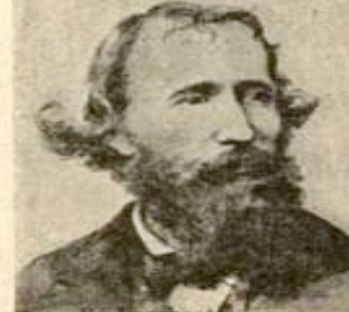
Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909)

the "born criminal"
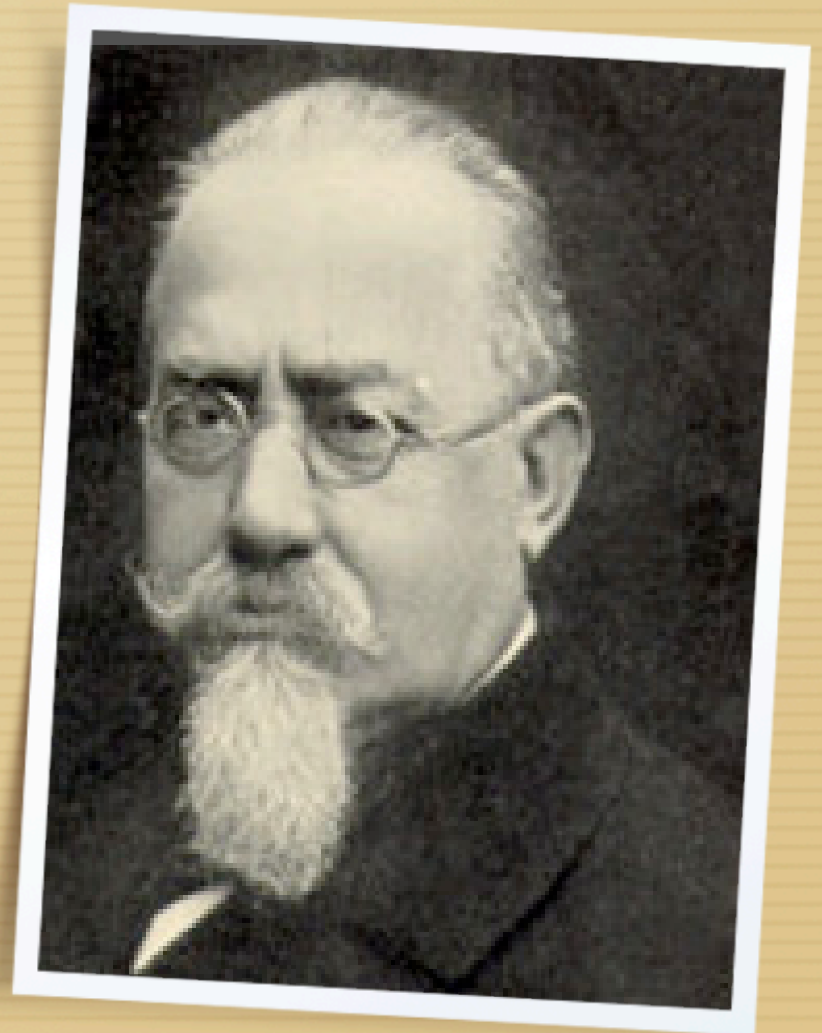
5. Cavalier.   6. Louise Michel.   7. Passanante.   8. Lazzaretti.

9. Carrier.   10. Jourdan.   11. Fieschi.   12. Barà.

13. Gargotte.   14. Steinmacher.   15. Kammerer.   16. Reinsdorf.
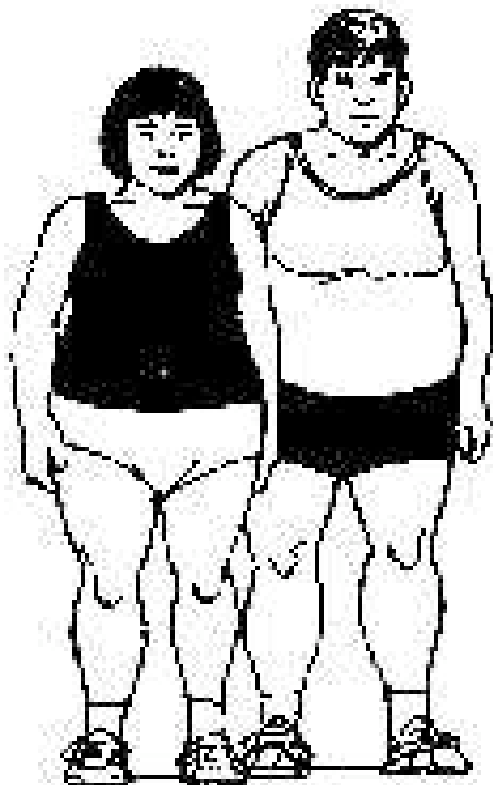
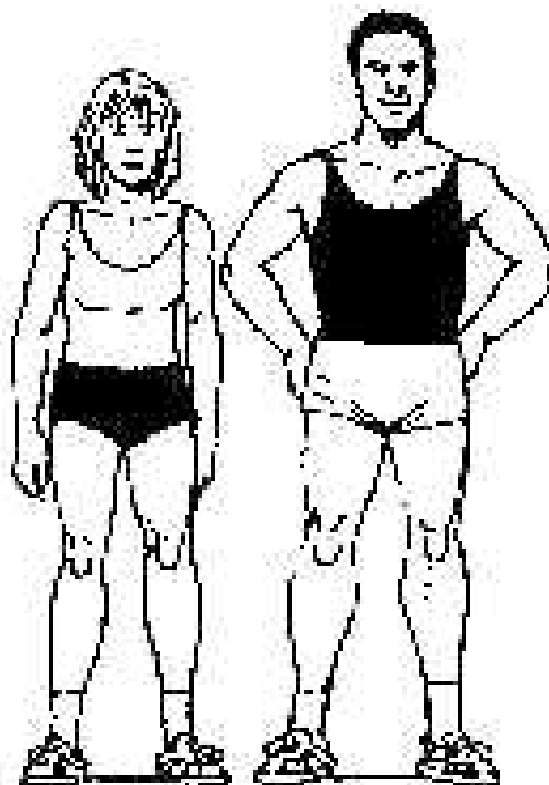17. Hoedel.   18. Brady.   19. Hanlon.   20. Fitzharris.

RÉVOLUTIONNAIRES ET CRIMINELS POLITIQUES. — MATTOÏDES ET FOUS MORAUX.
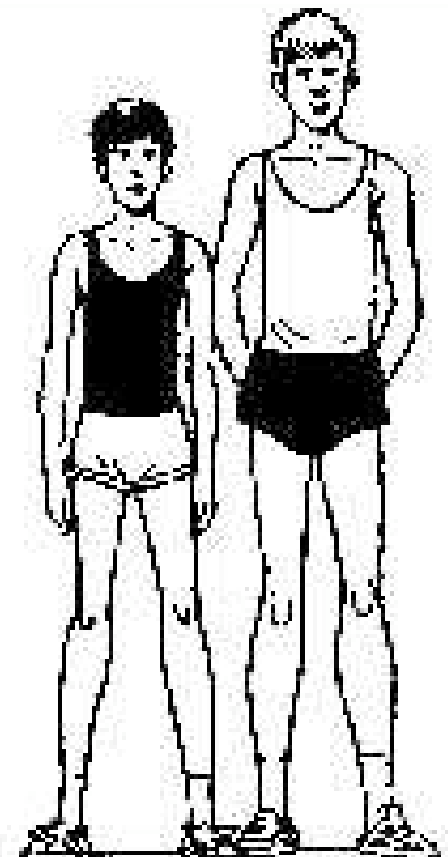
Body Types

Endomorph	Mesomorph	Ectomorph

Modern variants
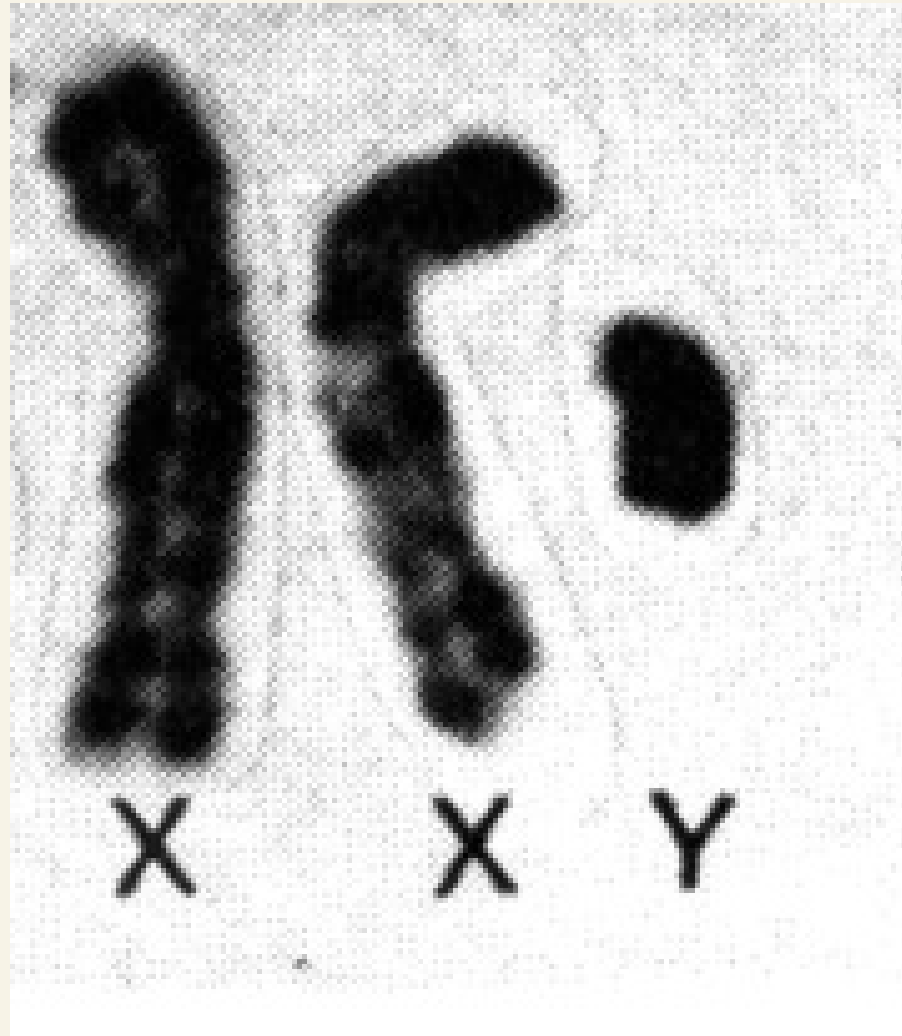
Psychological Theories

Sigmund Freud (1856 - 1939) his theory of personality development is a common starting point

the "psychopath"
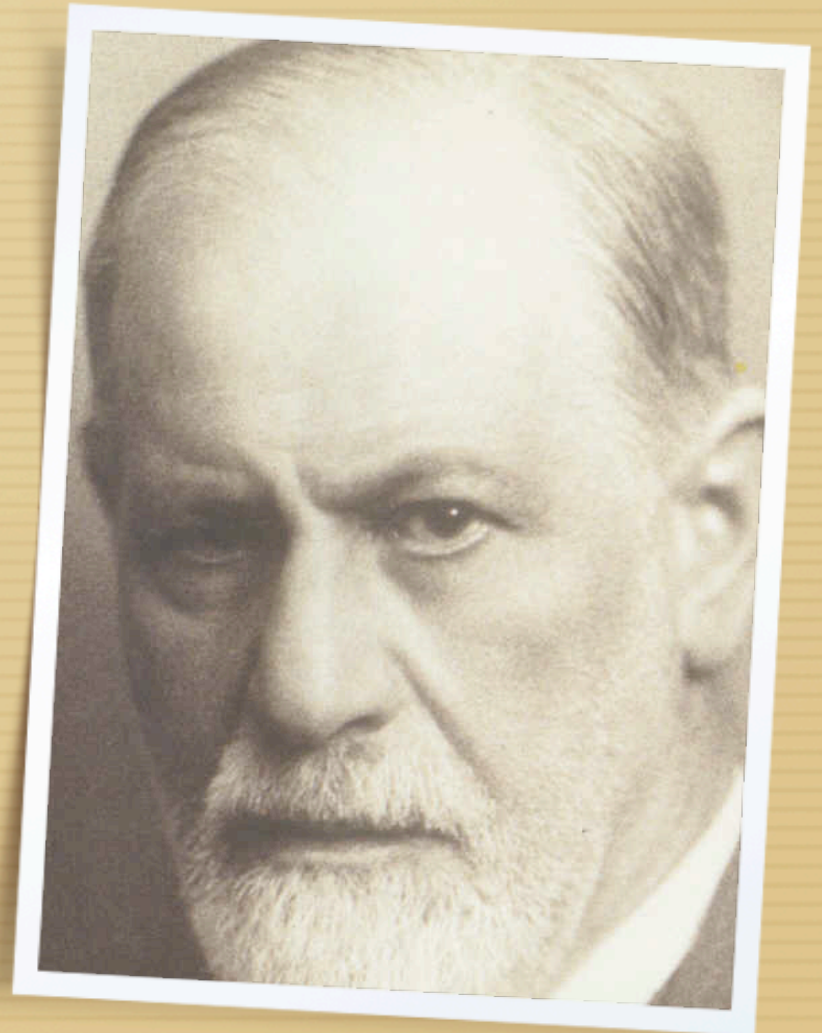
Sociological Theories

- **Functionalism**
  - **WHY** some people break the rules?
- **Marxism**
  - **WHO** makes the rules and **WHO** are profiting from applying the rules?
- **Symbolic Interactionism**
  - **HOW** some people are successfully labeled as deviant?

Functionalism

- **anomie theories**
  - Durkheim
  - Merton
- **subculture theories**
  - Cohen
  - Cloward & Ohlin
  - Miller
  - Matza

Anomie Theories

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

Suicide (1897)

Types of Suicide

anomie

egoism ←————————————→ altruism

fatalism

integration
regulation
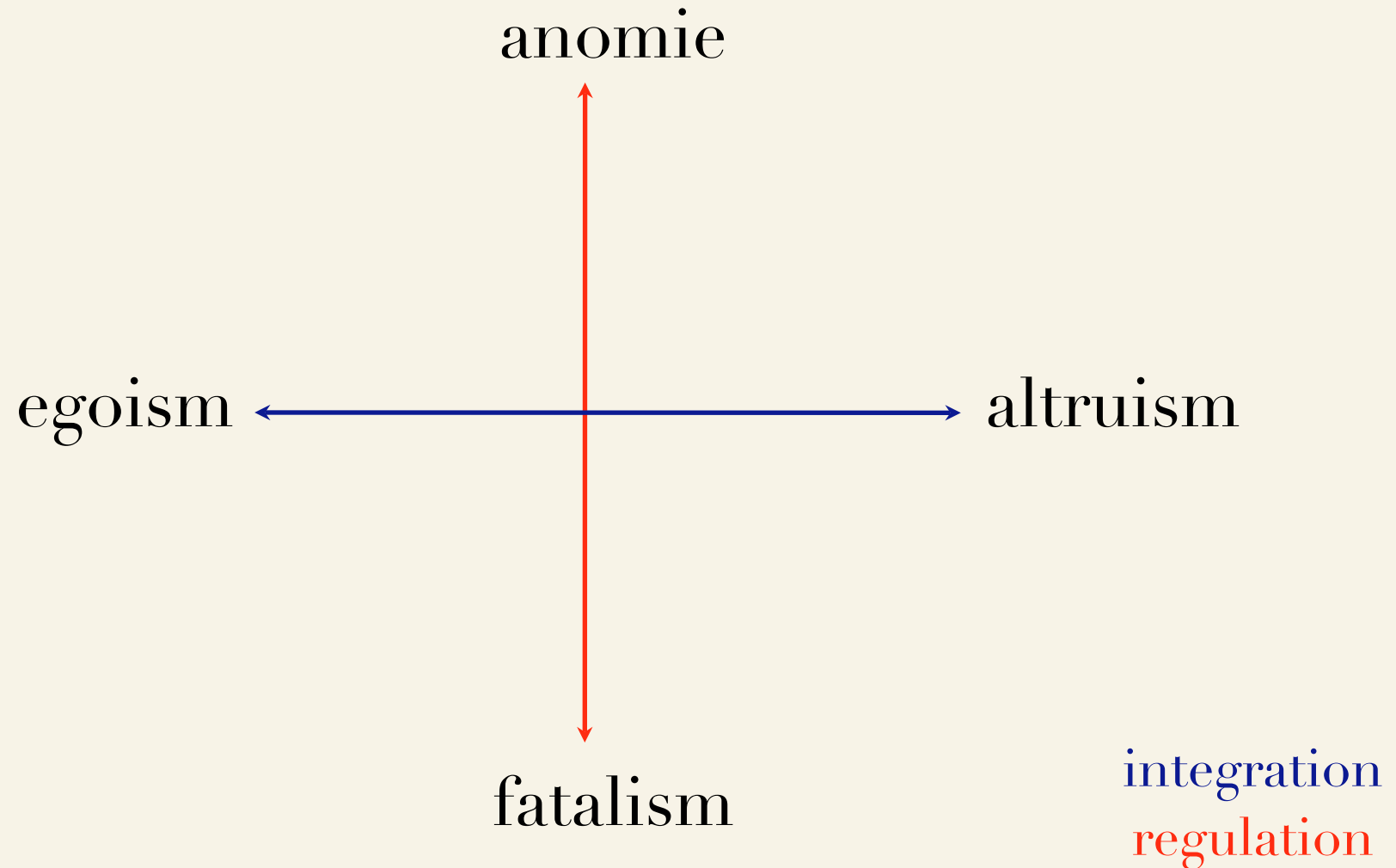
Types of Suicide

~ **Egoism**: Social control is functional, but bond between individual and group is weak. Norms become ineffective in controlling behavior.

~ **Altruism**: Group needs and significance override individual existence, norms may actually support self-destructive behavior.

~ **Fatalism**: Rigidity and inflexibility. Individual (and group) stagnates.

~ **Anomie**

Anomie

- Breakdown of normative structure, rules/norms are weak, unclear.

- No "guidance" for the individual, no limitations. Society lacks the regulatory constraints necessary to control the behavior of its members.

- A product of rapid, uncontrolled, and unpredictable change.

- Without boundaries, limits, norms, individual life becomes meaningless – behavior becomes uncontrollable.

Anomie Theories

Robert K. Merton (1910-2003)

Social Theory and Social Structure

Types of Adaptation

	cultural goals	institutionalized means
conformity	+	+
innovation	+	-
ritualism	-	+
retreatism	-	-
rebellion	+/-	+/-

Subcultural theories

~ Cohen: <u>Status Frustration</u>

~ Cloward & Ohlin: <u>Differential Opportunity Theory</u>

~ Sutherland: <u>Differential Association</u>

~ Miller: <u>Lower Class Subculture</u>

~ Matza: <u>Subterranean Values</u>

Subcultural Theories

Cohen	Cloward and Ohlin
Delinquent subculture as a 'way of life', a parent subculture with variant sub-subcultures	3 distinct delinquent subcultures -- retreatist, conflict and criminal. Virtually the same as Cohen's 'variants'
'Strain' arises from middle-class standards applied to the working class. Results in 'status-frustration' (hence characteristics of negativity, maliciousness etc)	Anomie as in Merton produces 'differential opportunities' for BOTH legitimate and illegitimate means (not everyone is accepted into criminal or conflict subcultures, for example)
'Reaction-formation' explains delinquents' response to dominant culture	Alienation prevents guilt -- instead, social order and a perception of its hypocrisy are blamed

Lower-Class Values

- Walter Miller, Boston, 1955 Lower-Class Focal Concerns

- **Trouble**: getting into and staying out of trouble. Trouble can either mean prestige or landing in jail.

- **Toughness**: a commitment to law-violation and being a problem to others. Machismo and being daring.

- **Smartness**: the ability to gain something by outsmarting or conning others.

- **Excitement**: living on the edge for thrills, doing dangerous things, taking risks

- **Fate**: the belief that life is subject to forces outside of one's control.

- **Automony**: being independant, not relying on others and rejecting authority.

Against the Subcultural Explanation

- Matza: "Techniques of Neutralization"
- They are <u>Not</u> Different
  - (1) Denial of Responsibility
  - (2) Denial of Injury
  - (3) Denial of the Victim
  - (4) Condemnation of the Condemners
  - (5) Appeal to Higher Loyalties

Marxism

- **Corporate Crime**
  - Chambliss
- **Organized Crime**
- **"New Criminology"**
  - Young

White Collar Crime

~ Committed by persons of respectability and high social status (middle and upper class) in the course of their occupation.

~ Involves a betrayal of trust implied in the holding of an office or other position of trust.

~ A greater threat to society than street crime because it promotes cynicism and distrust of basic social institutions.

White Collar Crimes: Types

- Fraud: Intentional deception with the promise of goods or services that do not exist

  - False Advertising, Consumer Fraud, Tax Evasion

- Embezzlement: Misappropriation or misapplication of property or money entrusted to the care of the offender

- Bribery: corrupt payment with the intent to influence the action of a public official

- Pollution: Sometimes pollution involves negligence and other times it is deliberate.

White Collar Crime

- Sutherland, 1939

- Weaknesses in typical crime theory that considered social pathology as the primary explanation behind criminal behavior. White-collar crime casts doubt on the notion that poverty breads crime.

- A major shift in the focus of criminological inquiry. Prior to Sutherland research had been directed toward the lower classes.

White Collar: More Frequent?

- consensus: high vs low
- control: high vs low
- motivation: high vs low

Symbolic interactionism

- **Labeling Theory**
  - Becker
- **Societal Reaction**
  - Lemert
- **Phenomenology**
  - Cicourel

Labeling Theory

Howard S. Becker, (1928-)
Chicago
Outsiders, 1963.

Labeling

- "Deviance is not a quality of the act the person commits, but rather a consequence of the application by others of rules and sanctions to an offender. The deviant is one to whom that label has successfully been applied; deviant behavior is behavior that people so label."

Negotiated Meanings

~ The Definition of the Situation.

~ *Verstehen*

  ~ Action is based on meaning

  ~ Meaning is created through interaction

  ~ Meaning is continually modified and interpreted

~ Focus on the situational dynamics out of which meaning emerges.

Labeling

- The How rather than the Why.

- Process.

- Negotiated reality.

- Not the act or the actor per se, but what surrounds and follows.

- Social history of labels: In a fluid and pluralistic society, who and what is considered deviant is constantly changing.

- Construction and application of labels: Moral Entrepreneurs, Official Agents of Control, and Organizational Structure.

- Consequences of Labeling.

Lemert: Secondary Deviance

~ Secondary deviance is a dynamic, interactional product; a response to societal reaction.

~ Societal reaction initiates sociological/psychological processes which sustain deviance, make it more central in the life of the "deviant."

~ Impact on self-concept.

~ Begins moral "career."

~ Leads to the formation of sub-culture and learning processes.

~ Power to resist the impact of the label is differentially stratified throughout society. Impacts some groups more than others.

Suicide in Hungary

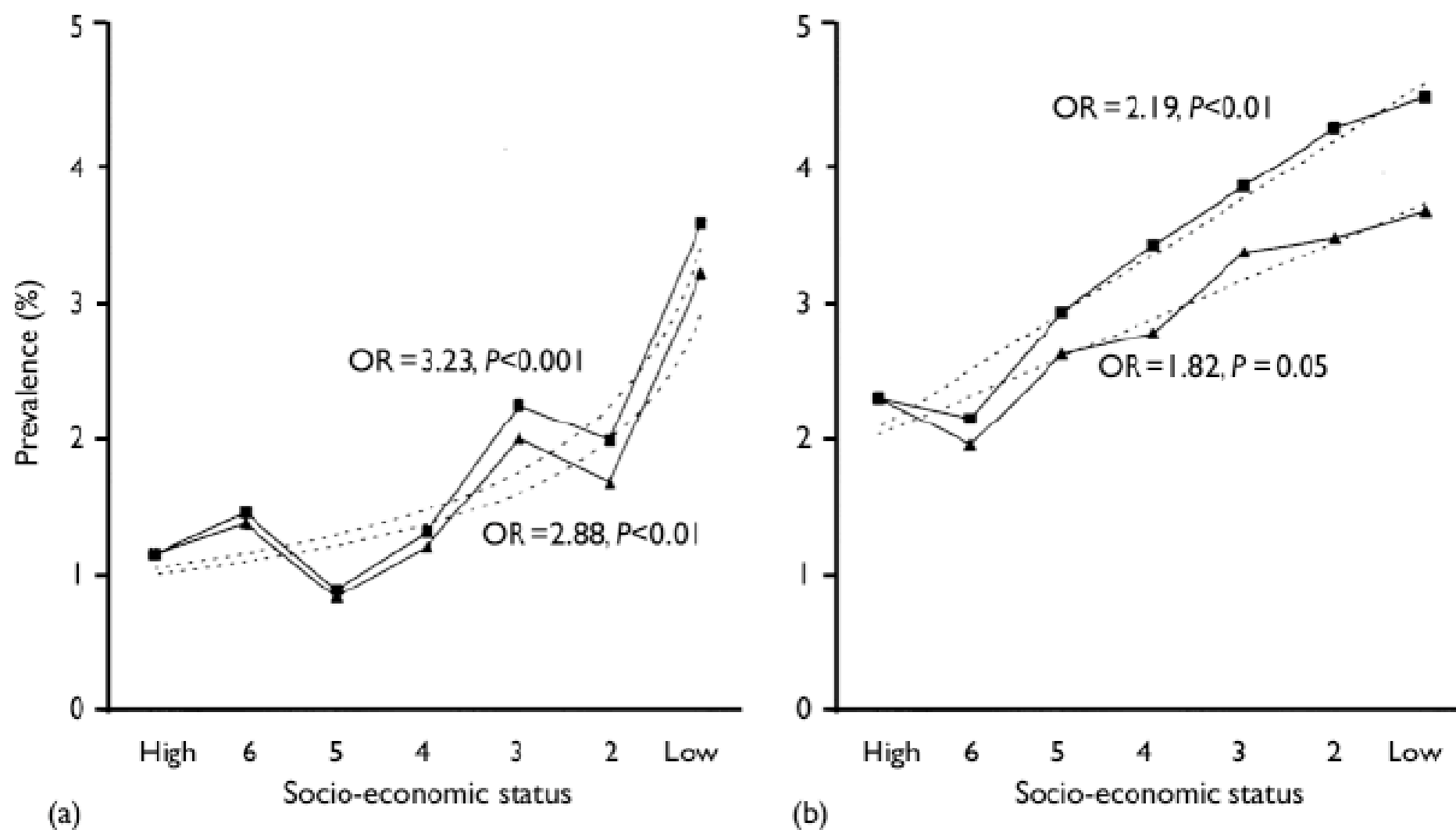A százezer lakosra jutó éves öngyilkossági mortalitás
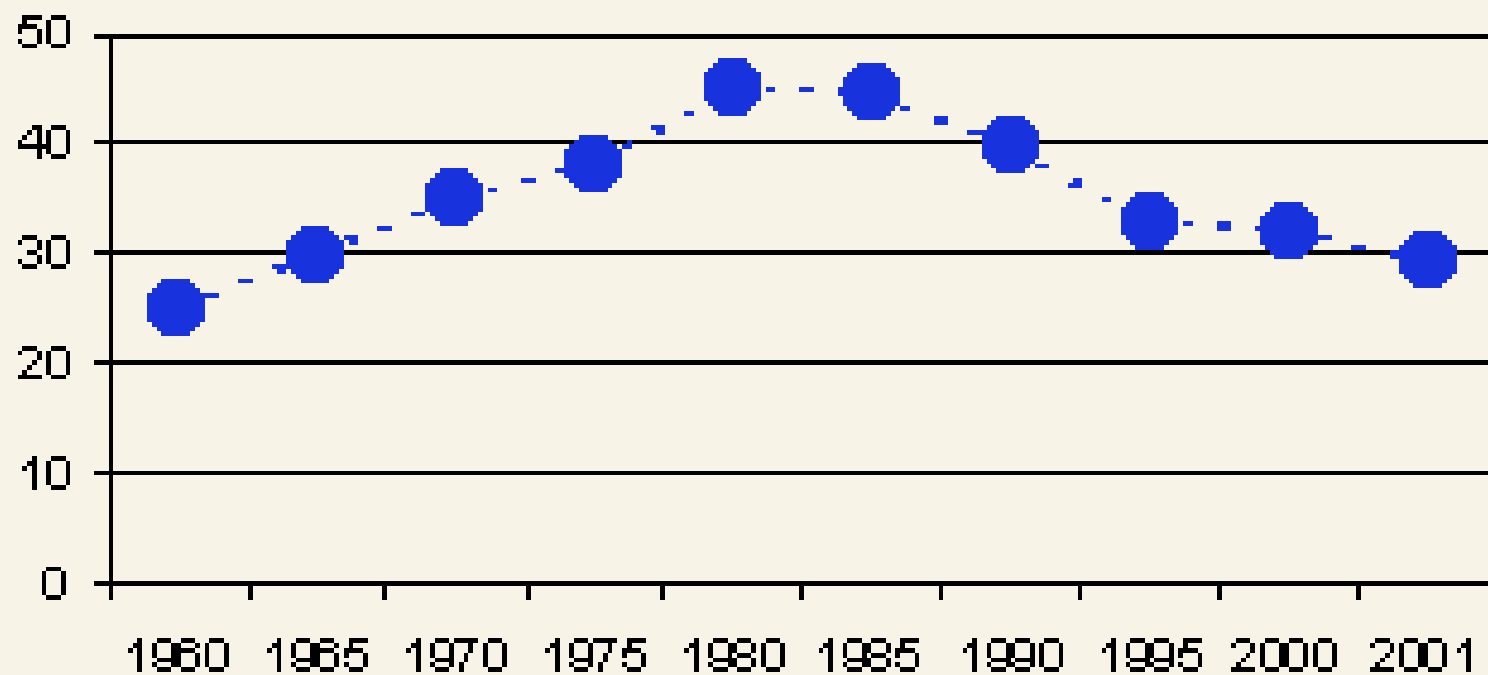
Suicide & SES

Fig. 2 Suicide attempts by socio-economic status based on education and occupation level, in employed respondents aged 20-64 years: (a)men, (b) women, adjusted for age (&) and for age, urban/rural residence,country of birth and psychiatric disorder.

Crime in Hungary