

Theoretical Criminology

Fourth Edition

by the late
George B. Vold,
Thomas J. Bernard,
and
Jeffrey B. Snipes

New York Oxford
Oxford University Press

1998

Oxford University Press

Oxford New York Athens Auckland
Bangkok Bogota Bombay Buenos Aires
Calcutta Cape Town Dar es Salaam Delhi
Florence Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madras Madrid Melbourne
Mexico City Nairobi Paris Singapore
Taipei Tokyo Toronto

and associated companies in

Berlin Ibadan

Copyright © 1998 by Oxford University Press, Inc.

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.,
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016
Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

All rights reserved. No part of this publication
may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted
in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical,
photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior
permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Vold, George B. (George Bryan), 1896–1967.
Theoretical criminology / by George B. Vold, Thomas J. Bernard,
and Jeffrey B. Snipes.—4th ed.

p. cm.
Includes index.
ISBN 0–19–507321–5

1. Criminal anthropology. 2. Criminology. 3. Deviant behavior.
4. Social conflict. I. Bernard, Thomas J. II. Snipes, Jeffrey B.
III. Title.
HV6035.V6 1998
364.2—dc20 96–38306

7 9 8 6

Printed in the United States of America
on acid-free paper

Contents

Foreword ix

Chapter One: Theory and Crime 1

Spiritual Explanations—Natural Explanations—Classical Criminology—
Positivist Criminology—The Behavior of Criminal Law—The Relationship
Among the Various Frames of Reference

Chapter Two: Classical Criminology 14

The Social and Intellectual Background of Classical Criminology—Beccaria
and the Classical School—The NeoClassical School—Assessing Beccaria's
Theory—Implications and Conclusions

Chapter Three: Positivist Criminology 27

Guerry and Quetelet—Cesare Lombroso—Modern Criminology as the
Search for the Causes of Crime—The Relation Between Positivist and Clas-
sical Theories—Conclusion

Chapter Sixteen: Critical Criminology	260
Marxism and Marxist Criminology—Postmodernism and Postmodernist Criminology—Feminism and Feminist Criminology—Assessments of Critical Theories	
Chapter Seventeen: Developmental Criminology	284
The Great Debate: Criminal Careers, Longitudinal Research, and the Relationship Between Age and Crime—Criminal Propensity vs. Criminal Career—The Transition to Developmental Criminology—Thornberry's Interactional Theory—Sampson and Laub's Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control—Conclusion	
Chapter Eighteen: Integrated Theories	300
Elliott et al.'s Integrated Theory—Braithwaite's Theory of Reintegrative Shaming—Tittle's Control Balance Theory—Vila's General Paradigm—Bernard and Snipes's Integrated Model—Conclusion	
Chapter Nineteen: Assessing Criminology Theory	316
Science, Theory, Research, and Policy—Individual Difference Theories—Structure/Process Theories—Theories of the Behavior of Criminal Law—Conclusion	
Subject Index	337
Name Index	345

Foreword to the Fourth Edition

It now has been eleven years since the publication of the third edition of *Theoretical Criminology*. The reasons for the long delay in publishing a fourth edition are interesting from the point of view of what this edition seeks to accomplish.

I first started working on a fourth edition in 1990, but that effort ground to a halt when I was about one-third done. The increasingly complex and interrelated nature of criminology theory had made it difficult for me to divide the field into a sequence of neat little boxes (chapters), as is required in a textbook. I eventually became dissatisfied with my proposed organization of the material but was unable to reconceptualize it at that point. In addition, I had eliminated too much of the older material so that I could present recent work more completely while maintaining the approximate size of the book. I eventually realized that the very completeness of my presentations, as well as the loss of the older material, would make the book less accessible and less useful to its readers.

This book's major contribution to the field of criminology has been that it provides a coherent, accurate, and accessible overview of theories in their historic and social context. I had lost the thread of this major contribution, so I abandoned my attempted revision and decided to come back to it later when I had a better sense of what I was doing.

At that same time, I was working on two issues related to the role of theory in criminology. In the process of working on successive editions of this book, I became convinced that criminology was failing to make scientific progress. For example, in each successive edition, I threw out

quite a bit of material because, in my opinion, no one would be interested in it any more. But I had not thrown out any material because I thought it had been falsified. This suggests an astounding lack of scientific progress over a forty-year period of increasingly vigorous and sophisticated empirical research.

I originally presented my concerns about this situation in a 1990 article entitled "Twenty Years of Testing Theories: What Have We Learned and Why?" In that article, I took a Popperian approach, with an emphasis on how to falsify theories in order to get rid of them. At the same time, I was working on integrating criminology theories. In my view, integration is an alternative to falsification as a way to reduce the number of theories in criminology. Where I believed that falsification had largely failed because research misspecified the theories, I also believed that if the theories were properly specified, then a much broader integration among them would become apparent.

All these issues came together in a 1996 article on theoretical integration written with Jeff Snipes. This article abandons the Popperian emphasis on falsification and takes a "risk factor" approach that deals in structured probabilities. This highly integrative approach maintains a focus on the empirical adequacy of theories but moves policy implications to the forefront. It also makes clear that there has been considerable scientific progress in criminology, but it is not in the form of falsifying theories.

Jeff has joined me as coauthor in writing this fourth edition of *Theoretical Criminology*, and our new concluding chapter interprets the field of criminology in these terms. As coauthor, Jeff brings strong abilities to accurately summarize and organize existing criminology theory and research. Ultimately, this involves having a good intuitive sense of theories and how they operate. Beyond that, he brings a fresh perspective on the field of criminology and its current overall organization. This was one of the stumbling blocks in my initial attempt to revise this book, and Jeff solved a number of my problems with alacrity and simplicity. Finally, Jeff brings much better quantitative skills than I possess. These skills are a great deal more important today than they were in the past, and they will be increasingly important as criminology develops in the future.

The goal of this fourth edition, as it was with the second and third, is to bring the text completely up to date in a way that provides continuity with the earlier edition while introducing a great deal of new material. But beyond that, I believe that this edition also structures the book to accommodate the increasing complexity of the field of criminology and rate of change within it. With this edition, I believe that *The-*

oretical Criminology is well positioned to move into the future of criminology for some time to come.

We wish to thank Diana Fishbein for making extensive comments and suggestions on the biology chapter. We also wish to thank Wayne Osgood and Lynne Goodstein for reading and commenting on various sections of the book, and Kim Menard and Mark Motivans for reading and making comments on the entire draft. Any errors or omissions are, of course, the sole responsibility of the authors.

T. J. B.

State College, Pa.
March 1997