

1971

## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by  
 Bernard Cohen

DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR. By *Don C. Gibbons*.  
 Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall,  
 1970. Pp. ix, 276. ,7.95.

Gibbons has written a very concise textbook on a very broad subject, perhaps too concise. He presents his material in a staccato fashion and keeps his discussion to a minimum. Of course, many will consider this style as praiseworthy since the hallmark of many sociologists is verbosity. The author definitely has a knack for extracting and distilling crucial elements in the delinquency literature. This will not present problems for those with some prior knowledge of delinquency, but may be problematic for the neophyte. For example, Yablonsky's concept of the near group gets only five sentences; it is doubtful if a beginning student would get a clear picture of Yablonsky's thesis from this.

The author states that he is mainly concerned with "delinquency causation". Yet, he never establishes a clear conceptualization of what he means by delinquency. In the first three chapters (Introduction; Adolescent Misbehavior in American Society; The Police, the Court, and Juvenile Delinquents), Gibbons addresses this thorny definitional problem in only a tangential manner. Terms such as "misconduct", "misbehavior", "delinquency", and "lawbreaking" are used interchangeably—although it does become evident that Gibbons prefers the last term as a definition for delinquency.

One characteristic of the book which compounds the above nebulosity is the author's hesitancy to

use illustrative material. Gibbons discusses the differential response to delinquency by the police. He points out that the most crucial factor determining how police will react to delinquency is the seriousness of the lawbreaking. But, we do not know what these offenses are; why the police think they are serious; or how juveniles consider their transgressions. Indeed, we know very little about the delinquents' world views or, for that matter, those of personnel manning our agencies of social control. The feeling that delinquents are human is never conveyed to the reader. Instead, the delinquent becomes a constellation of analytical socio-psychological variables reflecting the behavioral scientists' views of the world. Some may not consider this a serious flaw since most sociological literature in this area as the same lacuna. However, using only this book, it would be difficult for the reader to accurately describe delinquency in a meaningful manner.

Notwithstanding the above criticism, this is a good textbook. In his chapters dealing with causation and theories; working class, middle-class, and female delinquency; and correctional institutions, Gibbons—relative to similar works on the subject—presents a balanced picture of the delinquency literature. Although he emphasizes a Cohenian interpretation, he is always careful to present both sides of an argument and is never guilty of wandering off into pontificating monologues. In each chapter he tells us what we know and then what we need to know. He exten-

sively uses a propositional inventory format which should facilitate the students' ability to retain the book's many highlights.

Invariably other readers will find things left out which are not mentioned in this review, but this seems to be the nature of textbooks. Gibbons is less guilty of omissions than most. In fact, of the numerous texts on delinquency, this is the best of the lot. Gibbons' book does offer the student a base from which to gain an understanding of juvenile delinquency.

DUFF G. GILLESPIE

Washington University

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DELINQUENCY: SELECTED STUDIES. Edited by *Thorsten Sellin* and *Marvin E. Wolfgang*. New York: John Wiley, 1969. Pp. 161. \$7.95.

It is important to note the sub-title of this book: it is not another general text about delinquency, but reports seven research studies. In addition to the co-editors, four other authors are represented. The data upon which the studies are based derived from that obtained for the previous work of the co-editors and reported in their work *The Measurement of Delinquency* (1964), but in the main quite different problems are examined by quite different means.

The co-editors describe the basic data in their introductory chapter, while the final chapter (by Andre Normandeau) compares the trends in respect of robbery as reflected by different indexes, including the "seriousness" measure earlier developed by the co-editors. Chapters 3 and 6 (the former by Stanley Turner and the latter by William F. Hohenstein) both use a new form of analysis termed "predictive attribute analysis". In the former the method is used to examine factors associated with the geographic distribution of crime. In this it seems to be extremely powerful; out of a total of 370 census tracts, divided into high and low delinquency the "predictive attribute analysis" placed correctly all but 26 such tracts. ( $\lambda_p$  0.70). The latter chapter used the same method of analysis to "predict" the decisions of police as to whether to dismiss the case against a juvenile or to proceed with it. The main factor (that which was responsible for the first partitioning) was whether the victim wished to see a prosecution. The race of the victim had no effect upon the degree to which he was listened to by the police in this regard. The writer of this chapter does not give an overall measure of the power of the analysis, but the sub-divisions appear to dis-

criminate quite well. On page 140 this reviewer is given somewhat more credit than that which is really due to him and his co-author. It is said that "predictive attribute analysis" represents a "refinement of association analysis..." This is not strictly the case; both predictive attribute analysis (Wilkins and Macnaughton-Smith) and associational analysis (Williams and Lambert) have their separate and special utilities, as have many other methods of prediction and explanation.

In the analysis of census tracts in terms of delinquency rates, race was found to be significant, even when various means were attempted to replace this factor with others which might be related. In addition to racial composition tracts which were of high density, low income, and low grades of occupations showed higher rates. Areas which revealed a high crime rate tended also to be areas where more offenders lived. There were areas which were high in *offenses* and *offenders*, and areas high in *offenses* only. The results found in this study are directly related to those reported in the preceding chapter entitled "Delinquency and Distance". Offenders do not tend to go far from their residence to commit crimes, but there are areas which are further away but present special opportunities, and there is the matter of available transport. Juveniles (legally) travel by public transport, and certain areas of the city are easier to reach than others. Other areas which have the high/low characteristic may be those close to a reservoir of delinquents, particularly a low offender area between two or more high offender areas may be a high offense area.

Chapter 1, "Delinquency and Distance" shows some remarkable and consistent statistical fittings. Similar statistical functions have been found to fit: tellers and hearers of slogans, pairs of marriage license applicants, residence of murderer and offense location, removals from 12 census tracts, city of residence and birth, and, in this study, delinquents' residence and offense location. The log-log linear fit is almost too close to be believed!

The two remaining chapters (4 and 5, by Bernard Cohen) deal with gangs and group delinquency and with internecine conflict. The definition of gangs and groups was that used by the Philadelphia Police, but the results indicate that a real distinction existed. 99.3% of the victims of gang events with Negro offenders involved only Negro victims, while 25.6% of group events involving Negro offenders involved white victims:

46.2% of group events by white offenders involved Negro victims.

It must be remembered, however, that the data were obtained through the cooperation of the police, hence the analyses relate to criminal acts which, not only came to their attention, but were known to be committed by juveniles. It is, of course, possible to have indexes of crimes known to the police without the identification of offenders, but an index of juvenile delinquency depends upon the identification of the person concerned as being a juvenile.

It is reasonable that in any search operation those characteristics which have proved useful indicators of success in the past should be given closer attention than others. To some extent unknown, the index of crimes known to and cleared by the police will tend to reflect police problem-solving strategy. Nonetheless, these research studies have made use of data of far higher quality than is usually accessible to criminologists. Perhaps we can hope for further cooperation between police departments and social scientists in extracting information from data by the use of analyses such as those reported here.

LESLIE T. WILKINS

Professor, School of Criminal Justice  
State University of New York

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LAW ENFORCEMENT: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICE ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY. By *Thomas F. Adams*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1968. Pp. xiii, 256. \$6.95

In this introductory text, the author claims a twofold purpose: "first, to introduce the future or newly employed peace officer to the role that he is now filling, or is about to fill; second, to serve as a guide to the non-policeman who wishes to make himself aware of the police role." In a limited way, he accomplishes these goals. Indeed, in a comparison with the wide variety of introductory texts available, Mr. Adams' work comes off quite well. His discussion of the "primary police functions" is particularly well done when one considers the volume's rather conservative objectives.

Even as an introductory text, however, it suffers from a number of shortcomings. First, while an author's enthusiasm for his subject matter is generally thought to be an advantage, Mr. Adams seems to spend an inordinate amount of time selling police work to his readers. Occasionally, the reviewer had the impression that he

was perusing a collection of recruiting materials. A sales pitch now and again may be appropriate in an introductory text, but an author can go too far. In this reviewer's opinion, Mr. Adams did.

Second, this book also suffers from the illness that infects many introductory texts. In an effort to survey a broad and complex field in a relatively few words, the author oversimplifies. Mr. Adams' chapters "Law Enforcement, a Community Need", "A Brief History of Law Enforcement Services", and "Police Agencies and the Nonsystem Concept" provide excellent examples of the problem.

Third, this volume fails, as do most books in this field, to provide adequate documentation through footnotes and bibliographic citations. Additional readings are suggested at the end of each chapter, but more, many more, suggestions are needed.

Unfortunately, the book has very little to offer the dedicated scholar. Even the serious neophyte would probably do well to look elsewhere. A considerable number of studies of police practice and performance by historians, lawyers, political scientists, and sociologists have been recently released. These works offer far more valuable information to the student and scholar.

A prime example of the book's limited usefulness insofar as academic pursuits are concerned can be found in the area of police and community relations. Despite the significance of this problem in our complex urban society, Mr. Adams donates only six pages to the topic, and two of these are half pages of pictures. Interestingly enough, one of them has a series of pictures captioned "Martial Arts Demonstration at an Open House Ceremony". Further, no reference is made in these six pages to race relations, and the phrase "minority groups" is mentioned only once as part of a listing of police "publics".

In conclusion, then, Mr. Adams has written a volume that does, to a degree, meet the goals that he set for it. It does not add greatly to the literature of the field, unfortunately.

RAYMOND T. GALVIN

University of Minnesota

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VIOLENCE IN THE CITY. By *Blair Justice*. Fort Worth, Texas: Texas Christian University Press, 1969. Pp. xii, 289. \$8.00

Violence is a household word. The conditions of man's life, especially if he is black, are affected by his environment, both social and physical.

These conditions are conducive to violence. "In this book, I [Blair Justice] have tried to delve not only into some of the causes of it all [violence in the cities] but also the effects. . . . But because there has been so little attention given to the effects of violence in the Negro community and because confusion persists about why violence occurs among black people, this book is on the subject of race as it relates to unrest, tension- and violence." (p. 4.) To that central goal Justice addresses his effort and is successful in the process.

The particular scheme Justice utilizes in writing about violence is summarized in a acronym-SEAD factors. ". . . the spotlight that gives the city a certain public image and conveys a certain message to the people; the expectations and attitudes of the ghetto, and the dispersion, which is the effect that space, distribution of people—and their social organization—have on their actions and concerns." (p. 14.) The spotlight Justice used to illustrate his material is the city of Houston, Texas in which he has worked extensively with the city government, local neighborhoods and many of the 300,000 black people who reside there. Herein lies the value of this work on violence. This *man*, regardless of his professional capabilities as a clinical professor of social psychology, has devoted a large portion of his life to working with the people about whom he writes. The combination of professional and personal endeavors lead him at times to be profound, as the following excerpt from Chapter 4, page 151, illustrates: "Inside, no young person today can fail to sense his own potential for violence, for he shares with mankind the lethal forces that lie latent in all of us waiting removal of the restraint that holds them in check. Every man has the capacity to kill, to destroy, but few people face the painful fact that rage and fury are part of the human condition, and modified forms of both are expressed every day in more acceptable styles of aggressive behavior. . . . The decision as to restraint and control lies ultimately with each individual. Senseless wars may rage, injustices may continue, but once the individual taps his own reservoir of violence in forceful protest, he has made a choice that may be hard to reverse—because the acting out of rage can become an end in itself."

The major difficulty of the book is that it is a triple headed entity, for it is 1) a *handbook* on what to do to prevent violence (Each chapter is concluded with a section entitled "*What should we*

*believe? points to consider.*"); 2) a *textbook* on violence (Numerous, and sometimes lengthy, quotations from social science research are included); and 3) a *research report* (Results of ongoing research in the community are presented). The reviewer frankly had difficulty maintaining interest from time to time because of the changing emphasis of the book. The handbook type of material is excellent and should be made available in a more succinct, less cumbersome, form for city officials and citizens, especially the poor, black ghetto dwellers. The textbook material on violence is comprehensive, but less well presented. The research material is based on an excellent method of obtaining information from the above types of people, namely, the "natural dialogue" technique, as opposed to the formal interview, being employed over a long period of time particularly before and after significant community events. The results are sometimes hard for a social scientist—the reviewer is a sociologist—to interpret. As an example of the sometimes obscure results, the author reports on page 89 that "there is a significant association between violence and mobility", but gives neither the test results of significant differences nor the degree of association. This is shoddy social science, which is deleterious to the book.

In summary, *Violence in the City* has some very good features, especially in presenting some "what to do about violence" information as well as some results from timely, relevant research. If the reader can overcome the difficulties of shifting back and forth among three basically different kinds of information and if the reader is not concerned about the manner in which research information is presented, the book by Blair Justice can yield some very interesting, and possibly valuable, insights into the violence of our times.

JAY LOWE

Associate Professor of Sociology,  
The University of Georgia

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NO WATER IN MY CUP: EXPERIENCES AND A CONTROLLED STUDY OF PSYCHOTHERAPY OF DELINQUENT GIRLS. By *Ratibor-Ray M. Jurjevich*, New York: Libra Publishers, Inc., 1968. Pp. ix, 185. \$5.00.

Dr. Jurjevich's book is a mixture of autobiography, case histories of girls labeled delinquent, and quantitative psychological research. Among these three, the autobiographical di-

mension is perhaps most important. First and foremost, *No Water In My Cup* is a chronicle of how a psychologist came to doubt the traditional paradigm of "insight-depth" psychotherapy and to seek a different definition of his therapeutic task. Earning a doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Denver in 1958, he was for two years clinical psychologist at the Colorado State Training School for Girls. During his first year he came to doubt the efficacy and relevance of attempting always to point backward in the lives of his patients, striving to achieve personal change through connecting present difficulties with long past matters. He came, and I gather, painfully, to believe it is better to focus upon patients' present difficulties and the relations of these difficulties to the future. He came to feel it better to ask "not 'Why?' but 'Whither?'" (p. 31).

This little book is the product of the process of the author's coming to make such a change in therapeutic strategy and of what he did subsequent to having made that change. Relative to the process of his change, I was very much struck by the power still exercised by the insight-depth model of how people change. Even though presumably written years later, Jurjevich's report is done much in the style of the reluctant renegade. The insight-depth paradigm is so entrenched and so much a taken-for-granted part of some social worlds, that to break with it is to engage in an act of existential rebellion, to fly in the face of primordial reality. More firmly to establish the existence of an alternative reality, he recounts and quotes extensively the views of O. Hobart Mowrer, William Glasser, and others. And, as if indisputably to anchor himself, he has had O. Hobart Mowrer write the Foreword.

We have again testimony to the profound difficulties of changing perspectives, even when, as in this case, the change is not large. The title of the book, *No Water In My Cup*, is a line from a poem written by one of his patients, reflecting patient experience. But, it could as well reflect the agony of revising his conception of psychotherapy. As a personal documentation of one person's struggle in these matters, then, *No Water In My Cup* earns a place in the social history of the decline and fall of the psychodynamic perspective.

While this seems to me the major theme and import of the book, the bulk of its pages report

some activities of the second of his two years at the State Training School for Girls. These activities are his personal conduct of his new version of psychotherapy, performed with fourteen girls. They received, on the average, 23 fifty minute sessions, twice a week, covering periods ranging from 2.5 to 9 months. As the single therapist involved, Jurjevich reports his approach as being "...conversation..., trying to pick up leads from any statement a subject might make. . . . A friendly, warm, accepting attitude was maintained at all times, but I did not hide my disagreements with over-emotional or immature reactions" (p. 126), "I avoided a stereotyped role in the interviews, without trying to be too watchful, clever, analytical or superior. I was just myself, with the advantages and disadvantages of a nontechnical role. Most of the time I was an attentive, respectful listener; occasionally I responded emotionally" (p. 128). It is clear, then, that his new approach was not terribly radical, relative to other innovations we have witnessed in recent times.

One of the report's two major segments—some seventy pages—consists in descriptive accounts of each of the fourteen girls and of her behavior in the institution and in the interviews. The other major segment, likewise some seventy pages, reports the procedures and results of before-after administration of psychological scales and tests to the 14 girls as compared with 14 control "subjects" in the same institution receiving no psychotherapy. This part of the report is so thoroughly riddled with the methodological errors and the specious assumptions and practices that are all too common in psychological research that one cannot even begin to comment on them here. Let me only relate that Jurjevich is—unsurprisingly—satisfied that the 14 treatment girls changed more in the desired manner than did their 14 controls.

Viewed as the emotional and intellectual journey of a man of good-will, this is a humanistically important document which expresses the personal trials of one variety of our professional people-changers. It is in these terms, and in combinations with other such documents, that it deserves attention.

JOHN LOFLAND

University of California, Davis