

*Techniques of Neutralization: a Reconceptualization and Empirical Examination W. William Minor Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency 2,*

Their responses are highlighted here in this article. This brief exploratory, qualitative pilot study revealed that most of the subjects excused their behavior by indicating that they were not responsible for their crimes denial of responsibility given the wide array of sociological and psychological tragedies that they had suffered while growing up. Introduction Although rare, multiple sexual homicides committed by one individual or a team are horrifying. People may ask how any perpetrator can offer explanations for their own serial sex killings. Serial killers responded to a survey which asked convicted serial sex killers to give a reason s for why they committed lust murder s in the first degree. The preliminary results of this study are significant and attempt to link the article literatures on the nature and theory of crime with the crime of repetitive first degree sex murder A serial killer is a person, typically a male, who kills three or more victims with a cooling off period in between Protection of Children from Sexual Predator Act of The FBI [ 2 ] further defines serial murder as killings that occur in separate events and during separate times. More inclined to seek out strangers, sexual killers are notably referred to as sexual lust killers[ 3 ]. Holmes and DeBurger [ 4 ] have identified two types of serial murders: The mission oriented and hedonistic types. The mission oriented serial murderer kills to rid society of certain types of people who society looks down upon, e. The hedonistic type kills for sexual pleasure [ 1 ]. Sykes and Matza posit that criminal behavior is learned, and delinquents are not inherently bad people. Delinquents actually possess conventional beliefs and require neutralizations or justifications in order to commit delinquent acts. Since the offenders possess conventional beliefs, which would cause them to feel guilt if they became delinquent, neutralizations are developed before the delinquent act occurs so as to minimize the guilt the offender feels after committing the act. Sykes and Matza believe that learning these techniques and how to appropriately use them causes juveniles to become delinquents, rather than the juvenile actually learning and fully subscribing to values and beliefs that contradict social norms. Sykes and Matza have created five types of techniques frequently used by offenders to neutralize their behavior. These five types are presented as follows: This type takes into consideration the types of decisions the offender has already made regarding delinquent acts. When interpreting the wrongfulness of the act, the delinquent may question if anyone will be clearly hurt by his actions. The delinquent neutralizes the act by reasoning that the act will not cause any great harm. By using this technique of neutralization, the delinquent fully believes that the injury to the victim is more of a rightful retaliation than an actual injury. In this sense, the delinquent attempts to put himself in the place of the avenger and places the blame of wrong-doing on the victim. Sykes and Matza use the examples of attacking homosexuals, suspected homosexuals, or minority groups [5]. Denial of victim can also be utilized when the victim is physically absent or the delinquent is not aware of the victim while the delinquent act is occurring. Sykes and Matza state that, "Internalized norms and anticipations of the reactions of others must somehow be activated, if they are to serve as guides for behavior; and it is possible that a diminished awareness of the victim plays an important part in determining whether or not this process is set in motion" [ 5 ]. Condemnation of the Condemners: This technique is also referred to as the rejection of the rejectors. In this technique, the delinquent attempts to change the focus of attention from his delinquent acts to the "motives and behavior of those who disapprove of his violations" [ 5 ]. The delinquent may claim that those who condemn him are "â€hypocrites, deviants in disguise, or impelled by personal spite" [5]. The delinquent may view the police as being stupid and brutal, teachers as always showing favoritism towards others and not the delinquent , and parents as always taking things out on their children. In order for this technique to work, the delinquent has to, "â€change the subject of the conversation in the dialogue between his own deviant impulses and the reactions of others; and by attacking others, the wrongfulness of his own behavior is more easily repressed or lost to view" [ 5 ]. Sykes and Matza stress that the function of this

technique in deflecting negative sanctions attached to violations of the norms is far more important than the valid. Appeal to Higher Loyalties: Sykes and Matza describe this technique as, "internal and external social controls may be neutralized by sacrificing the demands of the larger society for the demands of the smaller social groups to which the delinquent belongs such as the sibling pair, the gang, or the friendship clique" [ 5 ]. In this sense deviation from societal norms is not considered a true deviation because the delinquent instead believes that other norms specific to his social group are more pressing and, therefore, take precedence over societal norms. Sykes and Matza believe that the delinquent does believe both sets of norms, but he will often choose the one set he feels more closely associated with usually the norms of his social group. They state that, "For our purposes, however, the most important point is that deviation from certain norms may occur not because the norms are rejected but because other norms, held to be more pressing or involving a higher loyalty, are accorded precedence. Indeed, it is the fact that both sets of norms are believed in that gives meaning to our concepts of dilemma and role conflict" [ 5 ]. Finally Sykes and Matza argue, "Techniques of neutralization may not be powerful enough to fully shield the individual from the force of his own internalized values and the reactions of conforming others, for as we have pointed out, juvenile delinquents often appear to suffer from feelings of guilt and shame when called into account for their deviant behavior. And some delinquents may be so isolated from the world of conformity that techniques of neutralization need not be called into play. Nonetheless, we would argue that techniques of neutralization are critical in lessening the effectiveness of social controls, and that they lie behind a large share of delinquent behavior" [ 5 ]. Sykes and Matza realize that there is a need to further their research and provide suggestions for future social scientists that wish to empirically validate or disprove the theory. First, they contend that there is a need for more "knowledge concerning the differential distribution of techniques of neutralization by age, sex, social class, ethnic group, etc" [ 5 ]. Second, they feel there is a need for a better understanding of the actual structure of the techniques of neutralization. They contend that, "Certain techniques of neutralization would appear to be better adapted to particular deviant acts than to others, as we have suggested, for example, in the case of offenses against property and the denial of the victim" [ 5 ]. Application, critique and revisions of the theory The following populations have been asked about justifications for their criminal behavior with the idea in mind that techniques of neutralization may be revealed: The following critiques of the theory state: Denial of the victim was given dual meaning. The denial of victim does not only apply to those who the delinquent believes got what they had coming, but also includes victims that are absent or simply unknown to the delinquent [ 8 ]. There may be other techniques of neutralization that were not defined by Sykes and Matza, but do exist in the real world, such as the defense of necessity. Delinquents are less likely to feel guilty about an act if they consider it necessary to their safety, survival, or well-being [ 8 ]. Minor feels that Sykes and Matza have overstated the similarities between delinquents and non-delinquents. Agnew and Peters [ 9 ] hypothesize that in order for neutralization to allow delinquents to commit a criminal act; the delinquent must accept the neutralization and be in a situation where the neutralization can be applied. Without having both conditions met, the act is less likely to occur however, this does not apply to those delinquents that have little conventional beliefs and are more inclined to a life of crime. Topalli believes that previous studies on the techniques of neutralization use the wrong populations i. Topalli believes that to form a truer picture of the process of delinquent decision making, the researcher needs to be able to assess those who are not confined by the criminal justice system. Revisions of this theory include the following: William Minor [ 8 ] proposed a revision to neutralization theory in which, "neutralization is viewed as a process compatible with" rather than in opposition to "sub cultural explanations of delinquency". Minor believes that not everyone who commits crimes needs to use neutralizations. Those delinquents that do not hold conventional values or have low moral inhibitions will not need to use neutralizations because they are already inclined to commit crime without feeling guilty about it. Minor [ 8 ] believes that neutralizations are used greatly by those delinquents who are new to committing delinquent acts so as to lessen the guilt they feel. However, after they have become more accustomed to committing the acts they will begin to feel less guilty and stop using the

neutralizations. Minor believes that techniques of neutralization should not be viewed as a theory on its own, but rather as a component of a general control theory of deviance. Agnew and Peters [ 9 ] attempted to revise the techniques of neutralization by adding the knowledge that in order for a neutralization to lead to crime, the delinquent must 1 accept the neutralization and 2 be in a situation where the neutralization is applicable. Agnew and Peters [ 9 ] believe that "Distinguishing between these two dimensions of the neutralization process not only allows us to explain the mixed results of past research, but it also allows us to improve the predictive power of neutralization theory". Agnew and Peters [ 9 ] state that, "those who accept neutralizations believe that deviance is acceptable in some situations but not in others. Because the behavior of the individuals is situationally determined to a large degree, they are likely to be sensitive to environmental variations" Those who do not accept neutralizations, however, tend to believe that deviance is not acceptable in any situation. Variations in the environment are therefore less relevant to those individuals and are more likely to be ignored" Agnew and Peters [ 9 ] found that, "the data indicate that the acceptance of neutralization leads to deviance only when individuals believe that they are in situations where the neutralizations are applicable" p. Topalli attempts to revise the techniques of neutralization by assessing how street criminals use these techniques. Topalli presents a series of interview excerpts to describe how street criminals use neutralizations: As with snitching, in those cases where they chose to deviate from the unconventional ethic they often are forced to employ neutralization techniques to preserve their self-image as truly hardcore" [ 10 ]. Topalli introduces the technique of Denial of Seriousness This technique allows street offenders to show mercy to those who have wronged them while keeping their reputation intact. For example, if a drug dealer is robbed by a crack head who is going through withdrawal symptoms, the dealer can employ the denial of seriousness by saying the person did not know what they were actually doing and that harming them would not have much of an effect because the crack head would not know who is harming them and probably would not remember the incident. It makes more sense to conceive of value systems as lying along a continuum that allows for simultaneous, differential attachment to conventional and unconventional rules of behavior" [ 10 ]. It does appear that serial murderers lead lives for some time without detection. Most have held jobs. All of these activities continued while they were in the depths of their killing. Other literatures on lust murder depicts that most serial killers have anti-social personality disorders and cannot feel compassion Hickey [ 1 ]. But as Hickey suggests it may be possible for a serial murderer to rationalize their behaviors after their crimes have been committed. Therefore, this theory will be preliminarily tested and will provide a starting place for more in-depth testing in the future. Are the justifications offered by serial sex murderers for their crimes consistent with any of the techniques of neutralization described by Matza and Sykes? And, if so which ones? Hickey does not proclaim that his list is of all serial murderers nor serial sex murderers are exhaustive. The selection of serial sex or lust murderers came from reading case histories, biographies, media accounts and court records of the 75 serial murders listed by Hickey. These seventy-five murderers were sent a confidential mail survey see Figure 1 asking them to answer the following question. Question asked of serial sex murderers. I am asking for your participation in a research study about multiple murders. Please rank order the five statements below in terms of which ones would be legitimate reasons for someone to commit repetitive murder to satisfy sexual urges. Feel free to elaborate upon your answers in the additional spaces provided. Upon receipt of the results of your survey, I will send you one dollar for your time. This is a confidential survey. All data will be presented in summary form. You will not be identified by name and no personal information will be gathered or reported. No one really cares about them anyway. No one gets hurt it is a victimless crime. It was not my fault.

## Chapter 2 : Lost minor planet - Wikipedia

*More recently, Minor (, , and ) delved further into neutralization with his three studies, as did Thurman () and Agnew () with violent criminals. Henry Mannle, a student from Florida State University, formed his dissertation around neutralization techniques and how they are applied towards juveniles in Florida.*

David Matza argued that delinquency did not emerge as a result of strongly deterministic forces, but rather through a gentle weakening of the moral ties of society, which allowed some young people to drift into delinquency. David Matza and Gresham Sykes, developed a different perspective on social control which explains why some delinquents drift in and out of delinquency. Delinquents hold values, belief, and attitudes very similar to those of law-abiding citizens. In fact, they feel obligated to be bound by law. Then, if bound by law, how can they justify their deviant behavior or delinquent activities? Neutralisation Theory, or Drift theory as it is often called, proposed that juveniles sense a moral obligation to be bound by the law. Such a bond between a person and the law remains in place most of the time, they argue. When it is not in place, delinquents will drift. The answer is that they learn techniques which enable them to neutralise such values and attitudes temporarily and thus drift back and forth between legitimate and illegitimate behaviours. They maintain that at times delinquents participate in conventional activities and shun such activity while engaging in criminal acts. Such a theory proposes that delinquents disregard controlling influences of rules and values and use these techniques of neutralisation to weaken the hold society places over them. In other words, these techniques act as defence mechanisms that release the delinquent from the constraints associated with moral order. Drift is a psychological state of weak normative attachment to either deviant or conventional ways. Labelling, Drift and the Deviant Career Shyness can be seen as a form of social deviance. The data presented in this article, based on a survey of inmates in four Florida prisons, fail to support either hypothesis. This may suggest that the two perspectives from which the hypotheses are derived are overly simplistic—that the nature of crime and delinquency is more subtle and complex than indicated by either the subcultural or antisubcultural theoretical traditions. The purpose of this thesis is to review the major points of neutralization theory by Gresham Sykes and David Matza and drift theory by David Matza concept of drift, examine related studies as examples of applications of these theories in the U. In some aspects, this body of knowledge explains the applications of these theories to juveniles in Turkey, whereas sometimes it does not. Some examples peculiar to Turkish juveniles are provided in this thesis. Future research has to be done to explore new techniques by Turkish juveniles and any new contribution to drift theory. In contemporary Western societies, shyness appears to be an increasingly common experience, and yet its sociological relevance has been overlooked. Within psychology, the condition has been seen as an individual pathology, and there has been little attempt to relate this to the wider cultural context. The argument of this article is that shyness can be interpreted as both a privately felt state of mind and a publicly recognized social role. It is then suggested that it is normal for people to drift into isolated episodes of shyness as primary deviance, but that in some cases the reactions of others can lead to a career of secondary deviance. However, while a display of shyness may be normalized in certain situations, in others it can pose a more serious or enduring threat to the residual rules of interaction. This motivates the non-shy majority to defend their normative assumptions by casting moral blame upon the individual, and reframes the problem outside of society. Ethnic minority youths face many challenges today. Previous studies on the topic of Ethnic Minority Juvenile Delinquency have attempted to identify these challenges, only to reveal that there are multiple situations and conditions that act and react off one another. The primary focus of this research is to identify and explore the multiple factors, presented in conjunction with one another, that cause minority youth to drift toward deviant and violent behavior. In addition, through semi-structured interviews, this research will explore the life histories of selected individuals who have served in Texas prisons and identify the combination of factors that pushed and pulled them towards adopting subterranean values and participating in the informal economy.

### Chapter 3 : Techniques of Neutralization

*Abstract. Charles W. Thomas, and several anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments on earlier drafts. In their article, Sykes and Matza overstated the similarities between the value systems of delinquents and nondelinquents, and subsequent theorists have treated neutralization as a theoretical counterpoint to subcultural perspectives on delinquency.*

In order to produce a beneficial result, professionals must sometimes cause harm to another human being. Whereas previous research has established the importance of treating victims of necessary evils with interpersonal sensitivity, we focus on the challenges performers face when attempting to achieve this prescribed standard in practice. Show Context Citation Context For example, anecdotes that recount how employees dismissed in the past have found better opportunities as a result of their dismissal Smith, can frame an impending layoff as a blessing in d Conditions of successful reintegration ceremonies: Shifting criminal justice practices away from stigmatization and toward reintegration is no small challenge. The innovation of community conferences in New Zealand and Australia has two structural features that are conducive to reintegrative shaming: Observation of some failures and successes of these conferences in reintegrating both offenders and victims is used to hypothesize 14 conditions of successful reintegration ceremonies. The spectre of failure haunts modern criminology and penology. Turban - Journal of Applied Psychology , " The authors draw on theories of social exchange and prosocial behavior to explain how employee perceptions of procedural justice and individual differences in reciprocity awareness, empathic concern, and perspective taking function jointly as determinants of organizational citizenship behavior OCB As hypothesized, empirical findings from a field study show both direct and interactive effects of procedural justice perceptions and individual differences on OCB role definition. The authors explore the implications of these findings for practice as well as research. Our findings highlight the fact that reasoned denials or rationalizations e. Managerial tactics for countering occupational taint by Blake E. Dirty work refers to occupations that are viewed by society as physically, socially, or morally tainted. Using exploratory, semistructured interviews with managers from 18 dirty work occupations, we investigated the challenges of being a manager in tainted work and how managers normalize taint—that is, actively counter it or render it less salient. Managers reported experiencing role complexity and stigma awareness. Four types of practices for countering taint were revealed: We discuss links between these practices. A group of funeral directors They have to get up and leave because the thing is so gross A reconceptualization and empirical examination by W. Thomas, and several anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments on earlier drafts. In their article, Sykes and Matza overstated the similarities between the value systems of delinquents and nondelinquents, and subsequent theorists have treated neutralization as a theoretical counterpoint to subcultural perspectives on delinquency. To overcome this artificial and unproductive dichotomization, a revision of neutralization theory is proposed that makes it compatible with subcultural interpretations of delinquency. This paper presents the results of a two-wave panel study designed to overcome these shortcomings. For several forms of minor deviance, excuse acceptance is found to be related to subsequent behavior in the manner predicted by the theory. Controlling for moral evaluations and prior behavior, these relationships hold primarily for The role of moral disengagement in the execution process by Michael J. Osofsky, Albert B, Philip G. Zimbardo - Law and Human Behavior , " The present study tested the proposition that disengagement of moral self-sanctions enables prison personnel to carry out the death penalty. Three subgroups of personnel in penitentiaries located in three Southern states were assessed in terms of eight mechanisms of moral disengagement. The personnel included the execution

teams that carry out the executions; the support teams that provide solace and emotional support to the families of the victims and the condemned inmate; and prison guards who have no involvement in the execution process. The executioners exhibited the highest level of moral, social, and economic justifications, disavowal of personal responsibility, and dehumanization. The support teams that provide the more humane services dis-avowed moral disengagement, as did the noninvolved guards but to a lesser degree than the support teams. The EKG monitors are in front of me. As I push in the tubes, the heart beats slower and slower. I watch the lines on the EKG as they flatten. If I push a little harder, they flatten more. Executioner A

longitudinal examination of an integrated social process model of deviant behavior by James L. Akers Co-pi - Social Forces , " A social process model of deviant behavior incorporating constructs derived from both social bonding and differential association theories is used to explain adoles-cent cigarette smoking. The model hypothesizes that the bonding constructs ex-plain the variance in associating with adolescents who sm Both the bonding and differential association constructs are expected to have direct effects on adolescent cigarette smoking. Us-ing a structural equation approach to analyze three years of panel data on 1, seventh to twelfth graders, support is found for the predicted interrelationships of the bonding and differential association constructs and the effects of those con-structs on adolescent smoking in the third year of the study. More recently, however, researchers have suggested that a more complete theoretical

Accountability and Ethics: Reconsidering the Relationships by Melvin J. While a relationship between accountability and ethics has long been assumed and debated in Public Administration, the nature of that relationship has not been examined or clearly articulated. This article makes such an effort by positing four major forms of accountability answerability, This article makes such an effort by positing four major forms of accountability answerability, blameworthiness, liability and attributability and focusing on the ethical strategies developed in response to each of these forms. The causes, processes, and consequences of organizational misconduct by Henrich R. Although research on organizational misconduct has a long history and a recent increase in popularity, important questions are still unexplored. We review and critique research on misconduct with an emphasis on organiza-tional causes. In addition to reviewing some active areas of research, we also e In addition to reviewing some active areas of research, we also examine less-trodden areas and make suggestions for their development. We find that the definition of misconduct is often implicit and the role of social-control agents in identifying misconduct has been neglected, suggesting a need for more rigor in how researchers define the boundary of misconduct

The dark side of authority: Vadera - Journal of Business Ethics , " Corruption poisons corporations in America and around the world, and has devastating consequences for the entire social fabric. Specifically, we examine the types of business misconduct that orga-nizational leaders are likely to engage in, contingent on their legitimate authority, motives, and justifications. We conclude by suggesting managerial implications of our theoretical model and propose directions for future research. Justifications are, therefore, belief

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## Chapter 4 : Matza's notion of drift is unintentional crime among the youth.

*Techniques of Neutralization: a Reconceptualization and Empirical Examination* W. William Minor Department of Sociology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency.

These techniques reduce the social controls over the delinquent and are also more applicable to specific juveniles. Neutralization is defined as a technique, which allows the person to rationalize or justify a criminal act. There are five techniques of neutralization; denial of responsibility, denial of injury, denial of victim, condemnation of the condemners, and the appeal to higher loyalties. Denial of responsibility is a technique used when the deviant act was caused by an outside force. This technique goes beyond looking at the criminal act as an accident. The individual feels that they are drawn into the situation, ultimately becoming helpless. These juveniles feel that their abusive families, bad neighborhoods and delinquent peers predispose them to criminal acts. Criminal acts are deemed deviant in terms of whether or not someone got hurt. Using this technique the delinquent views stealing as merely borrowing and views gang fighting as a private argument between consenting and willing participants. The use of this technique is reaffirmed in the minds of these juveniles when society does not look at certain acts, such as skipping school or performing practical jokes, as criminal, but merely accepts them as harmless acts. Denial of victim is used when the crime is viewed as a punishment or revenge towards a deserving person. This technique may be used by those who attack homosexuals or minority groups. The technique called the condemnation of the condemners, also known as rejection of the rejectors by McCorkle and Korn, places a negative image on those who are opposed to the criminal behavior. This technique comes into play when a juvenile gets into trouble because of trying to help or protecting a friend or family member. Matza and Sykes based their theory on four basic facts seen in society. Sykes and Matza, Sykes and Matza also argue that delinquent acts are not as deviant as society would like to believe and that normal values are over-simplified. They observed several values present, which they define as subterranean values. First, delinquents search for a thrill or an adrenaline rush. The excitement may even be a result of the fact that the behavior is not accepted. Secondly, they do not view normal occupations as worth the work when they can make more money doing illegal acts. Some researchers also noted that the behavior may not have solely monetary purposes, but also to gain rank and prestige among other criminals. Lastly, the deviant becomes aggressive because of their alienation from society Matza and Sykes, The purpose of this aggression is to show how tough they are and that they have achieved manhood. It obviously matters who is partaking in the behavior, not the behavior itself. Matza and Sykes concluded; however, that their study on the effect of subterranean values and leisure time did not explain several aspects of juvenile delinquency. First, they cannot explain why certain juveniles convert subterranean values into serious criminal behavior and others do not. Secondly, they admit that their needs to further, in-depth studies done on the effects of the juveniles value systems as a result of leisure time. *Delinquency and Drift Alone*, Matza expressed additional thoughts on juvenile delinquency. He believed that individuals go from one extreme to another in their behavior, known as drift. Matza believes that juveniles drift between conventional and criminal behavior. Once the crime is committed the delinquent feels guilt and must balance their behavior by returning to act in a law-abiding manner. Drift can be described as soft determinism, which views criminality as partly chosen and partly determined. The will to commit a crime occurs when one of these conditions is present; preparation and desperation. These allow the individual to form the decision to commit a crime. Preparation occurs when a criminal act is repeated once the person realizes that the criminal act can be achieved and is feasible. Desperation activates the will to initially commit a crime because of an extraordinary occasion; or fatalism, which is the feeling of lacking control over ones surroundings Matza, He also suggests that there are several ways in which a delinquent senses injustice an underlying condition of drift ; through cognizance, consistency, competence, commensurability and comparison. Consistency represents whether or not the juvenile feels that they are receiving the same treatment as everyone else who has been involved in the

same criminal behavior. Competence is an issue revolving around those who are in judgment of the juvenile. In other words, does the juvenile believe that their act should even result in a punishment and if so the punishment should fit the crime. Comparison results when juveniles evaluate the legal system and notice that there are laws, which only pertain to them and not adults. Some juveniles do not want to accept that they are any different from adults. Influences The decades preceding Matza and his neutralization and drift theory involved mass social and political movements and located at the University of California he could view these actions first-hand. Matza believes that delinquents are angered over a sense of injustice, which they feel not only from law enforcement but also from community reactions. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the Brown vs. The desegregation produced a lot of tension, which caused some citizens to react with protests and even violence. With these decades also came scientific advance such as the nuclear arms race following the beginning of the Cold War. The United States was also involved in the race to get a man on the moon finally ending Neil Armstrong in the Apollo 11 on July 30, The assassination of President Kennedy in also deeply affected the citizens of America. With all of these movements came protests. Social control shifted the focus from criminals to political activists. Protestors were arrested and even physically battered, the police were treating them like they were hard criminals. He also states that deviance is caused by desperation or the feeling of having no control. Those protestors felt they had no choice but to express opposition towards certain ideas, otherwise where will all of the governmental controls end. Matza believes that there is a sub-culture of delinquency, which requires a collective and public effort. These hippies felt that there is no victim, the government does not need nor deserve people to fight in a war, which is unjust. Also drug use does not hurt anyone and neither does promiscuous sex not considered criminal but immoral. They also felt that the government deserved being protested against because of all the injustices it had imposed on people, which demonstrates the condemnation of the condemners technique. The protests of civil rights and of the Vietnam War gave the generation most affected the chance to act unconventional. Matza also stated that delinquents would drift between criminal and conventional behavior, which explains why not all teenagers were involved. He has also stated that those who were likely to drift are not as likely to commit crimes as adults. The theorist Travis Herschi does not feel that neutralization techniques are relevant towards describing juvenile delinquency. Herschi believes that deviant behavior is a result of conformity, or lack there of, towards societal norms. Douglas states that the deviant person must learn certain strategies of self-deception and seduction Pfohl, Michael Hindelang, in his study on rural and urban youths, found no support for neutralization. He concluded that juveniles who have committed a crime were more likely to accept the behavior as opposed to those not involved in delinquency. This finding crossed the lines of gender, rural versus urban juveniles and even across several different deviant behaviors Shoemaker, As with every learning theory, the question is always posed - who did the first criminal learn deviant behavior from. Also, it never specifies why or how the neutralization technique process begins. Recent Applications Even though the theory has its weaknesses, several theorists have used it as a basis for further study and alteration towards juvenile behavior, which Sykes and Matza encouraged. Glen Elder provided specific terms such as trajectories and transitions, which helped further the study on the concept of drift. He compared the transitions specific sequence of events based on age of juveniles with trajectories pathways of life; example, marriage. Elder stated that certain juvenile subcultures reflect transitional cultural experiences which will effect long-term life trajectories for drifting juveniles. He stated that delinquents, focusing on a cult of juveniles obsessed with a British rock star, are torn between criminal and conventional behavior and that most of their beliefs mirror that of the adult law-abiding community. More recently, Minor , , and delved further into neutralization with his three studies, as did Thurman and Agnew with violent criminals. Henry Mannle, a student from Florida State University, formed his dissertation around neutralization techniques and how they are applied towards juveniles in Florida. He hypothesized that girls would use techniques more so than boys do. He further found that males and females did not differ in their use of neutralization even though males scored higher on the deviant scale. In a more recent study by Mitchell, Dodder and Norris The study suggested that delinquents seek acceptance from



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society which results in them using neutralization techniques to rationalize their acts. They also concluded that the effect of neutralization has the strongest effect towards delinquency. When looking at females, neutralization was less effective of a justification as opposed to males. Neutralization was also found to be more viable towards Anglo-males than for either females or Mexican Americans. Mitchell and Dodder in an earlier study looked at the uses of certain neutralization towards different types of delinquency. Barbara Costello studied the effects of self-esteem and the use of neutralization techniques; which was a comparison of the control theory versus neutralization theory. Costello also concluded that those juveniles who are close to their parents are less likely to use any techniques. She found that strongly attached delinquents find it difficult to effectively use these techniques, because they may not be able to accept that they are valid excesses. Costello, however, did note that further studies should be done on the accessibility of the different techniques to certain youths. A study by John Hagan focused not on neutralization, but on the concepts related to subterranean values and drift. Hindelang also studied drift theory when related to their feelings of obligation towards the criminal act. He concluded that delinquents have no moral barriers that would prove neutralization techniques were necessary. James Coleman helped explain how those involved in white-collar crime justified their criminal acts utilizing techniques of neutralization. The denial of responsibility is used when those involved in the criminal behavior states that their employer expects them to. With all of these examples of neutralization, Coleman Further studies, which looked at neutralization techniques, focused not on juvenile delinquency, but on adult criminality. Using the denial of responsibility, blame is transferred away from the pregnant woman to the lack of available birth control or the cost of raising an unwanted child. The doctor and nurse may also use this technique to justify performing the abortion illegally.

### Chapter 5 : What Have We Learned from Five Decades of Neutralization Research? | Shadd Maruna - blog

*Others have modified the techniques in ways that capture justifications unique to particular deviant acts. Minor () proposed the defense of necessity where behaviors were justified in order to.*

### Chapter 6 : CiteSeerX " Techniques of neutralization: A reconceptualization and empirical examination

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### Chapter 7 : Techniques of neutralization: A reconceptualization and empirical examination - CORE

*Minor, William W. Techniques of neutralization: A reconceptualization and empirical examination. Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency Conklin, John E. Criminology.*

### Chapter 8 : Techniques of Neutralization - ä°•â‡†°è•%â¹ã•®ç "ç©¶ãfŽãf¼ãf^

*W. William Minor is Assistant Professor in the Institute of Criminal Justice and Criminology at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is continuing to research neutralization theory with a more recent data set and (in a separate project) is also researching the distribution of community.*

### Chapter 9 : CiteSeerX " Citation Query Techniques of neutralization: A theory of delinquency

*neutralization technique, specifically, metaphor of the ledger, in moderating the relationship between (i) interactional justice, (2) distributive justice and (3) procedural justice and cyberloafing.*