Bradyn Ritchie
Article Review #1

      The article I selected for this article review is "Young People, the Internet, and Emerging Pathways into Criminology: A Study of Australian Adolescents". In this article, the researchers aimed to study the relationship between technological characteristics of users and potential for criminal or deviant behavior both online and offline. In addition to this, it also investigated the concept of "digital drift" and how it potentially affected the adolescents. According to the article, the theory of digital drift states that the increasing technological capabilities of devices and the internet potentially promote the act of online delinquency among younger generations. In addition to this, with the social networking aspect, it fosters more opportunities for joint crime with two or more individuals to take place. The study simply consisted of a survey that was given to consenting 8th grade students at their school. Prior to the experiment, researchers hypothesized that there would be no connection between the technological capabilities of the students and their potential to commit potentially delinquent behavior online. The survey asked the students questions regarding how they spend their time online, their individual risk taking behaviors, both their offline and online delinquent behaviors, and their technical competency.

      Based on the conducted experiment, the researchers determined that technical proficiency does not directly correlate to past or future online deviant behavior committed by the adolescents. In addition to this, the researchers' results show that there could potentially be a pattern between the development of delinquent behavior at an early age and how often the adolescents engaged in the online deviant behavior. However, the researchers bring up the fact that this could potentially be because the sampling was so small, it does not reflect the majority of adolescents in society.

      Now, how does the research topic and findings relate to the topics and principles discussed in the social sciences? In general, the social sciences simply refers to a disciple of science that studies humans and social interaction. Since this research study aimed at understanding and determining the potential for deviant behavior it directly correlates to both the concepts of sociology and psychology disciplines in social science. Psychology refers to the understanding of an individual human or group's behaviors or actions, while sociology is how humans interact and share ideas with one another. Another concept that is somewhat similar to the study is the theory of victim precipitation. This theory states that certain characteristics and actions that the victim performs helps contribute to their eventual victimization through cyber crime. Of course, there is no study of major cyber crime or victimization in this article, however, it does aim to investigate the adolescents' online characteristics that make them more likely to carry out delinquent behavior. The research conducted through on-site administration surveys ultimately found that the majority of the children have good technical competency skills, with the majority ranging from plug and play devices to installing software. In addition to this, the vast majority of deviant behavior reported was illegally downloading various forms of media and viewing discriminatory material. Another concept that is briefly covered in the article is in regard to the ethical issues and delinquent behavior performed by the adolescents. With new technologies being developed and devices being more readily accessible, it is possible that the rate of this deviant behavior may increase. The teenagers who were studied may not know their actions are potentially illegal. The last main concept that specifically relates is the phrase "cyberpsychology", which aims to specifically determine how human behavior is significantly impacted or influenced by technology. Since this study looks into the numerous online behaviors of the surveyed adolescents, cyberpsychology is a main theory and research discipline that is

used to understand the actions of the teenagers. Therefore, this directly correlates to the theory of digital drift introduced in the first paragraph of the research study.

        The study strongly relates to the social science principle of determinism. Determinism is the belief that future behaviors or actions are strongly influenced by the events that came before it. In the study, researchers aimed to discover if there is any connection between past events, such as previous exposure to technology or internet websites, and current or future opportunities for the adolescents to partake in deviant or delinquent behavior either online or offline. Therefore, according to the study, the childrens' past events may be the pre determining factor in their future behavior. Another social science principle that strongly relates is ethical neutrality. This means that the scientists and researchers need to follow certain ethical standards when conducting their research including protecting specific rights of the people being studied. In order to protect the test subjects' rights, the researchers specifically state that all of the participant's answers will remain anonymous and they can freely drop out of the survey at any time. In addition to this, consent forms were required to be signed by both the student in the research study and their legal guardian. The last social science principle that relates to the scholarly article is empiricism. This means that the social scientists are only capable of studying the factors that involve the human senses and experiences. Since this study is primarily focused on the adolescents' experiences, it is a measurable form of data that can be analyzed by social scientists.

        Overall, the study and the results do not seem to significantly relate to the concerns, contributions, or challenges of highly marginalized groups, such as immigrants, LGBTQ+, or mentally ill persons. However, according to MasterClass, one of the main concerns among a wide variety of marginalized groups is crime and deviant behaviors (*What is marginalization?, 2022*). Due to economic factors, many individuals in some marginalized groups, including children and teenagers, may resort to potentially illegal activities to obtain things. For example, digital piracy, as outlined in the academic study, was one of the most widely performed actions among the adolescents who participated in the survey. However, whether these results from the study are an effect of marginalization remains unknown. Another concern is that marginalized groups often lack the same technology and internet access that non marginalized groups have. According to Charter For Compassion, children and adolescents are a marginalized group in our society as well (*Marginalized populations: Treatment of people*). According to the data presented in the study, all respondents had access to at least a laptop, as they are issued one at the school. However, nearly ten percent of the adolescents lacked a cell phone. As stated above, this could be due to the economic factors that plague marginalized groups, however, the reason for this is unknown.

        The results of this research study could contribute a significant amount to society. Since the research determined that both offline and online delinquent events are correlated, criminologists may be able to determine which of the adolescents among the group is more likely to commit crimes currently and in the future, as they normally exhibit riskier behaviors. As the article states, the youth who partake in these delinquent activities online may be unaware or simply do not care that these actions are potentially frowned upon or illegal. In addition to this benefit, this study may also serve as a call to action for parents to more actively monitor their children's online behavior. By doing this, parents can decrease the deviant, delinquent, or risk taking behaviors their child indulges in. According to the study, since the online and offline delinquent behaviors are correlated, we can assume we may see a decrease in offline delinquency as well.

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Journal Link:
https://www.cybercrimejournal.com/pdf/BreweretalVol12Issue1IJCC2018.pdf

Works Cited

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