

Criminological Theory (version 20160828)

META-THEORY CHECKLIST

1. SUTHERLAND: Is it about the making of laws? The breaking of laws? Or reactions to the breaking of laws?

2. FOCUS: What is the author trying to explain?

3. UNITS OF ANALYSIS/LEVEL OF DYNAMICS:
 - a. What is the level of the theory?
 - b. Is it focusing on individuals or something else?
 - c. Or is it mixed?

4. SCOPE:
 - a. What is the target population of interest?
 - b. What are the target settings of interest?
 - c. [IF ABOUT BREAKING LAWS:] What crimes are of interest?
 - d. What is the historical context?

5. CONFLICT VS. FUNCTIONALISM:
 - a. What is the “purpose” (societally) of crime?
 - b. How is crime socially constructed?

6. [IF ABOUT BREAKING LAWS:]
 - a. Classical or positivist perspective?
 - b. IF CLASSICAL: How bounded is the rationality?