

Etiological theories in recent British "critical" criminology

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One of the characteristics of recent British "critical" criminology is its persistent interest in causes of delinquent behaviour. However, it digresses from the "orthodox" positivist approach in as much as it attributes an important explanatory role to "subjective factors", that is to the way in which individuals perceive, interpret and evaluate objective (structurally generated) criminogenic determinants. The essential subjective element has already been incorporated in the key explanatory determinant of "left realism", namely the concept of relative deprivation. British critical criminologists have made efforts to revitalise or revise the "classical" sociological explanations of crime, which results in a theory close to the renewed and extended "general theory of criminogenic strain" (Agnew). Anyway, their particularity rests in the fact that they explain in more detail those criminogenic factors which are specific to the post-modern period of capitalistic society.

Keywords: criminology, critical criminology, crime etiology, left realism

UDC: 343.9.001