SUBCULTURAL THEORIES OF CRIME

- Criminal subcultures oppose conventional norms of legality, morality and achievement
- Edge-work: people addicted to adrenalin rush that committing crime gives them
- Integral part of reinforce why the subculture exists in the first place
- Lower-class = distinctive subculture reflecting the boring an monotonous low skilled jobs they have
- Trouble / toughness / smartness / excitement / fate / autonomy

- Subculture: social, ethnic, economic or age group that has a character of its own, which exists within a culture or society
- SWALE: young spent money hedonistically, creating a separate identity from adults
- 1950s: young people had their own money to spend on leisure activities different from older people
- COLES - nowadays in England and Wales offenders identified by the courts or the police are 80% males and 47% under 21
- COHEN: Status Frustration
  - Young males being frustrated with their low status / see themselves as losers
  - Solution: develop a subculture that differ from the mainstream society
  - Respect from other gang members

- FERRELL: link between images, symbols and styles used by different subcultures and the response of authorities towards them in determining if they're criminal or not
- Techniques of neutralisation = way of justifying criminal behaviour
- MATZA (1960) - critic
  - Denial of responsibility
  - Denial of injury
  - Denial of victim
  - Condemn the condemners
  - Appeal to a higher loyalty

- Miller: society is made up of different social classes with each having a different set of values
- Conflict subculture
- Retreatist subculture
- Different social environments and situations lead to different delinquent opportunities and subcultures

- Critics: sexism!