READ ONE OR BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES ON SEX DIFFERENCES IN CRIME (BOTH AVAILABLE IN 'ESSENTIAL READING' SECTION OF READING LIST FOR THIS WEEK)

- KANZAWA & STILL (2000)
- CAMPBELL ET AL (2001)

IN GROUPS:

1. SUMMARISE THE ARGUMENTS

Kanazawa: relationship between age and crime is similar in all social and cultural conditions and that no current sociological or criminological theory can account for this similarity.

If the age-crime curve is truly constant across all populations, then any factor that varies across such populations cannot explain it.

There has therefore been no satisfactory theory of crime that can explain all aspects of the curve (both the incline and decline over the life course)

By the age-crime curve we mean the relationship between age and criminality where: 1) criminality rapidly rises during adolescence; 2) it peaks in late adolescence or early adulthood; 3) it rapidly decreases during adulthood; and 4) it remains very low for the rest of the life.

Evolutionary psychology seeks to discover universal human nature, which is a collection of domain-specific psychological mechanisms.

A psychological mechanism is an information-processing procedure or decision rule that natural selection has equipped humans to possess in order to solve a particular adaptive problem (a problem of survival or reproduction). Operating behind our conscious thinking.

Male sexual jealousy is an example of an evolved psychological mechanism (Daly, Wilson and Weghorst 1982).

Men who are cuckolded and invest their resources in the offspring of other men end up wasting these resources, and their genes will not be represented in the next generation.

The same psychological mechanism often leads to men's attempt at mate guarding in order to minimize the possibility of their mates' sexual contact with other men.

Men get jealous of their mates' sexual infidelity with other men, underlying their reproductive concern for cuckoldry. In contrast, women get jealous of their mates' emotional involvement with other women because emotional involvement often leads to diversion of their mates' resources from them and their children to their romantic rivals (Buss et al. 1992; Buss et al. 1999).

Evolutionary psychology explains human behaviour in terms of these evolved psychological mechanisms, and the preferences, desires, and emotions that they produce in us.

Human beings are just like other animal species (Betzig 1997; de Waal 1996; Maryanski and Turner 1992), and all the laws of nature, in particular, the laws of evolution by natural and sexual selection, apply as much to humans as they do to other species.

It is to the environment of evolutionary adaptiveness that our brains and body are adapted to. This leads to the distinct possibility that our behavior in our current environment might be completely maladaptive. To the extent that our current environment is different from the EEA (to which all