- Example: Vanessa George, nursery nurse convicted of child abuse; society shocked by horror of her crimes but also that a woman committed them.
- Example: 2013, MP Chris Hume convicted for speeding, wife tried to lie for him and received a prison term—women not let off easily.

Sandra Walklate
- During rape trials against women it is them that are ‘put on trial’ and must prove their respectability in order to be believed.
- Number of women in prison has risen by 68% between 1997 and 2008, compared to 35% for men.

Why do women commit crime?

The liberation thesis
- The increase in feminism has caused a ‘cultural revolution’ has re evaluated women’s roles and led to an increase in the ladette culture and girl gangs.
- Between 2003 and 2008 crimes committed by females rose by 38%, men’s by 6%.

Evaluation:
- Overly-deterministic, not all women who have been affected by feminism commit crime.
- Mainly middle class white women who have benefited from feminism, yet working class women are more likely to offend.
- Girl gangs are an exaggerated moral panic and most don’t actually commit crime.

Tara Young
- Studied 25 girls in a Youth Offending Team in London who were involved in female girl gangs.
- Most were from working class backgrounds, had been thrown out by their parents and had experienced verbal, sexual or physical abuse.
- Had very little to lose by committing crime which made it all the more tempting.

Evaluation:
- Small sample, not necessarily representative on a wider scale.
- Useful insight into why girls might commit crime but not for why it has increased over the years.

Masculinity and Crime

James Messerschmidt
- There is the idea of ‘hegemonic masculinity’ that men must conform to.
- Refers to the way men are dominant in society and must ‘pull’ women, be aggressive.
- Can be hard to live up to so men turn to crime to achieve their masculinity and appear ‘hard’.
- The jobs working class men would have previously had have been closed (mines) and so asserting their masculinity has taken other forms e.g. crime.

**Evaluation:**
- Suggests all working class men should feel this way but not all commit crime.
- Lacks evidence.
- Not all crime asserts masculinity e.g. fraud is a ‘hidden crime’ and not motivated by status.

**Dick Hobbs et al**
- Used participant observation and interviews with bouncers to see how the ‘night time economy’ worked.
- Bouncers used violence and had access to drugs so gave them status and money, therefore, able to to assert their masculinity.

**Evaluation:**
- Participant observation could have ethical issues.
- In interviews people may lie, exaggerate, have the ‘hawthorne effect’. Or may withhold information in fear of getting in trouble if criminal activity.

**Jack Katz**
- Men commit crime for pleasure and fun.
- A break from the boredom of everyday life.
- Crime is ‘seductive’ for young men.
- E.g. football hooligans committing acts of violence due to the adrenaline.

**Evaluation:**
+ Recognises the thrill of crime.
- No evidence.
- Doesn’t explain why the w.c are more likely to commit crime.
- Doesn’t explain why some can resist.

**Gender and victimisation**

- Working class males aged 16-24 are most likely to be victims of crime.
- Women are more likely to feel fear than men.
- Women more likely to be victims of sexual assault.
Believes black men commit crime as a result of symbolic resistance towards racism.
Example: August riots of 2011 where black youth took part in the riots as a form of violent protest.

Institutional racism
- Investigation of the death of Stephen Lawrence (1993) by Macpherson found that the police were institutionally racist.
- Not necessarily individuals who are but the day to day running of the police is based on racist ideas e.g. associating young black men with mugging.
- Could also explain why black males are stopped and searched more.

Evaluation:
Waddington et al
- Conducted interviews with officers, examined records and joined police on their patrols of Reading and Slough.
- Found that young, black men were more likely to be stopped and searched but because they were over-represented in poorer areas where crime rates are higher.
- HOWEVER, overt-participation may have led to the hawthorne effect so less reliable.

Stuart Hall
- 1970s young black men named as muggers by media which caused a moral panic and forced the police to increase their stop and searches of young black men.
- This led to the deterioration of the relationship between the police and EMGs and in turn resulted in the deviancy amplification and more arrests.
- Claims the government and media used black males as a scapegoat to distract the public from the real crisis- rising unemployment.

Evaluation:
- No evidence that the government planned this.

Ethnicity and Victimisation
- Rise in number of racially motivated crimes against ethnic minority groups.
- Mixed race and blacks most at risk of crime.
- Asians feel most at risk.

Evaluation:
- May be down to areas people live rather than racism.
- HOWEVER, these differences may also be down to discrimination of local councils or employers.
- Justice is negotiable as middle class youths are more likely to get away with a crime as they don't fit the typical delinquent.

Douglas
- Criticises the positivist approach of studying suicide with statistics.
- It creates problems with reliability as coroners reach different verdicts and countries measure suicides differently.
- It creates problems with validity as successful cover ups can distort the statistics.
- Believes we should use a qualitative approach e.g. suicide notes, interviews with relatives, diaries.

Lemert
- Primary deviance: a person commits a crime but it goes unnoticed and they aren't labelled and there isn't a change in how they are seen by themselves or others.
- Secondary deviance: a persons crime is noticed and they are given a negative label and it becomes their master status, are excluded by society and join a deviant subculture.

Evaluation:
+ Young studied 'hippies' in the 1960s who initially only occasionally smoked marijuana but once society became aware and they were labelled as deviant and saw themselves as outsiders and their marijuana usage increased, forming a deviant subculture and a key feature of the 'hippie lifestyle.'

Eval eval:
- Culturally and historically specific example that generalises all cultures.
- Unable to tell whether all cultures accept labels.
- Doesn't explain the deviant behaviour in the first place.

Moral panic creates crime
- A folk devil is identified (hoodies) and the group (youngsters) are stereotyped and their behaviour is exaggerated.
- Society demands a crackdown on the group (blue water shopping centre banned hoodies).
- A self-fulfilling prophecy occurs whereby more young people wear hoodies and the 'deviancy amplification spiral' occurs where the group react to the labels and create deviance.

Evaluation:
- Doesn't explain original behaviour.
- Overly deterministic as not all individuals would react that way to the labels.
- A new website has been set up which allows the public to see recorded crime in their area to help communities recognise what problems they are experiencing.
- Easier for judges to impose a whole life tariff for the most serious offences to restore the public’s faith in the criminal justice system.
- Life sentences for anyone who is found trafficking people into the UK to tackle modern slavery.