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978-0-521-85707-9 - The Explanation of Crime: Context, Mechanisms, and Development

Edited by Per-Olof H. Wikström and Robert J. Sampson

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## The Explanation of Crime

Integration of disciplines, theories, and research orientations has assumed a central role in criminological discourse yet it remains difficult to identify any concrete discoveries or significant breakthroughs for which integration has been responsible. Concentrating on three key concepts: context, mechanisms, and development, this volume aims to advance integrated scientific knowledge on crime causation by bringing together different scholarly approaches. Through an analysis of the roles of behavioral contexts and individual differences in crime causation, *The Explanation of Crime* seeks to provide a unified and focused approach to the integration of knowledge. Chapter topics range from individual genetics to family environments and from ecological behavior settings to the macro-level context of communities and social systems. This is a comprehensive treatment of the problem of crime causation which will appeal to graduate students and researchers in criminology and be of great interest to policymakers and practitioners in crime policy and prevention.

PER-OLOF H. WIKSTRÖM is Professor of Ecological and Developmental Criminology at the University of Cambridge.

ROBERT J. SAMPSON is Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University.

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*Pathways in Crime*

## The Explanation of Crime

*Series Editor*

Per-Olof H. Wikström

*Pathways in Crime* aims to advance knowledge of the interactions between individual characteristics and social contexts in producing offending behavior, and to assist in the development of improved public policies, reducing criminality and enhancing individuals' life chances. Each book in the series will identify central problems and key issues in a topic by examining pathways in crime in relation to contexts and mechanisms, methods and analytical techniques, innovative research, and policy implications. This series will appeal to students, researchers, and scholars of sociology, psychology, criminology, and social and public policy.

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# The Explanation of Crime

## *Context, Mechanisms, and Development*

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Per-Olof H. Wikström

*and*

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SIR ANTHONY BOTTOMS has been Wolfson Professor of Criminology at the University of Cambridge since 1984, served as Director of the Cambridge Institute of Criminology from 1984 to 1998, and is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Sheffield (1999–) and at Queen’s University Belfast (1999–). His two principal research interests lie in the fields of penology and environmental criminology, but he has a growing interest in theoretical criminology. At the University of Sheffield, he is currently directing a research project on “Urban Crime in Sheffield 1999–2001,” with funding from the Barrow Cadbury Trust. This project has direct links to his earlier research in environmental criminology in the same city (*The Urban Criminal* with J. Baldwin [1976] and several subsequent articles). Professor Bottoms was elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1997 and was awarded the Sellin–Glueck Prize of the American Society of Criminology in 1996. He is a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and was President (= Vice-Master) of the College from 1994 to 1998.

MARIO BUNGE was born in Buenos Aires. He obtained his PhD in physico-mathematical sciences from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in 1952. He served as a professor of theoretical physics at the Universidad de Buenos Aires from 1956 to 1966 and at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata from 1956 to 1959 and a professor of philosophy at the Universidad de Buenos Aires from 1957 to 1963. He is currently Frothingham Professor of Logic and Metaphysics and Head, Foundations and Philosophy of Science, McGill University, Montreal, which he joined in 1966. He has authored more than 80 books and over 400 articles on theoretical physics, applied mathematics, systems theory, foundations of physics, foundations of sociology and psychology, philosophy of science, philosophy of technology, semantics, epistemology, catology, value theory, ethics, science policy, etc.

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AVSHALOM CASPI is Professor of Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London, and in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His major research interests include life-span developmental psychology, life-course sociology, development and psychopathology, personality assessment, behavioral genetics and longitudinal research methods. He is currently involved in several longitudinal studies concerned with the causes and consequences of continuity and change in behavioral development. In 1995 Professor Caspi won both the American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contributions to Psychology, and the American Psychological Foundation Robert L. Fantz Award. More recently, in 1998, he was elected a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

MARC LE BLANC is Professor in the School of Psycho-Education and the School of Criminology at the University of Montreal. He is also Director of Research for Boscoville 2000, a research and development center for adolescents with problem behavior. Professor Le Blanc has been involved in fundamental and applied research concerning juvenile delinquency for the last thirty-five years, and has been instrumental in promoting a developmental approach to the study of crime. His publications describe the extent and nature of individual delinquency and problem behavior and their development from childhood through adulthood, the etiology of self-reported and official adolescent delinquency and adult criminality, and present models of family, school, peer, constraints, self-control, and general control. His theoretical work covers four main areas: (i) the formalization and reformulation of Hirschi's social control theory; (ii) the formulation of a theory of the development of offending and of the developmental paradigm for criminology (with R. Loeber); (iii) the development of a social and personal control theory; and (iv) the formulation of a generic control theory that can apply to the commission of a crime, criminality, and individual offending. Professor Le Blanc was elected to the Social Sciences Academy of the Royal Society of Canada and is a Beccaria, Killam and deToqueville-Beaumont Fellow.

ROLF LOEBER is Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Epidemiology at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, and Professor of Juvenile Delinquency and Social Development at the Free University, Amsterdam. He is co-director of the Life History Program and is principal investigator of three longitudinal studies: the Pittsburgh

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Youth Study, the Developmental Trends Study, and the Pittsburgh Girls Study. He has published over 130 peer-reviewed papers and over 90 book chapters and other papers in the fields of juvenile antisocial behavior and delinquency, substance use, and mental health problems.

TERRIE MOFFITT is Professor of Psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, and in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is also Associate Director of the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Research Unit at the University of Otago Medical School. Her research interests include the natural history of antisocial behavior from childhood to adulthood, domestic violence, longitudinal research methodology, measurement of abnormal behavior, neuropsychological assessment, intelligence, and behavioral genetics. In 1999 Professor Moffitt was elected Fellow of the British Academy of Medical Sciences and was a finalist for editorship of the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* and the *Journal of Child Psychiatry & Psychology*. She has won several awards during her academic career including the Mid Career Award from the University of Wisconsin in 1997 and the Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology from the American Psychological Association in 1993.

ROBERT J. SAMPSON is Chairman of the Department of Sociology and the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University where he was appointed in January 2003 after a sabbatical in 2002–2003 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California. Formerly he was the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor in Sociology at the University of Chicago and Senior Research Fellow at the American Bar Foundation. Professor Sampson's main research interests include crime, law, deviance, and stigmatization; and neighborhood effects and the sociology of the modern city. His current focus is race/ethnicity and sociological mechanisms of ecological inequality, the subjective meanings of disorder, spatial dynamics, the comparative network structure of community influence, collective civic engagement, and other topics linked to the general idea of community-level social processes. Much of this work stems from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods, for which Sampson serves as Scientific Director. His recent honors include the Michael J. Hindelang Book Award in 2004 for *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70* (2003).

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N. WIM SLOT is Director of PI Research, a research center for youth care and education in the Netherlands, and a professor at the Free University in Amsterdam. His research focuses on child protection and juvenile delinquency. He has co-authored a number of articles in journals such as the *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology* and *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*.

MAGDA STOUTHAMER-LOEBER is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. She obtained her master's degree in clinical psychology from the Free University in Amsterdam. Her doctorate in clinical psychology is from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Her career has been in the study of antisocial behavior in children, and she has been involved in the Pittsburgh Youth Study and the Pittsburgh Girls Study, both longitudinal studies of large samples. Her interest is in mental health help for children, desistance in delinquency, and risk and protective factors. In addition, she is an expert on conducting longitudinal studies with a high participation rate and high data completion.

PER-OLOF H. WIKSTRÖM is Professor of Ecological and Developmental Criminology, University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Girton College, Cambridge. He is the Director of the ESRC Cambridge Network for the Study of the Social Contexts of Pathways in Criminality (SCoPiC; see [www.scopic.ac.uk](http://www.scopic.ac.uk) for further information). This major research network spans four research sites in the UK (Cambridge, Sheffield, London, and Huddersfield) and collaborates internationally with Harvard University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Montreal, and the University of Zurich. Professor Wikstrom's main research interests are in the causes of crime, urban crime, adolescent offending, criminal careers, crime prevention, and cross-national comparative research. In 1994 he received the Sellin-Glueck Award for outstanding contributions to international criminology from the American Society of Criminology, and in 2002 he was elected a Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford. He has recently served as Deputy Director of the University of Cambridge Institute of Criminology and Ph.D. Program Director.

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