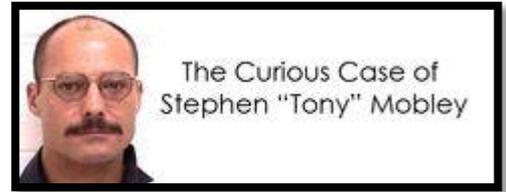


## STEPHEN "Tony" Mobley

Shortly after midnight on February 17, 1991, Mobley robbed a Domino's pizza store and shot John Collins, the store manager, in the back of the head with a semi-automatic pistol. The physical evidence from the scene was consistent with a statement Mobley later made to a cellblock inmate that Collins was on his knees when Mobley shot him. Over the next three weeks, Mobley committed six additional armed robberies of restaurants and dry-cleaning shops. Approximately three weeks after the crimes in issue, Mobley used the pistol while robbing a dry cleaning store, and tried to dispose of it by tossing it out his car window onto the side of a road when he realized he was being followed by an unmarked police car. The pistol was later recovered and Mobley arrested, after a high-speed chase. Mobley made statements to the police confessing to the murder of Collins and the robbery of the pizza store.



Following his incarceration, Mobley had: the word "Domino" tattooed on his back, placed a Domino's pizza box in his cell on the wall, carried a domino piece in his pocket with the same dot configuration as that used by Domino's Pizza, told a guard that he wished the guard had been up at Domino's instead of that other boy, in referring to the victim stated that "If that fat son-of-a-bitch had not started crying, I would never have shot him," told another guard that he "going to apply for the night manager's job at Domino's because he knew they needed one," told another guard that the guard was "beginning to look more and more like a Domino's pizza boy every day," told another guard that "anywhere Mobley was put [in jail] he'd kill anybody he came in contact with".

Mobley came from an affluent, white, middle-class American family and he was not abused or mistreated as a child. Yet as he grew up he became increasingly violent.

His lawyer claimed that the murders were a tragic consequence of a genetic predisposition. The genes of Stephen Anthony Mobley, his lawyer argued, meant that he was born to kill. He also argued that the murder was not the evil result of free will but the tragic consequence of a genetic predisposition. The genes of Tony Mobley, his lawyers argue, meant he was born to kill.

The chief witness for the defence is Mobley's aunt, Joyce Childers, who has testified that various members of the Mobley family over the past four generations have inexplicably been very violent, aggressive and criminal, although most of them "mellowed" in middle age.

"There is no legal defence to his crime," says Daniel Summer, Mobley's attorney. "There is only the mitigating factor of his family history. His actions may not have been a product of totally free will." Murder, rape, robbery, suicide, "you name it", the Mobley family has had it, he says.

The idea of invoking the Mobley genes as mitigation for the brutal murder of the pizza manager came to Mr. Summer after reading about genetics research in the Netherlands. Scientists studying the history of a particular Dutch family had identified a specific genetic mutation that resulted in a chemical imbalance in the brains of some of the males in the family. This, they said, could explain why the same men were prone to unusually violent outbursts. Mobley's family tree will again come under intense scrutiny, this time by researchers studying the link between genes and violence

Mobley was however, found guilty and executed on 1 March 2005 by lethal injection in the state of Georgia, USA.



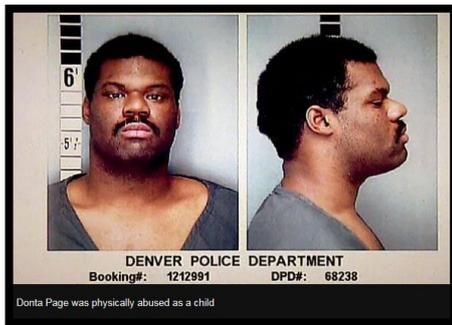
# Raine - Murderers more prone to rage and anger

The first scanning study of murderers was carried out in California by British neuroscientist Prof Adrian Raine. He was attracted to the Golden State not by the beaches but by, as he put it, "the large numbers of very violent and homicidal individuals".

Over the course of many years Raine and his team scanned the brains of numerous murderers and nearly all showed similar brain changes. There was reduced activity in the pre-frontal cortex, the area of the brain which controls emotional impulses, and over activation of the amygdala, the area which generates our emotions.



So it seems that murderers have brains that make them more prone to rage and anger, while at the same time making them less able to control themselves.



Raine's studies suggest that part of the reason may be childhood abuse, which can create killers by causing physical damage to the brain. The pre-frontal cortex is especially vulnerable

One of the prisoners that Raine scanned was Donta Page, a man who brutally murdered a 24-year-old woman when she caught him breaking into her home. As a baby, Page was frequently shaken by his mother, and as he got older the abuse got worse. His mother would use electrical extension cords, shoes, whatever was handy. These were not once a year

beatings, they were beatings that occurred almost daily

"Early physical abuse, amongst other things could have led to the brain damage, which could have led to him committing this violent act," Raine says.

But only a small proportion of those who have a terrible childhood grow up to become murderers. Could there be factors that predispose us to murder?

A breakthrough came in 1993 with a family in the Netherlands where all the men had a history of violence. Fifteen years of painstaking research revealed that they all lacked the same gene.

This gene produces an enzyme called MAOA, which regulates the levels of neurotransmitters involved in impulse control. It turns out that if you lack the MAOA gene or have the low-activity variant you are predisposed to violence. This variant became known as the warrior gene.

# Oskar Gröning – What makes a soldier a killer?

The trial of 93-year-old former SS sergeant Oskar Gröning began yesterday at the fourth criminal grand chamber of the Luneburg district court. He is charged with assisting murder in 300,000 cases. From September 1942 to October 1944, Gröning was an SS guard and administrator at Auschwitz concentration camp in occupied Poland.



More than 70 years after the liberation of Auschwitz by the Red Army on January 27, 1945, it is certain to be one of the last trials of living perpetrators of the indescribably hideous crimes committed by the Nazis at this and other concentration camps.

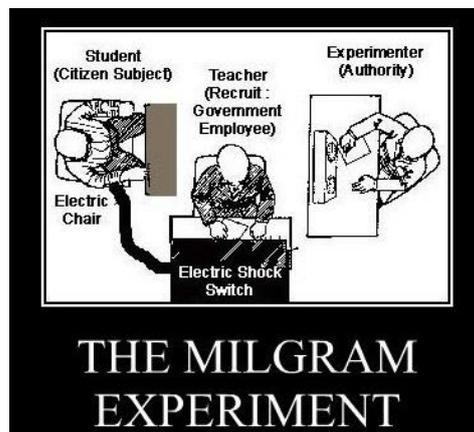
The name of the Nazis' Auschwitz concentration camp has come to symbolise the worst crimes and horrors of the twentieth century, and is a byword for the barbarism of capitalism in its most extreme form. More than 1.1 million people were brutally killed there. Hundreds of thousands were exterminated in the gas chambers immediately after their arrival, while others died from hunger, physical exhaustion or hideous experiments by sadistic doctors like Josef Mengele, nicknamed the angel of death by the prisoners.



In addition to Gröning, two other former SS soldiers currently face thousands of charges of assisted murder. An investigation by the state prosecutor in Schwerin is underway into 94-year-old Hubert Z from Mecklenburg Pomerania, and another against 94-year-old Reinhold Z from North Rhine-Westphalia led by the Dortmund state prosecutor.

The SS soldiers currently being charged allegedly were not directly involved in the murders, but through their service in Auschwitz, they contributed to the functioning of the Nazi murder machine. Gröning himself described his role at Auschwitz as a “cog in the wheel.”

Of the many thousands of Nazi criminals, relatively few were brought before the courts. Since the end of the war, the German judiciary has investigated 100,000 cases, but only 6,500 were convicted. They received relatively mild sentences considering the horrendous nature of their crimes. Generally, the perpetrators took the defence that they were just following orders, which the courts recognised as legitimate.

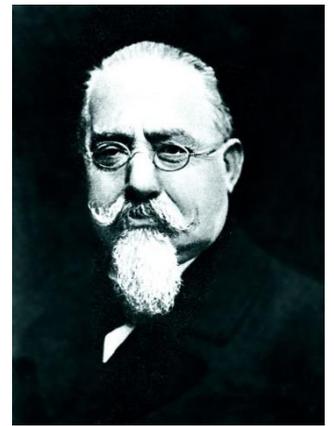


How can you connect this story to this?



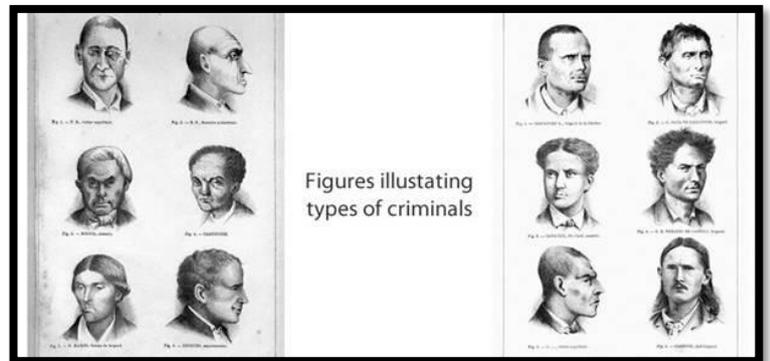
# Lombroso's Criminology Theories

Lombroso became a famous positive criminologist. The primary idea behind **positive criminology** is that criminals are born as such and not made into criminals; in other words, it is the nature of the person, not nurture, that results in criminal propensities. Moreover, the positive criminologist does not usually examine the role of free will in criminal activity.



## Born Criminals and Criminaloids

In the mid-1800s, Lombroso studied cadavers, seeking physiological reasons to explain criminal behavior. Lombroso distinguished between different types of criminals, including the born criminal and the criminaloid. According to Lombroso, **born criminals** had similar facial features, which included large canine teeth, large jaws, low-sloping foreheads, wrinkled skin, dark skin, large or small ears, chin abnormalities, high cheekbones and more. **Criminaloids**, on the other hand, had no physical characteristics of a born criminal but morphed into criminals during their lives due to environmental factors.



## Cesare Lombroso (1835–1909)

### Characteristics of Criminal:

- A twisted nose
- Excessive cheekbones
- Long arms
- Excessive wrinkles on the skin
- Large jaw
- Large chin

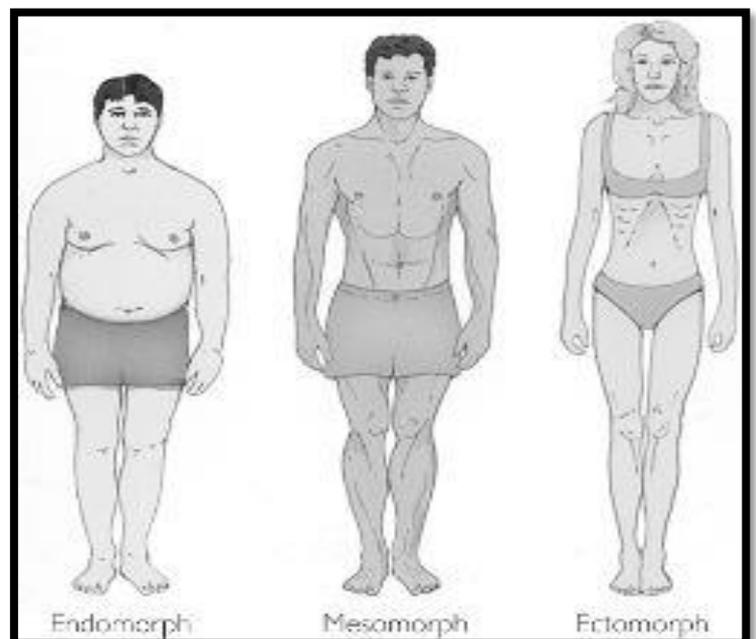


## Sheldon's body types



Sheldon became convinced that the psychological makeup of humans had biological foundations. He constructed a classification system that associated physiology and psychology, which he outlined in *The Varieties of Human Physique* (1940) and *The Varieties of Temperament* (1942). Sheldon classified people according to three body types: endomorphs, who are rounded and soft, were said to have a tendency toward a “viscerotonic” personality (i.e., relaxed, comfortable, extroverted); mesomorphs, who are square and muscular, were said to have a tendency toward a “somotonic” personality (i.e., active, dynamic, assertive, aggressive); and ectomorphs, who are thin and fine-boned, were said to have a tendency toward a “cerebrotonic” personality (i.e., introverted, thoughtful, inhibited, sensitive). He later used this classification system to explain delinquent behaviour, finding that delinquents were likely to be high in mesomorphy and low in ectomorphy and arguing that mesomorphy’s associated

temperaments (active and aggressive but lacking sensitivity and inhibition) tended to cause delinquency and criminal behaviour. Although his research was groundbreaking, it was criticized on the grounds that his samples were not representative and that he mistook correlation for causation.



# England rioters 'poorer, younger, less educated'



The most comprehensive statistics published so far on people charged over the August riots in England reveal they were poorer, younger and of lower educational achievement than average.

The government figures show 13% of those arrested were gang members. In terms of ethnicity, 42% of those charged were white, 46% black, 7% Asian and 5% were classified as "other".

The Met Police admitted in a separate report it did not have enough officers available on the first night of riots.

## Demographics:

- Some 90% of those brought before the courts were male and about half were aged under 21
- Only 5% were over the age of 40
- Of those defendants whose ethnicity is known: 46% were black, 42% were white, 7% were Asian and 5% were classified as "other". In some areas - such as Salford - this partially matched the ethnicity of the general population, in others - such as Nottingham - it was not representative of the general population
- Some 35% of adults were claiming out-of-work benefits, which compares to a national average of 12%
- Of the young people involved, 42% were in receipt of free school meals compared to an average of 16%
- 

## Criminal backgrounds:

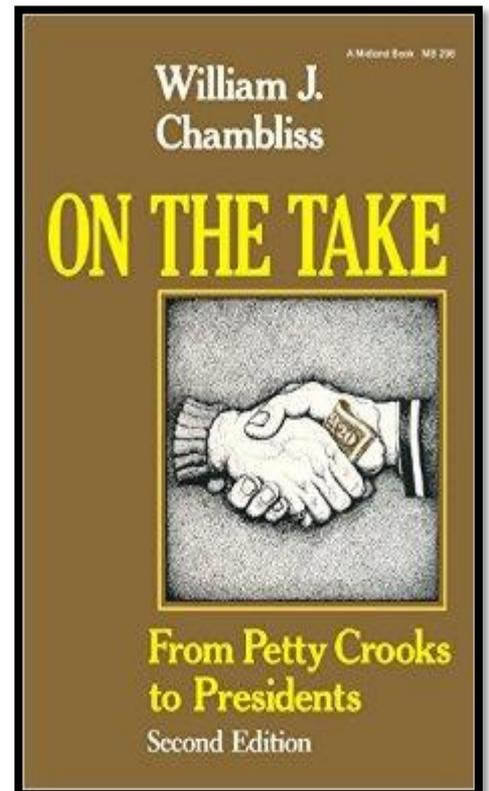
- 13% of those arrested overall were gang members but in London the figure was 19%
- Three-quarters of all those who appeared in court had a previous conviction or caution. For adults the figure was 80% and for juveniles it was 62%
- One in eight of all the crimes committed in the riots were muggings, claiming 664 victims
- More than 2,500 shops and businesses were victims of looters and vandals, and more than 230 homes were hit by burglars or vandals
- 

## Educational backgrounds:

- Two-thirds of the young people in court were classed as having some form of special educational need, compared to 21% for the national average
- More than a third of young people who were involved in the riots had been excluded from school during 2009-10 - this compares with Department for Education records showing 6% exclusions for all Year 11 pupils
- More than one in 10 of the young people appearing before courts had been permanently excluded - the figure drops to 0.1% among all those aged 15

## William Chambliss - Labelling

**William Chambliss** in 1973 conducted a classic study into the effects of labeling. His two groups of white, male, high-school students were both frequently involved in delinquent acts of theft, vandalism, drinking, and truancy. The police never arrested the members of one group, which Chambliss labeled the "Saints," but the police did have frequent run-ins with members of the other group, which he labeled the "Roughnecks." The boys in the Saints came from respectable families, had good reputations and grades in school, and were careful not to get caught when breaking the law. By being polite, cordial, and apologetic whenever confronted by the police, the Saints escaped labeling themselves as "deviants." In contrast, the Roughnecks came from families of lower socioeconomic status, had poor reputations and grades in school, and were not careful about being caught when breaking the law. By being hostile and insolent whenever confronted by the police, the Roughnecks were easily labeled by others and themselves as "deviants." In other words, while both groups committed crimes, the Saints were perceived to be "good" because of their polite behavior (which was attributed to their upper-class backgrounds) and the Roughnecks were seen as "bad" because of their insolent behavior (which was attributed to their lower-class backgrounds). As a result, the police always took action against the Roughnecks, but never against the Saints.

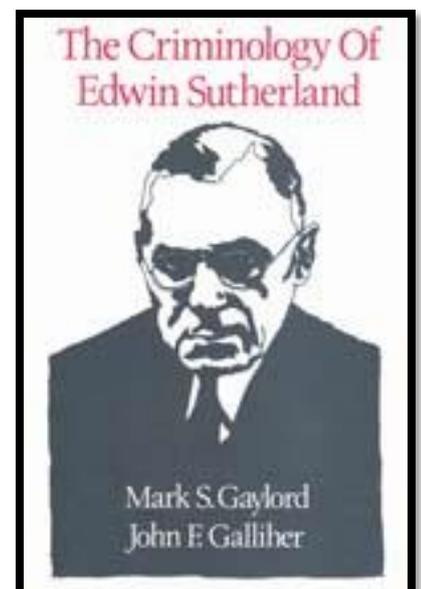


## Edwin Sutherland - Differential Association

**Edwin Sutherland** coined the phrase **differential association** to address the issue of how people *learn* deviance. According to this theory, the environment plays a major role in deciding which norms people learn to violate. Specifically, people within a particular *reference group* provide norms of conformity and deviance, and thus heavily influence the way other people look at the world, including how they react. People also learn their norms from various socializing agents—parents, teachers, ministers, family, friends, co-workers, and the media. In short, people learn criminal behavior, like other behaviors, from their interactions with others, especially in intimate groups.

The differential-association theory applies to many types of deviant behavior. For example, juvenile gangs provide an environment in which young people learn to become criminals. These gangs define themselves as countercultural and glorify violence, retaliation, and crime as means to achieving social status. Gang members learn to be deviant as they embrace and conform to their gang's norms.

Differential-association theory has contributed to the field of criminology in its focus on the developmental nature of criminality. People learn deviance from the people with whom they associate. Critics of the differential-association theory, on the other hand, claim the vagueness of the theory's terminology does not lend itself to social science research methods or empirical validation.



## Bandura's Bobo Doll

Bandura, Ross and Ross (1961) tested 36 boys and 36 girls from the Stanford University Nursery School aged between 3 to 6 years old.

The researchers pre-tested the children for how aggressive they were by observing the children in the nursery and judged their aggressive behaviour on four 5-point rating scales. It was then possible to match the children in each group so that they had similar levels of aggression in their everyday behaviour. The experiment is therefore an example of a [matched pairs design](#).



To test the [inter-rater reliability](#) of the observers, 51 of the children were rated by two observers independently and their ratings compared. These ratings showed a very high reliability correlation ( $r = 0.89$ ), which suggested that the observers had good agreement about the behaviour of the children.

In the experimental conditions children were individually shown into a room containing toys and played with some potato prints and pictures in a corner for 10 minutes while either:

1. 24 children (12 boys and 12 girls) watched a male or female model behaving aggressively towards a toy called a 'Bobo doll'. The adults attacked the Bobo doll in a distinctive manner - they used a hammer in some cases, and in others threw the doll in the air and shouted "Pow, Boom".
2. Another 24 children (12 boys and 12 girls) were exposed to a non-aggressive model who played in a quiet and subdued manner for 10 minutes (playing with a tinker toy set and ignoring the bobo-doll).
3. The final 24 children (12 boys and 12 girls) were used as a control group and not exposed to any model at all.

## Results

Children who observed the aggressive model made far more imitative aggressive responses than those who were in the non-aggressive or control groups.

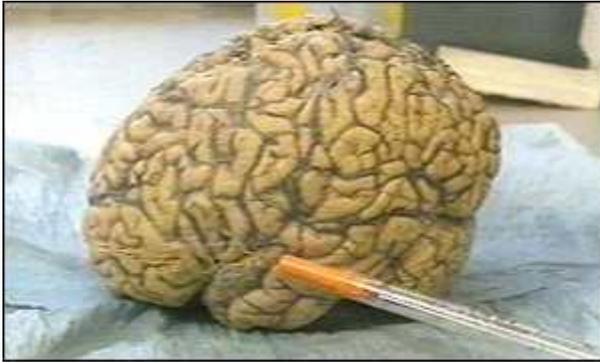
- There was more partial and non-imitative aggression among those children who has observed aggressive behavior, although the difference for non-imitative aggression was small.
- The girls in the aggressive model condition also showed more physical aggressive responses if the model was male but more verbal aggressive responses if the model was female. However, the exception to this general pattern was the observation of how often they punched Bobo, and in this case the effects of gender were reversed.
- Boys were more likely to imitate same-sex models than girls. The evidence for girls imitating same-sex models is not strong.
- Boys imitated more physically aggressive acts than girls. There was little difference in the verbal aggression between boys and girls.

## Conclusion

The findings support [Bandura's \(1977\) Social Learning Theory](#). That is, children learn social behaviour such as aggression through the process of observation learning through watching the behaviour of another person. This study has important implications for the effects of media violence on children.



# Brain size linked to violence



Men with a deficiency in part of their brain are prone to rage and violence, research has found.

Men with a personality disorder underwent brain-imaging which showed they suffered from a lack of nerve cells in one area of their brains.

The cells - equivalent to about two teaspoonful's worth - were missing in the men, who had all committed serious,

violent crimes and had psychopathic personalities.

They all suffered from Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD), which is characterised by irresponsibility, deceitfulness, lack of emotional depth and life-long social behaviour.

Their brains were deficient in the prefrontal cortex, an area thought to be central to children's ability to learn to feel remorse, conscience and social sensitivity.

## Free will

Professor Adrian Raine, a psychopathologist at the University of Southern California who carried out the research, said the results raised questions about free will in criminals.

He said: "Assuming these people are not responsible for their own brain damage, should we hold them fully responsible for their criminal acts?"

And he said the study, published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, suggested it was necessary to tackle the problem at an early age.

"Tackling imprisoned adults is almost a waste of time. Tackling kids when they're juvenile delinquents is far too late. We have to get these kids much earlier in life, when the brain is more plastic," said Professor Raine.

His study found that reduced prefrontal volume and lower autonomic response predicted APD with an accuracy of over 75%. It was as effective a predictor of the disorder as an assessment of 10 psychosocial factors such as poverty and physical or sexual abuse.

But he added: "We are talking about a predisposition to antisocial behaviour. Some people who have prefrontal deficits do not become antisocial, and some antisocial individuals do not have prefrontal deficits."

Dr Martin Deahl, a consultant psychiatrist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said the finding would have no use for developing a test for antisocial or violent behaviour.

He said: "We know that people with serious psychopathic disorders and violent tendencies have brain abnormalities, but there are no specific abnormalities you can look for in a scan and pick out an individual."

“  
**Assuming these people are not responsible for their own brain damage, should we hold them fully responsible for their criminal acts?**  
”

**Professor Adrian Raine**