

Synoptic
Link to
Education

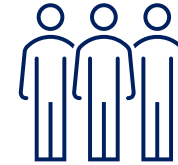
Albert Cohen

Drawing on Merton's Strain Theory, Cohen suggested that blocked opportunities to succeed lead **young working-class males** to form delinquent subcultures



Unable to achieve status in education – working-class boys suffer from **STATUS FRUSTRATION**

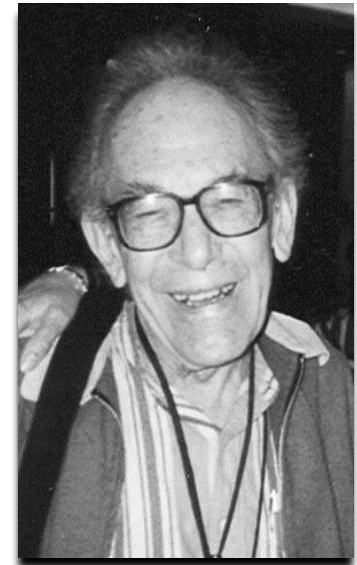
Look to obtain status by forming subcultural groups with similar peers and construct an **ALTERNATE STATUS HIERARCHY**



This involves subverting the norms and values of society to give status to criminal and deviant activities – usually non-utilitarian

This brings them into conflict with authorities and further harms their opportunities for status through legitimate means

Subcultural Theories of Crime
– part of functionalist approach



Evaluations of Cohen

- Explain non-utilitarian crime
- Recognises the influence of peers on criminal behaviour
- Does not account for crimes committed by individuals or utilitarian crimes

Theories of Crime and Deviance