

BOOK REVIEW ON ‘CULTURAL CRIMINOLOGY UNLEASHED’

Cultural Criminology Unleashed. Jeff Ferrell et al (eds). 2004
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‘Cultural Criminology’ is an approach on the study of crime that views crime as a cultural product or a culturally inspired behaviour. Cultural Criminology has been of interest to criminologists since the 1960s and 1970s where some cultural studies on crime were regarded as a new approach to criminology. The term ‘Cultural Criminology’ was first used in the mid-1990s where its growing interest arose from the desire to understand the cultural complexity of crime and humanity in late modern society. Cultural criminology challenges the conventional view of criminology which focuses merely on the causes of crime and the work of the criminal justice institutions. Theories within cultural criminology take into account the role of cultural effects and the role of humanity’s changing behaviours on the pattern of contemporary crime.

The book ‘Cultural Criminology Unleashed’ gives an in-depth exploration of the field of cultural criminology. The authors focus on emphasize the ever-changing scope of cultural criminology studies which veer unexpectedly into diverse areas. The book explores a wide range of recent research that study cultural criminology from the perspectives of behavioral psychology, worship, globalization, immigration, multiculturalism, cross border crime, ethnicity, gender, media and community, marginality, urbanization, drug and alcohol consumption, accidents, and the view of critics to the current institutional preventive measures and controls.

The book offers numerous explanations for cultural effects on crime. I recommend this book to all criminologists and criminal justice policy makers. The book provides a clear understanding of the contemporary crime phenomena. Crime can often be the result of cultural effects, but policy makers do not always connect the problem of crime to our ever-changing culture. For this reason, the root cause of a crime may not be appreciated. The causes of crime can be varied. Critics of conventional criminology fear that we no longer have appropriate responses needed.

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