

The Biosocial Aspects of Willie Bosket's Criminality



Nineteenth-Century Positivism, a movement which later gave way to positivist theory, ~~held to the belief~~advocated that “human behavior is a function of forces beyond a person’s control.” ~~Various~~Early sociologists, physicians, and psychiatrists coupled this belief with the ~~then newly~~-emerging sciencescientific method in an attempt to explain the nature and causes of antisocial and deviant behavior. Their work eventually led to the creation of positivist theory; a ~~theory~~concept that suggested certain individuals were more prone to committing criminal acts than other individuals, based on inherited physiological and psychological traits (Siegel, 2007).

Positivist theory ~~would later~~became outdated as the science of criminology evolved. ~~However~~Nevertheless, its ~~practioners~~practitioners laid the foundation for many important biosocial theories ~~that are~~ still utilized today. ~~In regards to explaining~~Regarding Willie Bosket’s deviance and criminality, the most applicable ~~theories~~models are behavioral theory, cognitive theory and arousal theory. All three theories hinge on the core idea that behavior is the result of individuals interacting with their environment. In particular, behavioral theory holds that experience develops human actions. Similarly, cognitive theory asserts that individual reasoning is influenced by how people perceive their environment. ~~and a~~Arousal theory, meanwhile, suggests that obtaining thrills and “highs” are sufficient motivations to commit crime. Each field of study can ~~be~~ readily ~~used to~~ explain ~~both~~ the roots and nature of Willie Bosket’s antisocial, criminal and violent behavior. A violent and emotionally callous society, coupled with a series of ~~recurring~~generational-cyclical incidents involving brutal and deviant behavior, ~~has~~ produced the criminal known as William James Bosket, Jr. (Siegel, 2007).

Commented [RR1]: “Theory” is an overused word in this document. I suggest using synonyms to keep your audience interested in the topic.

Commented [RR2]: Remember that the adage “less is more” truly applies to academic writing. Try to focus on action instead of relying on filler words.

Commented [RR3]: Avoid run-on sentences.

Commented [RR4]: Avoid overuse of “have” and “has” when conveying action. It contributes to the passive voice.

Bosket's case ~~readily~~ supports behavioral theory in several regards. One aspect of behavioral theory, ~~for instance, is~~ that ~~an individual's~~ alters ~~his or her~~ ~~their~~ behavior according to the reactions they receive from others. ~~is clearly evident in~~ ~~Fox Butterfield~~ ~~recounts many of~~ Bosket's deviant ~~actions-acts~~ ~~while reading Fox Butterfield's in his~~ ~~work, All God's Children.~~ The specific branch of Criminology (and behavioral theory) that is most applicable to Bosket's situation is social learning theory. ~~Social learning~~ theory argues that people are ~~not~~ born with ~~out~~ the ability to act violently. ~~Rather,~~ ~~individuals~~ ~~instead~~ learn ~~to be~~ violent and destructive ~~behavior~~ through ~~their~~ life experiences. ~~Growing up,~~ Bosket, ~~(like the men his family before him,)~~ was constantly subjugated to violent and apathetic individuals ~~both in his household and neighborhood~~ ~~during childhood~~ (Butterfield, 2008).

Through behavioral modeling, a process of learning aggressive behavior by observing others, Bosket grew ~~from a mischievous boy into~~ a man that would eventually be convicted of crimes such as armed robbery, arson, and murder. According to social learning theory, aggressive acts ~~are usually modeled after~~ ~~derive from~~ three main sources: ~~F~~family interaction, environmental experiences and mass media. Bosket was exposed to violence and emotional indifference through ~~out~~ his entire youth in all three cases (Siegel, 2007).

Bosket grew up in a ~~violent~~ family ~~environment~~ that ~~endorsed and~~ approved of ~~violent-inappropriate~~ behavior and language. His family often supported Willie cursing and playing violent practical jokes on others. This ultimately led to Willie's ~~develop~~ ~~menting~~ into a ~~uncontrollable~~ young boy ~~that was virtually uncontrollable.~~ Willie Bosket's mother eventually disowned him; much like his grandmother ~~had done~~

Commented [RR5]: Avoid excessive use of adverbs and adjectives. These are sometimes referred to as "filler words" and can bog down an otherwise succinct argument.

Commented [RR6]: 1. Eliminates passive voice. 2. This is compelling statement but where is your supporting evidence? What did Butterfield point out in his book?

Commented [RR7]: It's always easier to phrase an argument in the affirmative rather than the negative.

Commented [RR8]: Okay, here's your supporting information. I recommend placing this sentence immediately after your initial statement about Butterfield's work (above).

Commented [RR9]: Redundant. The reader is already aware that little boys eventually grow into men.

~~did~~ to his father (James Bosket). ~~Additionally, e~~Each Bosket boy ~~additionally~~ grew up lacking a father figure ~~in their youth~~ because ~~each both~~ men ~~ran out on his respective~~ ~~abandoned their wives~~ every time they became pregnant. This pattern ran its course through several generations of Bosket boys; each ending with pain and tragedy (Ramsland, 2007).

~~Willie's environmental experiences were violent to say the least.~~ Growing up virtually unsupervised in a community full of pimps, thieves, murders and drug addicts ~~obviously had an~~ adversely affected on Bosket's emotional development. ~~Willie~~ ~~observed countless deviants~~ ~~He was taught through observation and personal experience~~ ~~to who~~ feared ~~nothing little~~ and ~~that violence~~ resolved ~~all conflicts~~ ~~everything thorough~~ violence. ~~On the streets,~~ ~~B~~being tough and earning respect ~~equated to were~~ matters of hurting and stealing from others for a young Willie Bosket. ~~Bosket's~~ ~~This~~ exposure to ~~street-urban~~ violence eventually ~~evolved~~ ~~Bosket turned him~~ into an apathetic murderer (Butterfield, 2008).

Oddly enough, ~~the~~ mass media also ~~had a small~~ played part to ~~play~~ in Bosket's ascension ~~into becoming as~~ a criminal. If ~~not exposed~~ ~~addition~~ to ~~real~~ physical violence at home or on the streets, Willie ~~could~~ received ~~a~~ healthy doses ~~of~~ ~~suffering on~~ television. ~~Ironically, at a young age, Bosket wanted to become a police officer.~~ He spent ~~his spare~~ time, ~~for example,~~ watching popular TV cop shows of the 60's and 70's, like "Mod Squad" and "Adam Twelve". ~~Obviously~~ ~~While~~ not ~~as~~ violent or pervasive as Willie's ~~real~~ life experiences, these TV shows still ~~nonetheless~~ reinforced the ~~daily~~ violence and cruelty that he ~~was exposed to~~ ~~experienced~~ on the streets ~~and or~~ at home ~~on~~ ~~a daily basis~~ (Butterfield, 2008).

Commented [RR10]: Look for a stronger transition statement. This is a redundant observation.

Commented [RR11]: Passive voice.

Commented [RR12]: Passive voice.

~~Cognitive theory is~~ the second major field of work that ~~might potentially~~ explains Bosket's ~~deviant~~ behavior ~~is cognitive theory~~. According to Larry J. Siegel, author of *Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*:

One area of psychology that has received increasing recognition in recent years has been the cognitive school. Psychologists with a cognitive perspective focus on mental processes and how people perceive and mentally represent the world around them and solve problems (2007).

Cognitive theory was developed through the beginning and middle of the 20th century and deals with moral development, humanistic psychology and information processing. Moral development is primarily concerned with how people perceive their surrounding environment. Humanistic psychology is a very person-centered approach to more traditional methods and is concerned with ~~best~~ helping individuals by humanizing psychological analysis and treatment. Information processing is centered on individual perception of information. ~~Additionally, i~~nformation processing is also concerned with how people store ~~life experiences~~, retrieve ~~memories~~ and make decisions ~~based on said information~~ (Siegel, 2007).

One cornerstone of moral and intellectual development theory is that individual reasoning develops in a structured and ordered fashion until the age of 12. ~~Initially,~~ ~~s~~Simple environmental manipulation ~~lays constitutes~~ the foundation ~~for of~~ this development. ~~However, i~~Logic and abstract thought, ~~however,~~ are utilized to round-out ~~and~~ individual's moral and intellectual make-up. ~~Obviously,~~ Willie Bosket ~~is an individual that, as a out of survival mechanism,~~ developed poor and skewed personal morals that deviate from the social standard. On the other hand, Bosket ~~is~~ also ~~documented as having has~~ an above average IQ. These two qualities coupled together

Commented [RR13]: This is a relatively well-written paragraph. Good observation and great supporting information!

Commented [RR14]: The word "however," when used at the beginning of a sentence indicates option. When it's used in the middle of a sentence it indicates transition. Example: "However you can get it done."

made him a violent and dangerous individual at a very young age; Bosket committed his first homicide in New York while he was ~~still~~ only a teenager (Ramsland, 2007).

~~Additionally,~~ Bosket's other dilemma ~~may more easily might~~ be explained simply by examining ~~where and when he was his~~ exposure~~d~~ to specific patterns of antisocial behavior. ~~Bosket was faced with numerous challenges in his life.~~ Many of these situations centered on physical violence. ~~Using information and Relying on past experiences that he had recorded from past confrontations and events,~~ Bosket often lashed out at his victims in a destructive manner. ~~This is easily illustrated by examining~~ ~~his track record while spending time in at~~ reformatory institutions and prisons ~~illustrates~~ ~~this point.~~ Much of Bosket's time spent in confinement and treatment was consumed with belligerence, fighting and even murder (Butterfield, 2008).

Commented [RR15]: Passive voice.

Commented [RR16]: Passive voice.

One final belief that ~~could~~ possibly explains Bosket's personality is arousal theory. This theory suggests that ~~individuals-adolescents~~ commit deviant acts, ~~or~~ crimes ~~or both~~ to obtain thrills ~~and is most commonly observed in adolescence.~~ Certain individuals ~~may~~ ~~sometimes~~ commit these acts due to genetic predispositions concerning ~~the manner in which they the perceive perception of~~ their environment and ~~their~~ desired arousal level. ~~These g~~Gratifications sought ~~after~~ while committing criminal acts are often referred to as the "seductions of crime" and may include factors such as monetary gain, sexual stimulation, natural highs (adrenaline rushes), and feelings of power (Siegel, 2007). This sort of behavior is clearly prevalent ~~when examining in the case of~~ Bosket. He ~~has~~ ~~displays always had~~ an overriding desire to be respected above his peers and viewed as a "bad man" by others. This began in ~~his~~ childhood, while participation in youth gangs,

and ~~later~~ carried on to prisons, where he committed numerous violent acts against ~~both~~ other inmates and correctional officers (Butterfield, 2008).

The case of William James Bosket, Jr. ~~has~~ demonstrates that, with ~~the correct~~ specific physiological and psychological conditions set in place, sociological triggers can turn individuals into amoral and violent monsters capable of inconceivable violence.

Unfortunately, ~~this habit of attempting to at~~ resolve ing conflicts ~~with~~ through violence has become ~~somewhat of~~ an integral part of the human condition. This propensity and attraction to violent behavior will only be eliminated and controlled through research, study, and the application of criminal and social behavioral theories. It is our only option, less we want the sad Bosket tradition to continue in another town to another boy with another name.

Commented [RR17]: I understand you want to make a firm closing, but you could do without this sentence. The preceding sentence works just fine as a concluding statement.

Works Cited

Butterfield, Fox (2008). *All god's children*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.

Ramsland, Katherine (2007). Being bad. Retrieved July 8, 2008, from Crime Library

Web site: http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious_murders/young/bosket/1.html

Siegel, Larry J. (2007). *Criminology: Theories, patterns, and typologies, ninth edition*.

Belmont, CA: Thomas/Wadsworth.