

*Perspective*

# Feminist crimes theory and feminist sociology institutes

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## ABOUT THE STUDY

In response to the pervasive indifference and prejudice of women in the traditional study of crime, the feminist school of criminology was formed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The feminist school of criminology holds that most criminological theories were created through research on male subjects and concentrated on male criminality, and that criminologists frequently "added women and stirred" rather than creating separate ideas on female criminality. In order to comprehend the causes, patterns, and outcomes of female criminality, feminist criminology focuses on women offenders, women victims, and women in the criminal justice system. The role of sex and sexism in punishment and incarceration, the impact of victimization on women's life, and the rise in the proportion of incarcerated women despite falling crime rates are among the major concerns of the feminist school of criminology. The scientific study of crime, its causes, solutions, and perpetrators is known as criminology. The feminist school of criminology did not arise until the late 1960s and 1970s, despite the fact that this subject of study has its roots in the late 19th century. Feminist criminologists aimed to comprehend female criminals, female victims, and female workers in the criminal justice system in response to the then-dominant mainstream criminology's concentration on male offenders and victims.

### Early theories on female deviancy

Instead than focusing on societal or economic factors, the initial beliefs about women's crime were mostly psychological and physiological in nature. These theories, which were mostly promoted by male academics and criminologists, have come under harsh criticism for relying on presumptions about "the nature of women," and many of them have now been proven to be

false. Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso divided "normal women" from "criminal women," the latter of who was perceived as less feminine and consequently more likely to be criminal. He did this by using phrenology and anthropological criminology to his thinking on female criminality.

### Feminist theories on crime

**Carceral feminism:** A carceral feminism is a feminist who uses the criminal justice system to solve issues like violence against women and the punishment of sexual offenders in order to address societal issues and gender disparities. Carceral feminists, who are largely radical, liberal, and/or white feminists, think that by enacting more stringent laws, beefing up security, and expanding the criminal justice system overall especially with regard to sex offenders, violence against women may be significantly reduced.

**Abolitionist feminism:** Abolitionist feminism, which is seen as the antithesis of carceral feminism, aims to isolate criminal behaviour from the existing criminal justice system because it doesn't do enough to address the causes of crime in society, in their opinion. "Traditional concepts of crime and the law, while rejecting official conceptions of the meanings and effects of punishment," is how abolitionism is defined.

Abolitionists contend that "crime" as it is now defined only occurs in the context of the laws that define it, and that these laws were developed in order to confine and exclude people who are considered to be "unproductive." Other abolitionists caution that when crime is only seen as a product of prisons or institutions, "they stunt abolitionist understandings in manners akin to pushing against a 500 year old tree from its trunk and expecting it to topple over without any account for the roots that hold it firmly in the ground." Penal abolitionists look to the elimination of prisons to solve this problem.

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