

ANALYZING TRUE CRIME THROUGH A SOCIOLOGICAL LENS

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ABSTRACT

True crime has long been a subject of both public fascination and scholarly inquiry, particularly within the field of sociology, which has examined this phenomenon extensively over time. Despite its disturbing nature, true crime remains a highly relevant topic due to its increasing prevalence in contemporary society. Cases range widely—from instances of filicide (n. the killing of one's son or daughter) committed by minors to crimes of passion driven by jealousy, and seemingly inexplicable acts of violence perpetrated by random assailants—demonstrating the breadth and complexity of criminal behavior. This study seeks to analyze selected case studies through a sociological framework, with the aim of developing a comprehensive understanding of the underlying social and psychological factors that contribute to such deviant behavior. By applying rigorous reasoning and close analytical attention, we strive to uncover how these pathologies influence societal structures. Ultimately, this inquiry will explore the extent to which a society's capacity to respond to and understand such behaviors determines its resilience—differentiating between a society in decline due to unchecked deviance and one equipped to address and contain even the most sophisticated forms of criminality.

Keywords: true crime, sociological lens, case studies, determinant factors

INTRODUCTION

True crime has consistently captured the attention of the public and remains a compelling subject for critical examination, particularly as such incidents have become increasingly prevalent, diverse in nature, aspect, manifestation and often more disturbing than ever imagined. The evolving modalities of criminal behavior—facilitated by new technological and social mechanisms—have given rise to novel and often more severe manifestations of deviance. Within a broader sociological context, true crime reflects the intrusion of pathogenic elements into the social fabric, wherein morally aberrant (unethical, offensive and dangerous) behavior is enacted without apparent remorse or ethical reflection.

This study examines a selection of notorious case studies that exemplify extreme forms of deviant conduct: in some instances, the perpetrators committed homicide yet refrained from taking their own lives, potentially indicating a psychological deficit in accountability or a failure of resolve; in other cases mentioned, the perpetrators engaged in murder-suicide, illustrating a terminal form of psychological disintegration.

As a non-fiction genre, true crime is devoted to the investigation and exposition of actual criminal events, with particular emphasis on violent crimes such as homicide, sexual assault, and serial killings. This genre spans multiple media platforms—including literature, documentary film, podcasting, television, and digital journalism—and is distinguished from fictional crime narratives by its adherence to factual accuracy and empirical documentation. It typically involves in-depth exploration of investigative procedures, legal proceedings,