



## It's nature AND nurture: Integrating biological factors to social learning theory

# Bryanna Hahn

PhD Student – Institute of Criminology

Institute of Criminology PhD Public Seminar Series

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 4.30pm  
Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,  
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

This PhD seminar precedes the seminar to be given by Professor Adrian Raine at 5.30pm.

Is criminal behaviour a product of human nature or nurture? This has been an enduring question among behavioural theorists, and a debate that still perplexes criminologists today. While a wealth of successful theories have emerged from criminology in recent years, the field has yet to find a single model that explains a significant portion of variance in individuals' criminal and deviant behaviour.

However, the biosocial perspective has been highly successful in recent research, given the inclusion of both biological and social factors in the theoretical model. This perspective takes various biological and sociological factors into account, ranging from genes and hormones, to peer influence and maternal attachment. Still, no socially-based criminological theory has yet to be integrated with biological factors, leaving a significant and conspicuous gap in our field's mainstream theories.

It is therefore of great benefit to the field of criminology, as well as our understanding of criminal behaviour, that an integration of our successful social-based theories and biological influences occurs. This presentation aims to guide such integration, using Social Learning as the framework and model for such a propositional integration.

This seminar is part of the IoC Public Seminar Series, and is open to all interested in attending.  
If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on:

[jf225@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jf225@cam.ac.uk)