

Crime and the Life Course (Criminology and Justice Studies)

Michael Benson

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In recent years, the lifecourse perspective has become a popular theoretical orientation toward crime. Yet despite its growing importance in the field of criminology, most textbooks give it only cursory treatment. *Crime and the Lifecourse:* An Introduction by Michael L. Benson provides a comprehensive overview of contemporary research and theory on the life-course approach to crime. The book emphasizes a conceptual understanding of this approach. A special feature is the integration of qualitative and quantitative research on criminal life histories. This book:

- provides an overview of the life course approach and describes the major concepts and issues in lifecourse theory as it applies to criminology
- reviews evidence on biological and genetic influences on crime
- reviews research on the role of the family in crime and juvenile delinquency
- provides a detailed discussion of the criminological lifecourse theories of Moffitt, Hagan, Sampson and Laub, and others
- discusses the connections between youthful crime and adult outcomes in education, occupation, and marriage
- presents an application of the lifecourse approach to white-collar crime
- discusses how macro sociological and historical developments have influenced the shape of the lifecourse in American society as it relates to patterns in crime.



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