

# Differential Association Theory

Patrick Nelson PhD

Edwin H. came up with Differential Association Theory. Back in the early 1900s, Sutherland said that crime is learned from other people. He went against the idea that criminals are just born bad or have something wrong with them. Instead, he said people learn to be criminals from hanging out with others. The main idea is that people pick up criminal values, attitudes, skills, and reasons from the people they're closest to. So, who you spend time with really matters when it comes to doing bad stuff.

Looking at where Differential Association Theory came from helps us understand its main points, and how it was different from what people thought before. The theory says that how often you hang out with certain people, how long you spend with them, and how important they are to you all play a part in learning bad behaviors. Talking to people is how we share what's normal and what's not. Friends are a big deal here, because they not only teach you things, but also back up what you're doing through shared experiences and sticking together.

Differential Association Theory is pretty popular, but some people don't think it works for everyone, and that it makes things too simple. Even though it's not perfect, it's still helpful for today's crime experts who want to look at how criminals are connected to each other, instead of just looking at each person alone. Real-life examples keep proving that who you hang out with can really change whether you end up breaking the law.

Edwin H. thought up Differential Association Theory. He did it in the early 1900s, because he didn't agree with the usual ideas about crime. People used to think criminals were just born that way, with something wrong in their head or body. Sutherland, who was a big deal in sociology and crime studies, wanted people to focus on how people learn to be criminals, instead of thinking it's just something they're born with. Back then, people thought crime was in your genes or because you were crazy. Sutherland's theory showed that where you live and who you hang out with can really make you more likely to do bad stuff.

Differential Association Theory started when Sutherland looked at crimes committed by rich people and studied how different groups acted like criminals. He saw that people who broke the law usually had friends who thought the same way, and didn't care about the law. This made him wonder if criminals were really that different from everyone else. Sutherland said people learn how to do crime and why it's okay from the people they're close to.

Sutherland wrote about Differential Association Theory in his book *Principles of Criminology* in 1939. He said that people learn to be criminals from talking to others who think it's okay to break the law. How often you talk to these people, how long you spend with them, and how important they are to you all decide if you'll start doing bad stuff too. This was a big change from the old

way of thinking, because it focused on how we learn from each other, instead of just saying criminals are born that way.

The theory came from sociology ideas about how we understand each other and psychology ideas about how we learn. But Sutherland used these ideas to explain crime. He said that what you learn from others affects what you do, instead of just blaming things like being poor. Differential Association Theory was the start of looking at how everyday people can make others commit crimes, instead of just blaming society. It lets people see how much we have a say in whether we do bad things.

Edwin H. made Differential Association Theory. His ideas have some important points that help explain how people learn to be criminals from others. The main point is that crime is learned from talking to people you're close to, not something you're born with. When you learn, you hear people say whether it's okay to break the law or not. If you hear more people saying it's okay to break the law, you're more likely to do it.

Another main idea is that people learn to be criminals the same way they learn anything else – by talking to others. They learn the skills they need to do crime and the reasons why they should do it. This usually happens when you're with your family, friends, or people you hang out with. The theory says that you learn how to commit crimes and also how to feel okay about it.

How often you hear certain things, how long you hear them, and how important they are all matter. If you hang out a lot with people who break the law, you're more likely to do it too. What you learn when you're young matters more than what you learn later. And if you learn something from someone you look up to, it matters even more.

Sutherland said that people commit crimes when they hear more reasons to break the law than to follow it. So, it's not just about hearing bad stuff, but about hearing more bad stuff than good stuff.

Differential association theory leaves out simple reasons. Instead it focuses on social behavior.

If you want to know how someone starts doing crimes, Differential Association Theory has some key ideas. People learn by talking to each other, and by hearing different sides of things. The value of friends is the most important reason.

Differential Association Theory says that talking to people is how people learn to be criminals. Edwin H. said that criminals aren't born that way. They learn from talking to and hanging out with people who already do bad stuff or think it's okay. This happens with people you're close to, who teach you that it's okay to break the law. How often you talk to these people, how long you spend with them, and how important they are all change whether you'll start doing crime. If you hear lots of people saying it's okay to do bad stuff, you start to believe it's normal.

The theory says that it's not just about seeing bad stuff, but about doing it too. You talk to people, share stories, and feel close to friends or family who do bad stuff. This helps you learn how to do crime and why it's okay. For example, a young person who's part of a group that shoplifts might learn how to steal things and why it's okay. Talking to these people makes you think breaking the rules is okay, and that society is wrong.

hanging out with people also changes how you think about the law. You hear different ideas that go against what society thinks is right. This is why crime rates go up in places where people stick together and think it's okay to do bad stuff. The way these people are connected means that people will commit crimes if they hear more bad ideas than good.

Talking to people is how we learn what's right and wrong. It shows that who you hang out with matters more than what you're born with. Talking to people shapes how you act, and can lead to crime.

Differential Association Theory says that your friends are a big deal when it comes to how you act. The theory says people learn to be criminals from hanging out with people who think it's okay to break the law. Peer groups are important because they teach you what's normal and what's not. People usually act like their friends, so they start to do what their friends do, good or bad. hanging out with friends can make you deviate or act normal.

When your friends change how you act, it happens in a couple of ways. You copy them, they tell you you're doing a good job, and they share what they think is normal. Teenagers who hang out with friends who break the law start to think it's cool. The idea gets stuck in your head, and you start to make choices based on it. Wanting to stay with friends is important, so you do what they do to fit in. So, people do bad things because they learn how, and because they want to keep their friends.

A lot of studies show that friends really do change whether you'll do crime. Studies show that young people who hang out with friends who break the law do more crime. But young people who hang out with good friends do less crime. Friends have two sides to them. The friend makes others shape the friend's mind to whether to act correctly and what to do.

The group can let them think is someone great and that he's a part of them. How individuals make someone. That influences someone. As they are learning as well as being themselves.

Differential Association Theory is a big idea for understanding crime, but it has some problems. One problem is that it only focuses on talking to people as the reason for crime. The theories say it, but do not tell you how to focus people. It leaves out things like what you're born with, what's wrong in your head, and problems in society like being poor or treated unfairly. Leaving these things out makes it hard to really understand crime.

The theory also isn't always clear about what it means. For example, thinking it's okay to break the law is hard to measure. Because it's not clear, it's hard to test if the theory is right, and it's

hard to use it in different situations. That's why studies sometimes disagree about how much friends change whether you do crime.

Differential Association Theory says everyone gets the same amount of bad influence. In reality, it's not easy for everybody. The theory doesn't think about how people are different, with their feelings of how good and wrong is.

Also, some people say Differential Association Theory is good for explaining young people doing crime, but not for explaining crimes committed by adults or rich people who don't hang out with criminals. That makes you wonder if the theory works for everyone.

Looking at conversations at an intimate level can result in overlooking more problems such as economics. Differential theory gives insight. The theory needs to focus on the problems in society.

Differential Association Theory is really widespread by experts who examine crime. By examining their society, individuals have found out who is causing problems to them. The development of intervention and prevention programs. Contemporary criminologists and policymakers have developed communities. People are getting new role models for the new people when the old ones were negative.

There are some ways that make crime go down when you learn from others, it promotes that people have better community standards. Systems integrate components to better themselves.

The theory goes and makes them focus on the interactions and makes them have criminal justifications. The study of criminology expands what makes an individual great or not.

The application to the specific part where the youth and the gangs start to make it really hard. And through this people are gaining criminal interventions. The implementation of this new model allows them to figure out who is better.

There are multiple studies that have made this thing a normal thing. Suther is also a great person that's one that is on the good side. It allows this to transcend what is bad and say it is really okay.

There is another big study. It is mostly in the urban zones. The young have started to gain knowledge. An individual makes a great leader due to circumstances. The ethnographic studies also let others attain their things.

For a long time there have been juveniles that they follow but they are now leading a lot of people because of their studies.

The people are doing great to expand to non-western places. The group is really a big thing.

People are supporting differential association theory for the rest of their lives because it is very cool. The importance of context comes into where the social interactions and relationships are happening.

For a lot longer this thing has been really cool while working with other people to stop the interactions. Because of him the work is really changing. Social interactions. People grow up getting to know things. And from this the peer group starts to grow. The social interaction demonstrates how much they are going to get involved.

If you have read how to keep everyone here this is a must to know because this is something you should really advocate. There has been limited structural stuff they are putting in. Some say that the theory fails, and it does not go directly through with stuff that is normal.

The other great thing as it advocates the prevention of their children's social groups. This helps include their diverse fields like the people in gangs. The differential works in a normal way as society.