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"The authors do a great job of identifying the key theorists, assumptions, state of research, and policy/programmatic uses for each theory."--David Mackey, Plymouth State University

## About the Author

Ronald L. Akers is Professor of Criminology and Sociology at the University of Florida.

Christine S. Sellers is Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida.

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- Sales Rank: #94356 in Books
- Published on: 2012-10-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.10" h x .90" w x 9.20" l, 1.05 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 432 pages

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This book has a lot of promise, but fails to deliver. Most currently debated theories are covered in this text, but none except social learning theory receives adequate consideration. Akers presents only modified, interpreted versions of the most important foundational works in the field. This would definitely not be a book for beginners, and anyone seeking a solid basis for knowledge should look elsewhere.

Akers is primarily a social learning theorist, so (big surprise) every theory in the book is essentially boiled down to show how it is really social learning theory by another name. He also pays insufficient attention to the new theoretical trends in the field, which again is no real surprise. I would advise anyone seeking a good understanding of criminological theory to avoid this book. If you happen to be unfortunate enough to have a professor require it for a class, ask for suggestions about supplemental readings and take this one with a grain of salt. It's so slanted that you could roll marbles off of it.

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This sixth edition of this classic Akers and Sellers text is as comprehensive and engaging as previous editions. I have read several criminological theory texts, and none of the others compare to this one when it comes to historical background. It is written in such a way as to make it easy to understand- even for those who are unfamiliar with theoretical concepts. This is without question the textbook that I would use if I were asked to teach a criminological theory class.

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