

# Preface

This volume is about understanding the relationship between deviance and selected correlates of deviance in one generation and deviance and its selected correlates in the next generation. By examining the significance of these constructs in the parental generation as part of the explanation for the same constructs in the child's generation, we contribute to an understanding of the phenomena. This contribution, however, is quite limited in the sense that we are examining in essence bivariate relationships—the association between first-generation and second-generation phenomena—while ignoring all of the other influences on the second-generation phenomena that do not stem from or account for the intergenerational relationship.

Nevertheless, the study of intergenerational parallelism of deviance and its correlates justifiably has excited attention and resulted in a voluminous literature greater than might have been expected for any particular bivariate relationships because of the mystique surrounding ideas—cycle of violence, reproduction of culture, to name but a few—that are evoked by consideration of the association between such phenomena in one generation and the same phenomena in a successive generation.

Because of the implications of studies of intergenerational parallelism for understanding continuities in deviant behavior and its antecedents and, indeed, for understanding culture stability and change, we systematically describe and elaborate upon simple observations of cross-generation parallelisms in deviant behavior and its putative antecedents. The elaborations take the forms of (1) specifying the conditions under which intergenerational parallelism is increased (i.e., circumstances that express or facilitate commonalities of experience) or

decreased (i.e., circumstances that express or increase dissimilar life experiences), (2) specifying variables that mediate the association between first- and second-generation deviance, and (3) identifying variables that exercise intragenerational influences in each generation and manifest intergenerational continuity across generations.

These systematic elaboration strategies along with baseline descriptions of the association between deviance in one generation and deviance in the succeeding generation compose a logic of procedure (i.e., methodology) for investigating intergenerational parallelism in deviant behavior and related phenomena. It will be recognized that, at a higher level of abstraction, this methodology reflects the procedures to be followed in investigating any bivariate relationship, not only intergenerational parallelism, to wit—establishing a temporal relationship between two variables, specifying the conditions under which the relationship is strengthened or weakened, decomposing the temporal linear relationship by modeling mediating variables, and attenuating the temporal linear relationship by identifying common antecedents of the two variables.

The logic of procedure outlined above is applied to the study of intergenerational parallelism of deviant behavior and its correlates using data from a multigeneration panel study. In Part I, the salient concepts, theoretical framework, and methodology are described. In chapter 1, we discuss the concepts of deviance and intergenerational parallelism at length and outline in broad strokes the theoretical framework that guides the elaboration strategy for studying intergenerational parallelism of deviance. In chapter 2, the nature of the multigeneration panel study is described. Analytical techniques, and any other specific methodological details that are applicable to all of the ensuing chapters reporting findings, are presented. Procedural details that are unique to only one or some of the chapters reporting findings will be presented in the chapters in question. In chapter 2, we also consider methodological limitations in the extant literature on intergenerational parallelism.

In Part II, we consider intergenerational parallelism of deviant behavior as a conditional relationship. In chapter 3, the literature on intergenerational parallelism of deviant behavior and selected correlates of deviant behavior is described and discussed. We present findings on intergenerational parallelism for our major indexes and put these in the context of the general literature on intergenerational continuity. In chapter 4, we note that the literature reports highly variable degrees of intergenerational parallelism of deviance and suggests that the strength of the association

between first- and second-generation deviance is conditional on a number of circumstances. In this chapter, we report theoretically informed analyses that specify conditions said to impede or facilitate intergenerational parallelism. The findings are discussed in the context of the guiding theoretical framework and the literature bearing on the moderators of the relationship between first- and second-generation deviance.

In Part III, analyses are presented that statistically decompose the linear associations observed between first- and second-generation deviance. In chapter 5, analyses are presented and discussed in the context of relevant literatures in which the observed association between first- and second-generation deviance (or salient correlates of deviance) is, in part, accounted for in terms of intervening processes. In these analyses, first-generation deviance (or its correlates) is interpreted as having a causal impact on some intervening variable that, in turn, is interpreted as having a causal influence on second-generation deviance (or its correlates). In chapter 6, analyses are reported in which observed relationships between first- and second-generation deviance (or its salient correlates) are explained partly in terms of intergenerational continuities between first- and second-generation variables that have a causal impact on deviance (or its salient correlates) in their respective generations. The continuities might be causal in nature such that a cause of deviance in the first generation has consequences that increase the likelihood of a comparable cause of deviance in the second generation. Alternatively, sociocultural or physical context associated with the genesis of first-generation deviance might continue to be shared by both generations.

In Part IV, the results of the previous chapters are summarized and their implications for future research are considered. Chapter 7 reviews the results with regard to their contributions to the understanding of deviant behaviors, in particular, and more generally to the dynamics underlying intergenerational parallelism, evaluates the procedures followed in investigation of intergenerational parallelism as a worthy elaboration strategy for the study of any bivariate relationship, and outlines a research agenda for the future that promises to increase our understanding of the meaning of earlier-generation deviance for the occurrence of deviance in successive generations.

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