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THE ROLE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY METHODOLOGY IN THE STUDY OF SOCIALLY HAZARDOUS BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

Under the conditions of the transformation of modern social sciences and humanities, the fundamental and objective study of complex social phenomena—specifically socially hazardous (risky), destructive, and deviant behavioral patterns—through monodisciplinary paradigms demonstrates its methodological limitations. Amid the increasing complexity of human actions, digitalization, and global social anomie, hazardous behavior manifests not merely as an individual psychological deviation, but as an integral outcome of socio-institutional crises and the erosion of existential-ethical values. To comprehend the essence of this phenomenon and formulate preventive mechanisms, adopting an interdisciplinary approach grounded in the synergistic collaboration of psychological, sociological, and philosophical methodologies becomes strategically imperative. Interdisciplinary methodology enables the synthesis of intrapsychic dynamics, socio-structural factors, and fundamental ontological-axiological foundations of deviance into a unified methodological system. Evaluating the multifaceted consequences of hazardous behavior necessitates extending analysis beyond traditional micro- and macroeconomic indicators to encompass spatial, neuro-sociological, and institutional-dynamic paradigms. Ultimately, interdisciplinary integration serves as a foundational framework for developing holistic state preventive policies that combine social-institutional reforms, psychological rehabilitation, and the restoration of moral-axiological environments.



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Keywords: Socially hazardous behavior, interdisciplinary methodology, anomie, existential vacuum, social capital, normalization of deviance, spatial deviance, neuro-sociology, biopolitics.

Introduction

Under the conditions of the transformation of modern social sciences and humanities, the fundamental and objective study of complex social phenomena—specifically socially hazardous (risky), destructive, and deviant behavioral patterns—through monodisciplinary paradigms demonstrates its methodological limitations. Amid the increasing complexity of human actions, digitalization, and global social anomie, hazardous behavior manifests not merely as an individual psychological deviation, but as an integral outcome of socio-institutional crises and the erosion of existential-ethical values.

Research Methodology and Approaches (Methods)

To comprehend the essence of this problem and formulate preventive mechanisms, adopting an interdisciplinary approach grounded in the synergistic collaboration of psychological, sociological, and philosophical methodologies becomes strategically imperative. Interdisciplinary methodology enables the synthesis of the internal intrapsychic dynamics, external socio-structural factors, and fundamental ontological-axiological foundations of deviance and hazardous actions into a unified methodological system.

At the intersection of contemporary deviancology, social economics, and jurisprudence, analyzing the emerging and deeply consequential impacts of socially hazardous and destructive behavior requires transcending traditional micro- and macroeconomic metrics. It demands the integration of spatial, neuro-sociological, and institutional-dynamic paradigms. To thoroughly comprehend



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the phenomenon of hazardous behavior, it is essential to integrally investigate its complex and latent consequences on time and resource capital, urban and spatial environments, the cognitive-empathic structures of the individual, and the functional stability of social institutions.

Results and Analysis (Results)

The philosophical-ontological and axiological foundation of interdisciplinary analysis primarily elucidates the role of hazardous behavior within human existence and its relationship to value system crises. As Max Weber demonstrated in his doctrine of "social action" and "value-rationality," any individual action is rooted in specific social meanings and value orientations; when this value system experiences anomie or meaningful loss, an escalation of hazardous behavior ensues [1, pp. 145–152]. From a philosophical stance, hazardous and destructive conduct is a consequence of the individual falling into an "existential vacuum." As Viktor Frankl established in his concept of logotherapy and existential analysis, the loss of life meaning ("noogenic anomie") drives individuals toward chronic addictions, auto-aggression, and socially hazardous actions [2, pp. 95–102]. In the absence of life purpose, risky and destructive behavior becomes a compensatory mechanism to temporarily fill the internal ontological void or suppress existential anxiety. This highlights that without philosophical analysis, uncovering the deep-rooted causes of hazardous behavior remains unattainable. Sociological methodology, in turn, examines socially hazardous behavior within the context of macro- and meso-social structures, institutional deformations, and the social environment. The theories of anomie developed by Émile Durkheim and Robert K. Merton establish that the structural mismatch between institutionalized goals and legitimate means to achieve them serves as the primary driver of hazardous and deviant behavior [3, pp. 112–118]. Merton's typology of



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deviance (innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion) demonstrates that risky actions are not merely personal pathologies, but rather adaptive or destructive responses to structural inequality and injustice within society [4, pp. 210–215]. Furthermore, drawing on Robert Putnam’s social capital theory, the sociological approach demonstrates that the weakening of mutual trust, social networks, and civic norms directly creates fertile ground for the proliferation of hazardous and antisocial conduct [5, pp. 67–74].

Psychological methodology explains how these social and philosophical determinants are translated into internal cognitive, emotional, and behavioral mechanisms during an individual's psychogenesis. According to Albert Bandura’s social learning and cognitive modeling theories, patterns of hazardous and aggressive behavior take shape through cognitive imprinting, as well as observing and modeling behaviors displayed within the external environment [6, pp. 180–186]. Psychological analysis uncovers internal micro-mechanisms such as impulsivity, depressive states, cognitive distortions, impaired emotional regulation, and stereotyped thinking. However, if psychological methodology is applied in isolation from external social contexts and philosophical value systems, there arises a risk of over-psychologizing the phenomenon and overlooking broader social responsibilities.

Therefore, the integration of psychological, sociological, and philosophical approaches forms the core of interdisciplinary methodology. In this triad, philosophy provides the worldview, ontological, and axiological framework (meaning, value, existence); sociology accounts for structural, institutional, and environmental factors (anomie, social capital, institutional trust); and psychology addresses individual-level cognitive and behavioral mechanisms (cognitive schemas, social learning, affective responses). The convergence of these three



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vectors allows for a comprehensive, three-dimensional matrix evaluation: "Individual – Social Environment – Value System."

Interdisciplinary methodology also facilitates the reinterpretation of the labeling theory advanced by Edwin Lemert and Howard Becker within psychological and axiological contexts [7, pp. 134–140]. The societal labeling of an individual as "deviant" or "hazardous" (a sociological determinant) deforms their self-perception and cognitive schemas (a psychological determinant), ultimately leading to a moral-axiological crisis and secondary deviance (a philosophical-axiological outcome). Similarly, Robert Agnew's General Strain Theory serves as a prime example of interdisciplinary synthesis, showing how micro- and macro-social strains (sociology) generate negative emotional states in individuals (psychology), which, coupled with the erosion of moral compasses (philosophy), manifest as hazardous and criminal behavior [8, pp. 178–184].

In today's digitalized society, characterized by virtual hazards, cyber-deviance, and online antisocial behavior, the relevance of interdisciplinary methodology is further amplified. Manuel Castells' network society theory [9, pp. 210–218] and John Suler's concept of the "online disinhibition effect" [10, pp. 321–326] prove that the psychological and moral degradation of individuals under conditions of digital anonymity can only be thoroughly explained through the integration of sociological, psychological, and philosophical perspectives. From a socio-economic standpoint, one of the central criteria for evaluating hazardous and addictive behavior is the destruction of time and resource capital (Time-Capital Erosion). Although economic sciences typically measure human capital through knowledge, skills, and health, time resources constitute the fundamental base for realizing this capital. Individuals exhibiting chronic hazardous or deviant behaviors (gambling, digital addiction, substance abuse, self-harming tendencies) expend their most productive hours not on daily labor, education, or skill



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enhancement, but on pursuing destructive activities and recovering from their psychological and physical repercussions. On a societal scale, this creates an "economy of lost opportunities" and accelerates the qualitative degradation of human capital.

Discussion

From the perspective of spatial and environmental sociology, the consequences of hazardous behavior manifest through James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling's Broken Windows Theory and spatial deviance models [1, pp. 29–38]. When minor hazardous and antisocial behaviors within urban and neighborhood infrastructure (vandalism, public disturbances, destruction of property) are left unaddressed by institutional or community oversight, they generate visual signals indicating that social control and ethical norms have broken down. This heightened perception of vulnerability fosters public anxiety and apathy, lowers real estate and infrastructure values, and creates a breeding ground for more severe forms of crime and hazardous conduct.

At the intersection of contemporary neuro-sociology and social psychology, the neuro-sociological and cognitive deformation impacts of hazardous behavior hold a distinct place. Prolonged and systematic engagement in risky and destructive behavior impairs cognitive centers responsible for decision-making, impulse control, and long-term risk assessment (executive functioning). The ethical-empathic consequence is that individuals experiencing cognitive deformation suffer from a reduced capacity to make moral decisions, demonstrate empathy for others' suffering, and uphold ethical responsibility. This provides a psychological groundwork for the spread of cruelty, moral relativism, and emotional desensitization (loss of sensitivity toward destruction) in society.



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At the organizational and institutional level, Diane Vaughan's concept of the "Normalization of Deviance" serves as a central evaluative criterion [2, pp. 115–124]. When hazardous, destructive, or non-normative behaviors repeat systematically without triggering timely institutional or legal sanctions, institutional memory and public consciousness begin to reframe these risks as acceptable standard practices. The normalization of deviance degrades moral and legal filters within society, standing as a critical latent factor behind institutional corruption, infrastructural failures, and systemic paralysis of public safety mechanisms.

Through Michel Foucault's framework of "Biopolitics" and the "Disciplinary Society," socially hazardous behavior disrupts the mechanisms used by the state and society to manage population health, demographic resources, and physical safety [3, pp. 88–96]. The widespread propagation of destructive behavior weakens the state's biopower functions aimed at preserving demographic and medical potential. In response, the state is forced to intensify surveillance, medicalization, and sanitary-legal sanctions, which invariably increases social transaction costs and administrative pressure.

Conclusion

In the study of socially hazardous behavior, the interdisciplinary integration of psychological, sociological, and philosophical methodologies enables the examination of this issue as a unified, complex, and dynamic system. This approach not only enriches theoretical and methodological knowledge, but also serves as a fundamental foundation for developing comprehensive preventive state policies. Rather than relying solely on repressive or administrative measures, such policies prioritize socio-institutional reforms, psychological rehabilitation, and the cultivation of a healthy moral-axiological environment.



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Ultimately, evaluating and mitigating the consequences of socially hazardous behavior requires looking beyond immediate financial or administrative metrics. It demands multi-tiered, dynamic considerations, including the preservation of time capital, the maintenance of urban and environmental safety, the protection of cognitive-empathic health, and the prevention of normalized deviance within social institutions.

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