**Criminology Comprehensive Exam THEORY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

**School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences**

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**November 6, 2021**

**Instructions**

You have six (6) hours to complete the Theory portion of the comprehensive exam.

Your answer will be evaluated on its organization, coherence, clarity, intellectual rigor, substantive validity, conceptual development, and application of relevant literature to the question at hand.

Answers must be emailed to [scotch@utdallas.edu](mailto:scotch@utdallas.edu) before 4:00pm today (11/6/2020). Please do not incorporate any identifying information on what you submit.

We wish you success!

**THEORY QUESTIONS**

Answer **ONE** of the following:

Question 1

What are your thoughts about the prospects for a criminological theory that effectively

integrates a macro-approach with a micro-approach? In your discussion, please

specify whether you are optimistic about theoretical integration and, if so, identify

promising approaches that should be pursued in the future. If you believe that theoretical

integration cannot be achieved, identify the reason(s) why you think that such

integration cannot or will not be successful. In either case, your answer should be built

upon the identification and discussion of specific previous efforts to integrate theories

and their successes, shortfalls, or failures.  Be sure to include a discussion of research methods in your answer.

Question 2

Perhaps the most robust finding in criminology concerns the enduring gender

differences in criminal involvement. With the rise of feminist criminological

perspectives, there has been a significant movement within the discipline to explore

gender-specific pathways to crime and the etiology of offending behaviors across the

sexes.  Discuss the predominant theories and seminal works that explore why males are

more criminally involved than females and the recent controversies on this topic.

According to this body of work, are the causes of female crime similar to or different

from the causes of male crime?  Make sure you comment on the methodological approaches, and their adequacy, used by the approaches you discuss.