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The Relativity of Deviance is a short, clearly-written primer by award-winning expert in sociology and criminology, John Curra. Offering a high-level analysis of the relativity of deviance—perfect for use in conjunction with any of the core deviance textbooks on the market—Curra answers such questions as: What is deviance? *What comprises deviant behavior? How are deviants treated? Why is the same act sometimes praised and sometimes condemned as deviant behavior?* Through insightful and thought-provoking examples such as the blue people of Kentucky, a woman who believes she is a vampire, autoerotic asphyxiates, and others, Curra illustrates that deviance cannot be explained in terms of absolutes nor can it be understood apart from its social setting. This book approaches issues of sex, violence, theft, drugs, and mental disorders in a way that makes definitive or objective judgments impossible.



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About the Author

John Curra (PhD, Purdue University) is a professor at Eastern Kentucky University where he has taught courses in introductory sociology, social deviance, criminology, sociological analysis, social problems, social psychology, juvenile delinquency, and criminological theory since 1975. He has taught. In 1981, he received the prestigious Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In 2005–2007, he was selected as a Foundation Professor, one of the highest honors a professor can receive at Eastern Kentucky University. In 2012, Curra moved to the Department of Criminal Justice in the School of Justice Studies. That same year, he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award by the Department of Criminal Justice in the College of Justice and Safety. Curra has authored or co-authored several texts, an instructor's manual, and a reader.

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