

Hirschi's Social Bonding Theory Nearly 45 Years Later: A comparison of a traditional, contemporary and hybrid model

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The present study investigates the following aspects of Hirschi's (1969) social bonding theory: attachment to parents, attachment to school, involvement in conventional activities, and the belief bond. Specifically, a goal is to fill a gap in the literature by comparing Hirschi's traditional measures to contemporary measure using a single independent national sample of American high school students. Results indicated that the Hybrid Model was the strongest and the Contemporary Model was the weakest. Thus, it is argued that Hirschi's traditional measures predict the largest amount of self-report general deviance. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2016 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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Travis Hirschi (1969) developed social bonding theory. The main premise of his argument was that conformity, not deviance, is what needs explaining. The present study further investigated the following aspects of Hirschi's social bonding theory: attachment to parents, attachment to school, involvement in conventional activities, and belief in the law/legal system. The goal of the present study is to fill a gap in the literature by

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