



## **The Mouse-Cheese Theory in Criminal Justice Decision-Making**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this article is to present a new perspective to government officials (police, prosecutors, and judges) working in the criminal justice system of the United States in order to eliminate the grievances caused by their prejudices: the mouse-cheese theory. The theory emphasizes that suspects make a choice under a lack of information and uncertainty at the moment of decision, however government officials working in the criminal justice system tend to evaluate these choices only based on the outcome of the event. As a result, it is recommended that police, prosecutors, and judges look at events from an empathy-based perspective. The applicability of the theory has been explained through three different legal cases, and similarities and differences with labeling and procedural justice theories have also been examined. The article also claims that this theory can be applied in various fields such as business, education, health, and politics. As a result, the Mouse-Cheese Theory is a new approach that contributes to enabling officials working in the criminal justice system to make more accurate and humane decisions.

**Keywords:** Mouse-cheese theory, criminal justice, crime, empathy, criminal

### **Introduction**

The term “criminal” is generally defined in two ways in the dictionary: “one who has committed a crime” and “a person who has been convicted of a crime” (Merriam-Webster, 2025). Although these two definitions seem close to each other, in fact, there is a serious difference in meaning between them. According to the first definition, a person who commits a crime, and according to the second definition, a person who has been convicted of a crime is described as a “criminal.” However, it is clear that not every person who commits a crime is punished as a criminal, and not everyone who is convicted of a crime can be called a criminal.

For example, according to the data obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in 2006, a total of 2,183,746 burglary crimes occurred in the United States. Of the suspects of this crime, 221,300 were arrested, 99,910 people received convictions as a result of court processes, 73,040 people were incarcerated, and finally, the number of people who remained in prison was recorded as 48,960 (Bessette et al., 2016). That is, only 2.24% of those who committed burglary in 2006 were punished by the criminal justice system (some burglary crimes may have been committed by the same individuals).

On the other hand, in the same country, between 1989 and 2025, 3,706 criminals (!) were acquitted as a result of subsequent judicial corrections. In 2024 alone, a total of 147 post-conviction exoneration cases were recorded, and in 71% of these, official misconduct and in 79% abuse of office crime were identified. Among the most common misconducts were: failure to disclose exculpatory evidence (95 cases), coercing witnesses (43), false testimony (39), knowingly making false statements (11), misconduct in police interrogation (9), false statements by prosecutors in court (8), and errors by forensic experts (5). In addition to these, misclassification of the crime, fabricated confessions, false

accusations, misleading forensic evidence, and inadequate defense are also among the most common reasons for later acquittals (The National Registry of Exonerations, 2025a).

### **1. Fundamental Problems in the Justice Mechanism and Solution Proposals**

As in many countries of the world, there are also some deficiencies and mistakes in the justice system of the United States, and foremost among them is that the officials working in the criminal justice system have a flawed perspective.

Scientific studies investigating the reasons for police misconduct have so far generally focused either on the micro-level approach (the effect of individual factors such as age, gender, education level, and race) or on the macro-level organizational approach (the structural, social, and cultural effects of the police organization). Some studies on this issue have shown that individual factors (such as low self-control, being young and inexperienced, and insufficient education) influence the police's tendency to mistreat, but these findings have generally remained statistically weak or inconsistent (Klockars et al., 2000). On the other hand, evidence related to organizational factors (perception of unjust institutions, negative occupational culture, and social learning processes) were identified as more consistent and stronger factors. For example, it has been proven that negative attitudes in the police subculture and behavior patterns learned from field trainers increase the tendency of police officers to mistreat. Therefore, it has been concluded that macro-level organizational, structural, and social factors form a much stronger basis in explaining police misconduct (Bonanno, 2015).

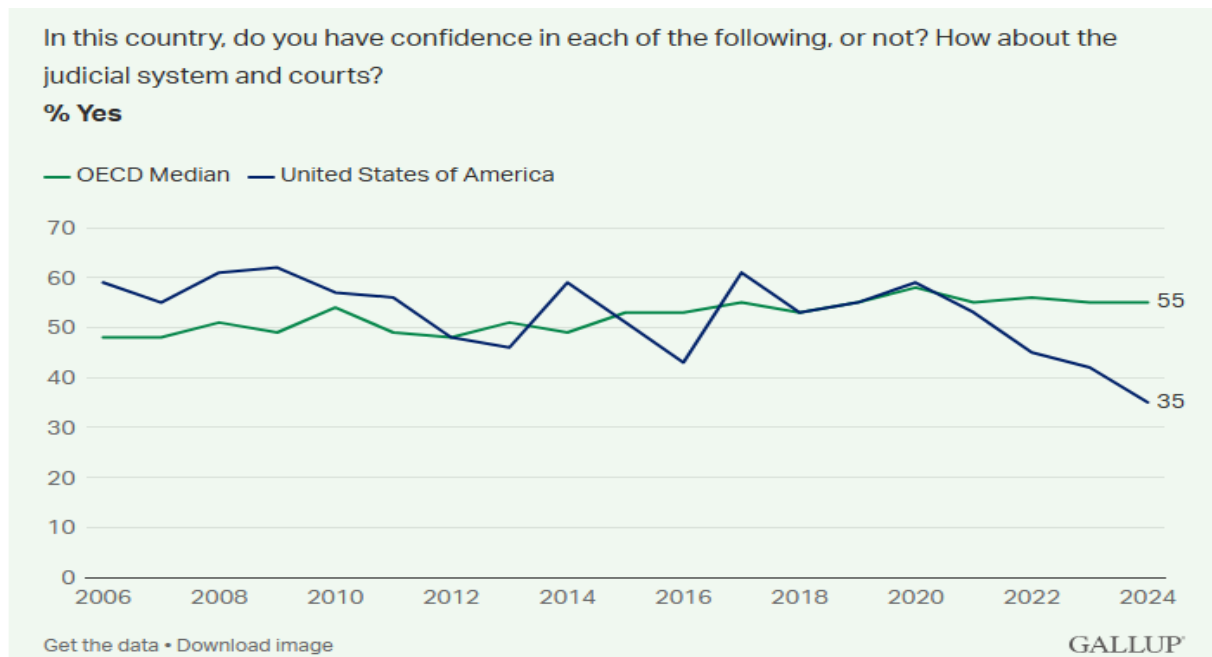
There are two main reasons why prosecutors engage in illegal behavior (misdemeanor and crime) while in office: these behaviors generally work (they have a positive effect on their careers), and they do not face effective sanctions (even if complaints are made, they remain inconclusive). Prosecutors may use legally prohibited evidence to influence juries, present false arguments to the court, or conceal evidence, because the likelihood of these methods resulting in the conviction of the defendants is high. Additionally, judicial mechanisms such as the harmless error doctrine cause the behavior of prosecutors to be ignored by the judiciary, allowing their mistakes to go unpunished. The fact that prosecutors have absolute immunity also makes these behaviors sustainable, because in this way, even if they act negligently or with malicious intent, they do not face criminal or legal sanctions (Gershman, 1986).

Judges in courts can (though not frequently) engage in behaviors such as sexual harassment and racist or sexist rhetoric. In addition, they may also engage in unethical actions such as making posts on social media that are contrary to professional ethics. These behaviors, on one hand, damage their impartiality and the hope that they will make just decisions as expected of them, and on the other hand, such behaviors are perceived as injustice and unfairness especially by marginalized groups. Among the reasons judges engage in such wrongful behaviors are personal biases, abuse of power, and the inadequacy of social or professional oversight mechanisms. Moreover, the fact that the public tolerates or ignores such behavior can also encourage them (Baker & Canelo, 2024).

In order to eliminate such deficiencies and errors in the justice system, various solution proposals have occasionally been put forward by academics and experts, and these partially serve as a remedy for the wounds. Over the last 60 years, the criminal justice system in the United States has gradually changed. The increasing violent crimes across the country in the 1960s led to the adoption of punitive policies such as the "War on Crime," and as a natural consequence of this, the number of inmates has multiplied over the years. With the Crime Act adopted in 1994, the punitive approach was reinforced with innovations such as the employment of 100,000 new police officers, the implementation of mandatory minimum sentences, and "three strikes laws." Although crime rates began to decline in the 1990s, expenditures on the criminal justice system continued to rise, and this prompted governments to reconsider reforms to the criminal justice system.

In the post-2010 period, reform efforts aimed at reducing pretrial detentions, expanding rehabilitation programs to all offenders, and addressing racial inequalities in the justice system came to the fore. Programs specifically aimed at reducing recidivism rates, cognitive behavioral therapy practices, and vocational training programs for inmates have achieved partial successes. However, due to reasons such as the short-term nature of funding, the programs not being implemented as required, and the difficulty of measuring efficiency, the effects of these reforms have remained limited. After 2019, the social instability caused by COVID-19 and the widespread incidents of violence across the country have created pressure in the United States for a return to punitive policies (Lattimore, 2022).

**Figure 1.** Trust in justice (Comparison between the U.S. and OECD countries)



Source: (Vigers & Saad, 2024)

Despite all well-intentioned reform efforts, the fact that only 35% of the American people trust the justice system and the courts once again reveals the importance of this problem (Vigers & Saad, 2024). If there is a problem, it must first be analyzed well and solutions must be sought for it.

What needs to be done to prevent real criminals from going unpunished and innocent people from being imprisoned as a result of wrongful convictions is: changing the perspective of police, prosecutors, and judges toward suspects. But how?

## 2. Mouse-Cheese Theory

Various proposals have been put forward so far to ensure that the fundamental purpose of the criminal justice system—that criminals are definitely punished and the innocent are not punished in any way—is fulfilled.

According to classical theory, punishments should be deterrent, proportionate, and certain; in this way, the motivation of potential criminals to commit crimes decreases, and at the same time, the presumption of innocence is protected (Beccaria, 1764/1986).

Positivist theorists propose to scientifically determine the tendency of individuals to commit crimes by examining their biological, psychological, and social factors, and this may prevent the wrongful punishment of the innocent (Lombroso, 1876).

Labeling theory advocates avoiding labeling individuals as criminals during judicial processes because unjust labeling positions innocent people as perpetrators in the eyes of the public. Furthermore, it argues that once someone is labeled as a criminal, they may tend to commit crimes again, and for this reason, the justice mechanism should be more careful (Becker, 1963).

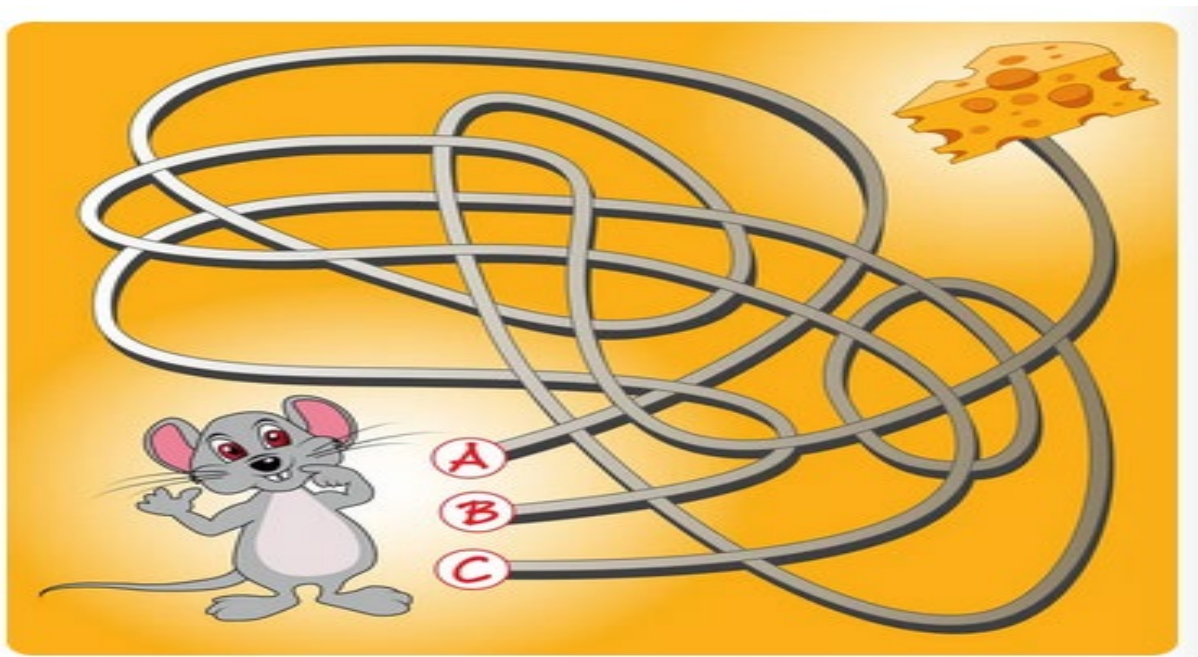
Conflict theory emphasizes that in a society, the law generally protects the interests of dominant groups and calls for reducing the power imbalances in the justice system to prevent the victimization of the innocent (Quinney, 1970).

Legal positivism advocates for legal rules in the laws to be clearly defined and for evidence standards to be kept high; thus, the arbitrariness of punishment is reduced (Hart, 1961).

The procedural justice approach, on the other hand, argues that fair, impartial, and transparent judicial processes are essential both for the correct identification of criminals and for the protection of the innocent (Tyler, 2006).

All of the theories mentioned above open different windows both for academics and for the officials working in a country's criminal justice system, helping them to act justly. However, it is time to open a new window in order to broaden their perspectives even further and thereby ensure that they treat suspects more fairly. This new window will enable both justice providers and victims to empathize with suspects, and the name of this window is the mouse-cheese theory.

**Figure 2.** Mouse and cheese maze game stock illustration



Source: I-stock, (2025).

The brief definition of this theory is as follows: In a puzzle, which is a mind game that was especially popular in the 1980s, the question is asked as to which path a mouse can take to reach the cheese. There are three paths in front of the mouse, and from the point where the mouse stands, those three paths are indistinguishable from one another. However, when starting from the cheese, the puzzle becomes simpler and it is concluded that path C is the only correct one. It is difficult for the mouse to solve this because it will either patiently try all three paths or it will understand by chance that the

chosen path is the correct one. However, someone who starts from the cheese and tries to reach the mouse has an easier task because only one path leads to the mouse.

From this mouse-cheese puzzle, the following inference can be made: in life, people who want to reach a goal constantly face alternatives, and people sometimes make certain choices out of necessity (such as choosing a specific diet or treatment method due to health problems, having to prefer public transportation due to financial constraints, or accepting a specific contract or obeying court decisions due to legal obligations) and sometimes voluntarily (such as choosing whom to marry, choosing a profession, or deciding in which city to live). The person making these choices and the person evaluating them afterward may have different interpretations about the accuracy of the choices, since they look from different perspectives and viewpoints. The options that appear before the person making the choice do not always give clues about the outcomes, and therefore the job of the chooser is difficult. However, the person evaluating the choices may be able to make more rational or accurate judgments with a result-oriented approach.

The same is true in terms of law. A government official who evaluates the behavior of suspects and labels them as guilty or not guilty can make more rational and accurate decisions by looking at the result of the incident, but for the person making the choice, this job will not be so easy. In an incident, dozens of similar and seemingly legal options may appear before the person making the choice. The person making the choice will probably have to make a decision in a very short time, and as a result of this decision, will either gain a benefit (for example, will be happy) or will be punished.

Government officials working in the justice system knowing about and acting accordingly to the difficulty experienced by suspects who are forced to make a choice in a complex life (empathy) will increase the accuracy rate of their decisions.

### **3. Application of the Theory**

Let us give 3 concrete examples to show the applicability of the mouse-cheese theory in social life.

#### First example:

On February 26, 2010, 61-year-old Stanley Reynolds Jr. was arrested at his home in Waterville, Vermont, for allegedly sexually assaulting his 29-year-old deaf niece, S.T. In his statement to the police, the suspect said that on February 22, while his wife was upstairs, he had consensual sexual intercourse with S.T. in the basement of their house. He also added that since 2005, S.T. had been working with him in firewood sales and lived in a trailer on their property. S.T., on the other hand, claimed (through sign language interpreters) that Reynolds had taken her hostage in the basement and sexually assaulted her there. The suspect's lawyer argued in court that S.T. had sent his client 37 messages after the alleged assault and that this proved the sexual encounter was consensual.

On February 17, 2012, Reynolds was sentenced to life imprisonment by the court, and the Vermont Supreme Court upheld this decision in 2014. Reynolds' new lawyer argued that witnesses who could prove the emotional relationship between his client and the victim were not heard in court (the suspect's siblings stated that they thought the two were flirting, while neighbors said they saw S.T. hugging Reynolds once). The court ignored this evidence and therefore issued a conviction against Reynolds. However, the high court overturned this decision and Reynolds was released on August 7, 2020. The case was dismissed on July 21, 2021. Reynolds' compensation request from the state of Vermont was rejected, and he died on November 20, 2024, at the age of 76 (The National Registry of Exonerations, 2025b).

This case is a typical example showing that judges need to evaluate incidents within the framework of the mouse-cheese theory. From Reynolds' perspective, the situation can be summarized as follows: a middle-aged man who is attracted to a young and attractive woman has 3 options in front of him:

having a short-term relationship with her, marrying her, or raping her. He chose the first option and believed that this was a legally lawful behavior. From the victim's perspective, an old man sexually assaulted a young woman (his niece) whom he knew he could not have, and the woman did not tell anyone out of fear.

Apparently, the judge shared the same opinion as the victim and for this reason did not give credit to the witness statements that could prove the emotional relationship between the two. It was solely because of this that he made an erroneous decision, and his decision was overturned by the high court. If the judge had not looked at the problem by simply accepting the victim's account as true, and if he had understood that the suspect chose the legal option among the available ones, he probably would not have made a wrong decision.

Second example:

Scott Brett (55), a business consultant in Spokane, Washington, was found guilty in January 2016 of defrauding a woman from Oregon of approximately \$900,000. The event unfolded as follows: Donna Anderson, who lived in the city of Hermiston in the state of Oregon, and her husband lost most of the \$18.2 million they had won from the lottery in 2003 due to poor investments. Shortly after, her husband died, and Mrs. Anderson wanted to invest \$1 million of her remaining money by bringing it to the office of Brett, a business consultant in Spokane, Washington. Brett told his client that under the condition that the money remain in trust, it would double in the first two weeks and rise to \$8 million by the end of one month. Mrs. Anderson accepted this offer, but during February she asked Brett for \$130,000 back to make another investment, and he transferred this amount to her bank account (even though she had previously been told that her money had to stay in a trust account). When March came, Mrs. Anderson requested the remaining money, but Brett informed his client that there was no longer any money in the vault.

Thereupon, Mrs. Anderson sued Brett for fraud, and on January 6, 2017, Brett confessed to the crime in court. However, before sentencing, Brett hired a new lawyer and submitted a petition to the court to withdraw his confession. In the petition, he argued that his previous lawyer had not adequately investigated the evidence in his favor and that he had no intention of embezzling the money. The judge ruled that Brett's former lawyer did not understand what his client was actually being accused of, and allowed the confession to be withdrawn. In the trial held in 2018, the defense presented evidence showing that the real money was controlled by trustee businessmen Baker and Barbee and that Brett had no intention of committing fraud. In the end, the jury acquitted Brett of all charges (The National Registry of Exonerations, 2025c).

This incident once again proves the importance of the mouse-cheese theory. From the suspect's perspective, a financial consultant had three similar options in front of him concerning how to best manage the money he received: keeping the money in a trust account, transferring it to other businessmen (Baker and Barbee) for investment purposes, or returning the money to the owner shortly thereafter. Brett thought that under the current circumstances, the best and most lawful option was that the money would be managed wisely by Baker and Barbee. However, the prosecutor and judge evaluating the case, starting from the cheese (the victim), in other words from the fact that Anderson's money had disappeared, fell into the bias from the beginning that Brett had fraudulent intent. Yet, the state of information deficiency and control uncertainty the suspect was in at the time of the decision was ignored.

The mouse-cheese theory reminds us that there can be great differences between the uncertainty of a person at the moment of decision and the clear picture formed after the event, and that justice actors should, while making decisions, look not only at the outcome but also with empathy at the alternatives the defendant saw when making a choice. Indeed, a more comprehensive evaluation and

examination of evidence later revealed that Brett acted in good faith, and the court concluded with his acquittal.

Third example:

On March 4, 2008, in the judicial primary elections held in Collin County, Texas, attorney Suzanne Wooten achieved a historic victory by receiving more votes than the incumbent Judge Charles Sandoval (because Sandoval was the first sitting judge in the history of Collin County to lose an election). The next day, Sandoval alleged that Wooten had violated campaign finance rules and submitted a complaint petition to the Collin County Prosecutor's Office. In the petition, Sandoval wrote that his opponent had spent approximately \$100,000 on radio advertisements but did not report these expenses. The investigation was taken from the Collin County Prosecutor's Office and handed over to the Texas Attorney General's Office. The prosecution claimed that David Cary and Stacy Cary donated \$150,000 to Wooten's campaign to overturn custody decisions made against them by Sandoval in the past (meanwhile, the Carys were angry that in 2006, in their divorce case, Sandoval had ruled in favor of the ex-wife and imposed heavy financial obligations on them).

In 2010, the prosecution accused four people (Wooten, campaign consultant James Spencer, and businessmen David Cary and Stacy Cary) of involvement in bribery and organized crime activity. After Wooten took office, she recused herself from the Cary case, but this move was still not enough to clear her name. In the trial held in 2011, the jury found Wooten guilty and gave her a 10-year probation sentence. The Carys and Spencer were also convicted in the same case, but they were acquitted on appeal. In 2017, Wooten's lawyers presented new evidence to the court, and the case was reopened. Meanwhile, an audio recording given by the Carys to the FBI proving Wooten's innocence emerged. Upon this, the court declared Wooten innocent, and in fact, Wooten won the compensation case she filed against the prosecutors in 2018 and was awarded \$600,000 in 2022 (The National Registry of Exonerations, 2025d).

This case once again demonstrates how explanatory the mouse-cheese theory is in terms of the justice system. That is: when Suzanne Wooten ran against Judge Sandoval, she had three options in front of her: conducting a financing campaign during the election but hiding donations, reporting donations transparently to the election board, or lastly distancing herself from her supporters. She chose the second option, thinking it was completely legal, but this choice was interpreted as bribery by prosecutors and the judge who evaluated the case with a result (cheese) oriented approach. However, at that moment, the differences between these paths were not clear for Wooten. Her connection with the Cary family, who were among her supporters, was labeled as bribery in the shadow of political rivalry.

The mouse-cheese theory reminds us of the importance of understanding the uncertainty of the decision-maker at the time of choice in comparison to the clear, result-oriented interpretations of outside observers. At first, the court did not see the paths in front of the mouse, only the cheese at the end (the bribery accusation). But the comprehensive examination of evidence conducted years later showed that Wooten had chosen the legal path.

#### **4. Other theories similar to the mouse-cheese theory**

It can be said that the mouse-cheese theory resembles two criminal justice theories: labeling theory and procedural justice theory. The similarities and differences of this new theory with the other two theories are as follows:

Labeling theory claims that labeling processes play a decisive role in the formation of crime and deviance in a society. Let us take a young person who steals a loaf of bread from a market. This small mistake can lead to him being labeled as "criminal" or "deviant" by his friends (and maybe even by the court). This label (criminal or thief label) does not only describe a specific behavior (theft), but also

causes him to be excluded from his social environment and even to start seeing himself as a criminal over time. This process of exclusion and seeing himself as a criminal leads to the formation of a deviant identity in him and weakens the social ties he has with the society to which he belongs. Therefore, labeling a person for a misdemeanor or crime does not deter him from committing crimes but rather causes that misdemeanor to become chronic in his character (Bernburg, 2009).

The mouse-cheese theory and labeling theory both reveal the effect of external evaluations on individuals' decision-making processes. While labeling theory argues that labeling a person as "criminal" shapes their identity and behavior, the mouse-cheese theory claims that the justice system's focus only on outcomes while judging the suspect (during arrest, indictment, or sentencing) can lead to erroneous decisions. That is, in labeling theory, it is the perpetrator who is prejudiced; in mouse-cheese theory, it is the public official. On the other hand, the mouse-cheese theory, unlike labeling theory, emphasizes the importance of decision-makers understanding the uncertainties and alternatives of the suspect at the time of the decision. In short, labeling theory discusses how stigmatization, and the mouse-cheese theory how lack of empathy by decision-makers, lead to injustice.

Procedural justice theory argues that people's interactions with legal authorities (police, prosecutors, judges, etc.) determine whether they see the criminal justice mechanism as fair, and as a natural consequence, their level of cooperation with legal authorities. According to this theory, people focus not on the result of a decision but on how that decision was made (factors such as impartiality, consistency, respect, transparency). If the process is fair, individuals feel that they are valued and voluntarily comply with laws; otherwise, trust in authority decreases. For example, a police officer treating a suspect kindly and fairly during an incident ensures that the process is seen as legitimate, even if the suspect is punished in the end. Fair procedures affect not only agreement with decisions but also the individual's sense of social belonging and self-worth (Tyler, 2010).

Both the mouse-cheese theory and procedural justice theory emphasize the importance of the fairness of actors and processes in the justice system. While procedural justice theory argues that people trust authority more when decision-making mechanisms are impartial, respectful, and transparent, the mouse-cheese theory similarly states that suspects' decisions should be evaluated fairly. However, the mouse-cheese theory, unlike procedural justice, particularly draws attention to the need for decision-makers to understand the suspect's perspective. While procedural justice focuses on the fairness of general mechanisms, the mouse-cheese theory centers on the complex choices at the moment of individual decision-making.

### **5. In which areas outside of criminal justice can the mouse-cheese theory be useful?**

It would not be wrong to say that this theory can be applied not only in the field of criminal justice but also in many fields of social sciences. A few of these are listed below:

If the mouse-cheese theory is well understood, managers in the business world can be more understanding toward their employees. This theory can be used by managers to understand the decision-making processes of employees. For example, instead of focusing only on results (such as performance and efficiency) when evaluating employee performance, a manager can evaluate by considering the difficulties and options they faced. Employees who feel sufficiently understood become more motivated, and this may indirectly increase productivity. In addition, being able to look at customer complaints from their perspective can help produce more effective solutions.

Teachers and educators can benefit from the mouse-cheese theory when evaluating students' behaviors or academic failures. By taking into account the conditions the student is in (such as family problems, financial inadequacy, and learning difficulties), a more just and supportive approach in education can be adopted. This may increase students' self-confidence and support equal opportunity in education.



Doctors can understand their patients' moods better thanks to this theory. For example, a doctor who warns a patient that smoking will cause cancer may not understand why the patient continues to smoke. However, witnessing many people who smoke and live long, and others who never smoked but died young, may explain the patient's behavior. That is, from the doctor's perspective, the common feature of those who die from lung cancer is smoking, but from the patient's perspective, not every smoker gets cancer and dies.

Politicians and public administrators can use the mouse-cheese theory to understand why citizens oppose certain policies. For example, a politician may claim that the cause of air pollution is the smoke coming from car exhausts and may want to clean the air by imposing extra taxes on gasoline and diesel. But from the citizen's perspective, their own cars seem to have a relatively small effect on air pollution, and for that reason, they may protest the decision. Considering this, policies can be designed more transparently and inclusively by listening to citizens' opinions on every issue. This may increase the success of policies and thus social peace.

Psychologists and counselors can use this theory to understand their clients' decisions and later guide them. A psychologist who takes into account the client's past experiences, current conditions, and limited options and thereby adopts a more empathetic approach will be more successful compared to their colleagues.

## **6. Limitation of the theory**

One of the most important limitations of all theories in general is generalizability. Explanations developed in a specific context or sample may not demonstrate the same validity across different cultures, social structures, or demographic groups. Indeed, as frequently emphasized in the social sciences literature, most theories are based on a limited number of observations and experimental settings, which weakens their applicability to different populations (Yarkoni, 2020; Lakens, 2025). Furthermore, failure to adequately account for cultural diversity can lead to variations in decision-making processes across societies (Haeffel & Cobb, 2022). Therefore, clearly defining the conditions under which a theory is valid is crucial for its generalizability, and there is no data available to determine the conditions under which this theory is valid.

Another limitation of theories stems from the modeling and prediction processes. When models based on a large number of parameters are used in complex social or legal situations, some of these parameters may not be adequately supported by data. This reduces the reliability of predictions and can lead to misleading conclusions (White et al., 2016). Similarly, some studies show that even models that leave parameters unidentifiable can offer limited predictive power, and that oversimplification or omission of variables to address this weakens the theory's functionality even further (Chis et al., 2014; Grabowski et al., 2023).

In light of these information, while this theory offers a new perspective for decision-makers, its predictive capacity is limited due to both contextual diversity and methodological uncertainties.

## **Conclusion**

One of the biggest problems of the justice system in the United States, as in many other countries, is the punishment of the innocent and the failure to punish those who are truly guilty. One of the biggest reasons for this is that government officials working in the criminal justice system (especially police, prosecutors, and judges) ignore the principle of impartiality and try to punish the suspects brought to court (or at least one of them) by viewing incidents from the victim's perspective.

To prevent this and ensure justice, their perspective must be changed. This is possible not through existing knowledge and training but by opening a new window for them, and the name of this new window is the mouse-cheese theory.

This theory, in short, advises to stop looking at incidents result-oriented and to try thinking from the starting point instead; just like a mouse reaching a piece of cheese. In the mouse-cheese puzzles that frequently appeared in newspapers and magazines in the 1980s, there are 3 paths in front of a mouse, and the reader is asked to help the mouse reach the cheese by starting from one of them. For the mouse, this task is difficult because all three paths look alike. However, for the reader starting from the cheese, helping the mouse is easy because only one path from the end leads to the mouse.

First of all, the suspects who are declared guilty in the minds of government officials do not have clear and understandable paths in front of them when making a decision. Therefore, the paths they sometimes walk reach the wrong destination and they are criticized for this. However, those who see the end and judge the suspects often do not know the beginning of this path and the difficulties along the way.

To ensure justice, government officials working in the Criminal Justice system must fully adopt the mouse-cheese theory and apply it in their duties. The greater benefit of this theory is that it can be applied in many areas from business to education, and from medicine to psychology.

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