Blaming the Victim

* Fundamental attribution bias
  + If you did something right, it is because of your internal factors (smart, hard-working, etc) and if your enemy does something right, it is because of external factors (they had help)
  + If you do something wrong or something bad happens to you, it is because of external factors (you blame everything in society except yourself) and if your enemy does something wrong, it is because they are flawed as an individual (internal factors)
* If problems in homelessness are defined as individual-level problems only (poor financial decisions, alcohol and drug abuse), where will you spend your money? Which fixes will you support?
* If our only way of defining a social issue is individual level analysis, we are vulnerable to blaming the victim and to not truly addressing the issue
* There is a need to be controlled – cognitive dissonance – if we are in a situation where we say we have one set of values but we do something else, it creates cognitive dissonance
* Technical meaning of blaming the victim has to due with levels of analysis – when we focus on only an individual level analysis without blaming any other factors in play (societal factors)
  + BUT, if causality for homelessness looks ONLY at the environment and not at individual-level factors, you won’t be effective
  + Conservatives tend to focus on individual-level factors, liberals tend to address societal-level factors 🡪 you need to consider both and balance both factors