**Connections among Claims**

Best suggests several connections between social problems that deserve additional research.

“New” social problems borrow *cultural resources* used to describe earlier ones.

Naming and classifying social problems are just the first steps in defining a problem’s scope. Later scope processes include *domain expansion*, *domain elaboration* and *diffusion*.

- **Domain expansion** includes piggybacking new problems onto old names (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder being applied to new problems or parental smoking viewed as a form of child abuse.)
- **Domain elaboration** involves identifying new aspects of a problem (e.g., sexual abuse disrupting education or leading to drug use).
- **Diffusion** involves problems moving geographically from one region or nation to another.

Claims about social problems establish orientations—what sort of problem is it?

- Some set of advocates may assume *ownership* of a problem and become its authorities.
- Advocates may engage in *rationale expansion*, changing the orientation of the problem to attract more support.
- Advocates may also engage in *ideological extension*, assuming ownership of new problems and orienting them consistently with their existing ideology. However, advocates may also downplay their ideologies.
- Different movements may share *master frames*, broad orientations shared by several movements (e.g., equal rights.)
- There are few claims about *systems* of social problems. One exception is the problems of the inner cities.

Americans tend to ignore the history of social problems, including *cycles of concern* (e.g., the periodic fear of gangs) and *recurring issues* (e.g., repeated drug scares involving different drugs). However, advocates sometimes point out *ironic consequences* of previous social policies.