SECURITY MATTERS - ABSTRACTS

Crisis management and urban security

Eric Stern

This lecture will examine aspects of urban environments which impact on crisis management and issues of societal vulnerability and resilience. An overview of antagonistic (e.g. social conflict and various forms of criminal activity) and structural (e.g. natural disasters and major accidents) threats will be presented and key aspects of the socio-political context explored. Factors facilitating and exacerbating dilemmas of crisis management will be identified. Particular emphasis will be placed on problems and possibilities for inter-organizational (public, private, non-profit) cooperation in coping with the myriad challenges of urban security. Illustrations from cases documented in CRISMART's case bank or in the international literature will be provided in order to provide empirical illustrations of more general phenomena.

Safe on the Move: The Importance of the Built Environment

Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris

My talk will deal with an important citizen right: the ability to walk from home or work to the transit stop or wait at the bus stop or station platform without the fear of being victimized. Transit crime is a rather persistent but underreported trend that intimidates transit riders in many cities—particularly women. The majority of transit crime incidents represent public nuisance crimes. Such crimes are highly underreported and mostly take place not in the enclosed and easily surveyed transit vehicles but in the more open environment of transit stops and platforms or in their close vicinity. While some transit stops have very little incidence of crime; others on the same routes and in close proximity to them, are highly affected by criminal incidents. To understand the differential crime rates at transit settings, I will rely on two seemingly antithetical theories. Compositional theories cast attention on offenders and the socio-demographic characteristics of neighborhoods, while ecological theories focus on the physical environment of the transit setting. Additionally,

I will draw from my empirical studies of bus stops and train stations (that included environmental mapping, non-participatory observations, and surveys with transit riders in Los Angeles) to delineate the environmental variables that can affect security at transit settings. I will discuss design and policy responses as a useful approach to crime prevention in transportation settings. Fear of transit crime is typically not equally spread among gender groups. Empirical studies have shown that women are more fearful of transit crime and are indeed more at risk of being victimized by sexual crimes (groping, sexual harassment and comments) while on the bus or the train. Drawing from a recent research project which focused on women's transit needs in regards to security, I will discuss women's concerns (as revealed in interviews with leaders of women's interest groups in the US), and design and policy directions for making travel in the city less hindered by the fear of crime.

Crime and urban design: an evidence based approach

Bill Hillier

This presentation will be devoted to the relationship between the micro-structure of urban environment and crime vulnerability. An analysis of residential burglary and street robbery in the street network of a London borough, using space syntax, will be discussed as a case study. The results are presented against a background of current issues in urban design under discussion between the New Urbanism movement and the de sign against crime community: streets or cul-de-sacs, mixed use, permeability, and density. A method of primary risk band analysis is proposed as the basis of a simple, repeatable methodology for the analysis of crime patterns in street networks.

Fear of crime: Meaning, measurement and neighbourhood clustering

Jonathan Jackson

Organised in two parts, this presentation considers first the meaning and measurement of fear of crime, and second its geographical patterning across London. The first section reviews a series of methodological studies

conducted by Stephen Farrall, Emily Gray and myself. A new measurement strategy is presented that incorporates an individual's emotional response to crime (differentiating between specific worries and diffuse anxieties) and the subsequent impact on routine activities and subjective well-being (examining precautionary behaviours and everyday emotions that may or may not erode quality of life). These distinctions are combined into a single categorical scale that moves along a continuum: from (a) the 'unworried', to (b) low-level motivating emotions, to (c) frequent, counterproductive and corrosive worry about crime. Attention is given to the correlates of the different 'types' of fear of crime, including victimisation status, gender, age and relational concerns. The second section moves to address (a) whether fear of crime clusters at the neighbourhood level and (b) which individual- and neighbourhood-level factors explain individual- and neighbourhood-level variance. Data are presented from a representative sample survey of Londoners. Findings focus on two types of neighbourhood-level characteristics: crime and deprivation levels; and group-level perception of disorder, cohesion and collective efficacy.

The ecological analysis of offence and offender data

Robert Haining

The presentation will consider some examples of ecological analyses with geographical offence and offender data. Motivated offenders select areas before individual targets in a two stage, hierarchical, decision process. A burglar, for example, may choose an area on the basis of area characteristics. It is a quite different set of criteria that determines which house or houses in the area are broken into. The police and individual police officers may have an image of their policing problems that are area or neighbourhood based. Both of these examples provide justification for undertaking ecological analyses of offence patterns and crime problems. In the process, spatial modelling can help to reveal those area characteristics that distinguish neighbourhoods that have high burglary rates from those with low; those neighbourhoods that generate serious challenges to policing from those that offer more conventional challenges. The first part of the

presentation will discuss the identification of high intensity crime neighbourhoods in Sheffield, England. It will describe the area level attributes that explain the police's own perception of where such neighbourhoods are located; it will also describe the area level attributes that explain where such neighbourhoods are located when identified from the police's own recorded offence-offender database. The second part of the presentation will discuss the area level characteristics that explain why some neighbourhoods have high rates of burglary whilst others have much lower rates. The study area is Cambridgeshire, England an area that combines rural and urban areas each displaying quite different burglary patterns. Both these studies will illustrate the extent to which familiar concepts in criminology such as social disorganization theory and routine activities theory contribute to our understanding of geographical patterns. They also illustrate the importance of constructing relevant spatial frameworks for ecological analyses.

The Situational Dynamics of Crime: Towards a True Ecology of Urban Crime

Per-Olof H Wikström

Most ecologically oriented studies of urban crime fail to adequately theorise, and use appropriate methods to explore, the situational dynamics of crime. In fact, most "ecological" theory and research into crime causation neglects the role of the person and, crucially, the role of the interaction between the person and his or her environment. In this paper I will argue that a truly ecological perspective requires a focus on explaining behavioural consequences (such as acts of crime) of the interaction between humans and their urban environments. I will present a new theory (Situational Action Theory) and new methodologies (based on combining a small area community survey, a space-time budget and psychometric measures obtained by interviewer-led questionnaires) to address and overcome these problems. Finally, I will present research findings from the Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS+) which show that some young people are situationally

vulnerable to criminogenic urban environments while others are situationally immune to such environments. Implications for developing effective crime prevention policy and practise in urban environments will be discussed.

Premature, futile and avertable deaths in Brazil: the case of poor youths in Rio de Janeiro

Prof Alba Zaluar

In our researches there is no uniform correlation between inequality and race/ color that explains the greater risk of premature death affecting black and brown youths in Rio de Janeiro. Race has to be analyzed in association with other personal and ecological variables, such as income, schooling, and residential area - regular or irregular (favela) housing, or the city's planning areas. For black mothers, the risk of loosing sons who survived till 15 years old before they reach 30 years is more than double that of white mothers. Income does not protect them since the risk is practically the same for black mothers in the superior and inferior income brackets. This greater vulnerability of their sons disappear when one considers schooling: the risk is the same for the children of black and white mothers of low schooling. Lack of a spouse only aggravates the risk of premature death for the children of white and black mothers, even more so for the latter. Low income and poor housing affects more seriously black women who become head of families. But the interaction between mother's schooling, low family income and living in favelas increases even more the risk of dying between 15 and 30 years old, the age bracket in which violent deaths are concentrated. Since urban infrastructure, public services such as water, electricity and sewage have improved lately, the risk of premature death probably results from the armed conflicts between trafficking gangs inside favelas that became enemies out of dispute over territory. Not only turf war, but also violent confrontations with policemen have increased the contrast between irregular and regular areas of the city. Nowadays, insalubrities result from an easy access to guns and warrior ethos or hyper masculinity that has been internalized by youths who participate in these frequent and lethal combats.

Community, Security and Distributive Justice

Nick Tilley

The past ten to fifteen years have seen a drop in high-volume crimes in most industrial societies. Improvements in security appear to have played a major part in producing these crime falls. Research on patterns of displacement and diffusion of benefit suggest that improvements in security do not generally result in a simple redistribution of the total volume of crime. Nevertheless uneven access to crime-reducing security measures (and of other situational resources relating to crime opportunities) may have benefited those who are economically better off more than those who are poorer, and hence contributed to the observed uneven levels of crime across different communities. This paper examines crime prevention as a distributive 'good' and crime as a distributive 'bad'. It critically considers the ways in which local and national crime prevention policies and practices may operate in ways that unintentionally heighten relative inequalities in community levels of crime, whilst at the same time producing overall reductions in the volume of crime. The paper also examines alternative security and situational crime prevention strategies to bring down overall levels of crime that will also reduce inequalities in risk. Most of the examples discussed in the paper will be drawn from the British experience of crime and crime prevention, although the significance of this experience for other countries will also be considered.

Realistic reaction or idealistic intention? Exploring various responses to urban security in South Africa

Karina Landman

South African cities have experienced significant expansion and spatial transformation since democratisation in 1994. This transformation been

accompanied by a number of challenges, including high levels of unemployment, inequality, insecurity and crime. The latest release of crime statistics presents a worrying picture. After 5 years of consistent decrease in overall levels of crime (albeit at high levels), it appears that crime has increased in the past year. Even more concerning is the increase in house robberies, business robberies and car hijackings in all nine provinces. Not surprisingly, there have been various responses to crime, ranging from increasing law enforcement efforts to a greater focus on social crime prevention initiatives. In addition, there have also been various responses to insecurity in the built environment. Many of these interventions include an overemphasis on target-hardening through hard boundaries such as fences and walls, burglar bars on windows and barricades in the form of street closures through booms and gates. This paper particularly focuses on these built environment responses to crime and the fear of crime. It explores whether these are a realistic response given the current climate of fear and high levels of crime or an idealistic intention reflecting the search for a new type of "exclusive" utopia – often in denial of current planning and development policy. In doing so, the paper discusses various types of responses to crime, including different types of gated communities ranging from gated neighbourhoods to those occupying a portion of an urban block, as well as responses from the rich to the poor. Following this, the paper considers the implications of these responses for social order and spatial integration, urban security and ultimately urban sustainability against the background of democratic governance, planning and policing.

Nordic guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Urban Planning and Building Design - the implementation in Stockholm and Hammarby Sjöstad.

Bo Grönlund

Starting in Denmark in the 1980s and followed by initiatives in Sweden since the 1990s, several guidelines for Crime Prevention through urban planning and building design have been developed in the Nordic welfare countries. Standardisation institutes, national crime prevention counsels and some central government agencies have contributed to put these guidelines in practice. Representatives have also taken part in similar work at CEN in Brussels. In Sweden, the Stockholm Police started to work out guidelines and give advice - with the mixed new urban district Ärvinge near Kista as their primary early test case in the 1990s. The result was very low crime rates providing some evidence that planning and design mattered to reduce crime and feelings of un-safety. This work resulted in the thoroughly worked-out major guide for housing areas 'Bo Tryggt' in 2001, revised in 2005 with inclusion of a process approach. The presentation will discuss the challenges of putting in practice the guidelines of Crime Prevention Through Urban Planning and Building Design in Hammarby sjöstad, Stockholm.