

Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis

Second Edition

Edited by
Richard Wortley and
Michael Townsley



Crime Science Series

Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis

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Edited by Richard Wortley
and Michael Townsley

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Environmental criminology has become a vital paradigm, not only explaining crime events but also providing effective strategies for reducing victimization. Pulling together insightful essays authored by leading scholars, this volume takes stock of theory and practice in this area. Indeed, *Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis* is a book that should be part of every scholar's library and be used widely in courses introducing students to the science of crime analysis and prevention.

Francis T. Cullen, *Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati, USA*

This book brings together some of the most influential and important names in environmental criminology from the last thirty years. Within, the scholar and practitioner is led through the key theoretical contributions in a structured and well-designed manner. This essential text will be the bible of environmental criminologists for years to come.

Jerry H. Ratcliffe, *Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Director of the Center for Security and Crime Science at Temple University, USA*

The book contains everything you always wanted to know about environmental criminology and crime analysis. Its chapters are written by the key scholars who shaped the field. For the next decade it will be the main authoritative source on the subject matter. It is the type of book that stays on your desk because you pick it up all the time.

Wim Bernasco, *Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR) and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands*

The seemingly simple truth—that crime is not randomly distributed in space and time—has led to a new, productive and exciting field of criminology environmental criminology and crime analysis (ECCA). The second edition of this important book brings together the work of the leading researchers in this field, providing an excellent overview of the theoretical and empirical crime reduction contributions of this important and growing sub field of criminology.

Anna Stewart, *Professor and Head of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Australia*

The first edition of this book became an instant classic, filling a neglected niche of theory-driven empirical work. This update underscores the book's usefulness for theory, research and practice. All the major researchers are here, with traditional and new topics. Adding crime scripts is especially noteworthy. This is essential reading, especially for American researchers unfamiliar with the international impact of environmental criminology.

Mike Maxfield, *Professor of Criminal Justice, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, USA, and Editor, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*

This is an important book for anyone with an interest in how crimes happen and what can be done about them. The ideas presented are some of the most influential in their field—and have been brought up to date by the very scholars who first articulated them, or the brilliant academics who have gone on to develop them. It is essential reading for students, policy makers and practitioners concerned about the challenge of ensuring safe and secure communities—they should all find something to excite them.

Gloria Laycock, *Professor of Crime Science, Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science, University College London, UK*

Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis

Environmental criminology is a term that encompasses a range of overlapping perspectives. At its core, the many strands of environmental criminology are bound by a common focus on the role that the immediate environment plays in the performance of crime, and a conviction that careful analyses of these environmental influences are the key to the effective investigation, control, and prevention of crime.

This new edition brings together leading theorists and practitioners in the field to provide a comprehensive, integrative coverage of the field of environmental criminology and crime analysis. This book is divided into three sequential parts:

- *Understanding the crime event* explores routine activity approach, crime pattern theory, the rational choice perspective, and situational precipitators of crime.
- *Analysing crime patterns* discusses crime mapping, offender mobility, repeat victimisation, geographic profiling, and crime scripts.
- *Preventing and controlling crime* covers topics including problem oriented policing, situational crime prevention, and environmental design.

Fully updated and including new chapters on crime scripts and offender mobility, a scene-setting introductory overview, and critical thinking questions at the end of each chapter, this text is an essential and comprehensive resource for practitioners and students taking courses on environmental criminology, crime analysis, and crime prevention.

Richard Wortley is a Professor of Crime Science, and Director of the Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science at University College London, UK.

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Crime Science Series

Edited by Richard Wortley, UCL

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Crime science is a new way of thinking about and responding to the problem of crime in society. The distinctive nature of crime science is captured in the name.

First, crime science is about crime. Instead of the usual focus in criminology on the characteristics of the criminal offender, crime science is concerned with the characteristics of the criminal event. The analysis shifts from the distant causes of criminality – biological makeup, upbringing, social disadvantage and the like – to the near causes of crime. Crime scientists are interested in why, where, when and how particular crimes occur. They examine trends and patterns in crime in order to devise immediate and practical strategies to disrupt these patterns.

Second, crime science is about science. Many traditional responses to crime control are unsystematic, reactive, and populist, too often based on untested assumptions about what works. In contrast crime science advocates an evidence-based, problem-solving approach to crime control. Adopting the scientific method, crime scientists collect data on crime, generate hypotheses about observed crime trends, devise interventions to respond to crime problems, and test the adequacy of those interventions.

Crime science is utilitarian in its orientation and multidisciplinary in its foundations. Crime scientists actively engage with front-line criminal justice practitioners to reduce crime by making it more difficult for individuals to offend, and making it more likely that they will be detected if they do offend. To achieve these objectives, crime science draws on disciplines from both the social and physical sciences, including criminology, sociology, psychology, geography, economics, architecture, industrial design, epidemiology, computer science, mathematics, engineering, and biology.

Cybercrime in Progress

Theory and prevention of technology-enabled offenses

Thomas J. Holt and Adam M. Bossler

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Preface to the second edition

In the 8 years since publication of its first edition, *Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis* has been received very positively by scholars, policy makers and practitioners. It has been used as a textbook in university degree programs in Australia, Europe and North America. So it is an understatement to say we were delighted to be approached to prepare a second edition of the book.

In order to appreciate the changes between the two editions it is worth considering the motivation for the inaugural edition. Prior to its publication there had been little attempt to provide an overview of environmental criminology and crime analysis (known universally by its adherents as ECCA), and much less to provide some synthesis of ideas and methods. The field existed very much as a patchwork of related ideas lacking in overall conceptual coherence. The aim in producing the first edition was to bring together the key contributions to ECCA in an edited collection, and, in doing so, for the first time to comprehensively define the field.

Chapters were written by leading theorists and practitioners in the field, in many cases the person(s) who made the original contribution. Each chapter was designed to be 'classic' but up to date. The innovation of the book was not so much in the content of specific chapters, but in the fact that these chapters and their authors were, for the first time, brought together in a single volume. The aim was to highlight both the unique contributions each approach has made to the field and the links among the contributions that make ECCA a coherent scholarly endeavour.

What has changed between 2008 and 2016 that warrants a second edition? The field of environmental criminology has experienced changes in the last 8 years that have informed our approach to developing this second edition. Undoubtedly the most remarkable change has been the growing acceptance of environmental criminology among criminologists. What was once seen as a fringe movement is now considered mainstream criminology. Rarely does an issue of the top criminology journals appear without at least one article situated in the environmental criminology perspective, a situation that many authors of this volume would not have found credible 20 years ago.

The most significant indication of criminology's acceptance was arguably Frank Cullen's 2010 Sutherland address.¹ He argued that much of what is considered classical criminology is out-dated and no longer fit for purpose. He sets

out his eight-step plan for a new, useful criminology, one of which emphasises the environmental perspective. According to Cullen 'the future of criminology will be advanced by exploring systematically the nexus between propensity and opportunity – between offender and situation' (2010, p. 315). We hope this book goes some way to providing foundational text for the environmental perspective.

In addition, our direct experience with using the first edition, as well as feedback from colleagues and readers, was that the first edition largely met our objectives. However, over time we (and others) began to notice deficiencies that, once observed, were difficult to ignore. A number of key concepts did not have the prominence we felt they deserved. This is in some way inevitable for the first ever attempt at consolidating a diverse and wide-ranging scholarly field. A gap only becomes obvious once a manuscript exists. In addition, a small number of chapters, while informative, did not seem to be consistent with the rest of the book either in the level of detail or in the general orientation.

Within this context, several new chapters appear in this volume (Crime scripts and Offender mobility) that provide the detailed treatments of important concepts to environmental criminology. Also we are pleased to welcome several new authors to this volume (Martin Andresen, Benoit Leclerc, Michael Townsley, Shane Johnson and Rachel Armitage), all of whom have made important contributions to environmental criminology and are emerging as future leaders of their fields.

What *hasn't* changed? Well, the great majority of authors from the first edition agreed to provide updated chapters for the second edition, and did so enthusiastically. In preparing for the second edition we solicited feedback from a number of scholars who have used the first edition as a teaching resource. This feedback was provided to authors in order to help them develop further their perspectives. One concrete recommendation that a number of reviewers made was to include some 'critical thinking' review questions, and we are grateful to our contributors for proving these for their respective chapters.

We would like to thank all of the authors of this second edition, as well as Lorraine Mazzerole (co-editor of the first edition), and Heidi Lee, Hannah Catterall and Thomas Sutton at Routledge for their unfailing support and patience with our efforts to bring this manuscript into the world.

Richard Wortley and Michael Townsley,
March, 2016

Note

- 1 Cullen, F. (2011). Beyond Adolescence-Limited Criminology: Choosing Our Future – The American Society of Criminology 2010 Sutherland Address. *Criminology*, 49(2): 287–330.