



THE REASONING CRIMINOLOGIST

essays in honour of Ronald V. Clarke

EDITED BY NICK TILLEY AND
GRAHAM FARRELL

Crime Science Series

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First published 2012
by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

Simultaneously published in the USA and Canada
by Routledge
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

The reasoning criminologist : essays in honour of Ronald V. Clarke/
edited by Nick Tilley and Graham Farrell. – 1st ed.

p. cm.

1. Clarke, R. V. G. 2. Criminologists – Great Britain – Biography.
3. Crime prevention – Great Britain. 4. Criminology – Great Britain – History.
I. Clarke, R. V. G. II. Tilley, Nick. III. Farrell, Graham.

HV6023.C53R43 2011

363.25092–dc23

2011022741

ISBN: 978-0-415-68851-2 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-0-415-68852-9 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-0-203-15440-3 (ebk)

Typeset in Times New Roman by
Swales & Willis Ltd, Exeter, Devon



Printed and bound in Great Britain by
TJ International Ltd, Padstow, Cornwall

The Reasoning Criminologist

This book is a tribute to the work of criminologist Professor Ronald V. Clarke, in view of his enormous and enduring contribution to criminology and crime science. Clarke is best known for his development of the theory and application of situational crime prevention, although he also played a major part in the establishment of the British Crime Survey, in discussions of evaluation methodology and in improving the knowledge base and tools for problem-oriented policing. He has consistently emphasised the need for crime studies to be practical as well as academically rigorous.

In this major collection of original essays, Tilley and Farrell bring together leading criminologists from around the globe – they profess to have ‘inadvertently invited only world-class scholars. Oops.’ – all of whom are colleagues or ex-students of Clarke.

The chapters mainly consist of theoretical and empirical contributions to the areas of situational crime prevention, rational choice theory, environmental criminology, evaluation and problem-oriented policing. The largely biographical introduction ‘Ronald V. Clarke – the quiet revolutionary’ is based on interviews with Clarke.

Nick Tilley is Professor in the Department of Security and Crime Science at UCL. He is also Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Nottingham Trent University.

Graham Farrell is Professor of Criminology and Director of the Midlands Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice at Loughborough University, and Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies, Simon Fraser University.

Crime Science Series

Edited by Richard Wortley, UCL

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.

1. Superhighway Robbery

Graeme R. Newman and Ronald V. Clarke

2. Crime Reduction and Problem-oriented Policing

Edited by Karen Bullock and Nick Tilley

- 3. Crime Science**
New approaches to preventing and detecting crime
Edited by Melissa J. Smith and Nick Tilley
- 4. Problem-oriented Policing and Partnerships**
Implementing an evidence-based approach to crime reduction
Karen Bullock, Rosie Erol and Nick Tilley
- 5. Preventing Child Sexual Abuse**
Stephen Smallbone, William L. Marshall and Richard Wortley
- 6. Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis**
Edited by Richard Wortley and Lorraine Mazerolle
- 7. Raising the Bar**
Preventing aggression in and around bars, pubs and clubs
Kathryn Graham and Ross Homel
- 8. Situational Prevention of Organised Crimes**
Edited by Karen Bullock, Ronald V. Clarke and Nick Tilley
- 9. Psychological Criminology**
An integrative approach
Richard Wortley
- 10. The Reasoning Criminologist**
Essays in honour of Ronald V. Clarke
Edited by Nick Tilley and Graham Farrell

Notes on contributors

Kate Bowers is Reader at the Department of Security and Crime Science, UCL. She has worked in the field of environmental criminology for eighteen years. Her research has generally focused on applying quantitative methods to crime analysis and to studies of crime prevention. Some of her previous work has involved examining spatial and temporal patterns in crime, evaluating the effectiveness of crime prevention schemes and investigating business crime. She is also very interested in the development of products and procedures that help to design out crime. Her work has been funded by a variety of organisations including the Home Office, the police, the NPIA, the DfES, the ESRC and the AHRC. She has published almost sixty papers and book chapters in criminology, the vast majority being peer-reviewed. She has also guest edited a special edition of a journal and a *Crime Prevention Studies* volume and co-edited a book on crime mapping. She has acted on journal editorial boards and has presented her work many times to national and international audiences.

Anthony A. Braga is Professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University and Senior Research Fellow in the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard University. His research involves collaborating with criminal justice, social service and community-based organisations to address illegal access to firearms, reduce gang and group-involved violence, and control crime hot spots.

Patricia L. Brantingham is RCMP University Professor of Computational Criminology, Director of the Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies (ICURS) and Associate Member of the School of Computing Science at Simon Fraser University. She is a member Simon Fraser University's Interdisciplinary Research in Mathematics and Computing Science Centre (IRMACS) and a director of its Modelling of Complex Social Systems program (MoCSSy). She has worked as a systems analyst for such major corporations as Johnson & Johnson and Norton Simon, Inc. and served as Director of Programme Evaluation for the Department of Justice Canada. Dr Brantingham holds degrees in theoretical mathematics from Columbia University and Fordham University and in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. She is the author or editor of two dozen books and scientific monographs and more than

100 articles and scientific papers. She is one of the founders of environmental criminology and is currently the leader of an international collaboration in *computational criminology* linking fourteen university research laboratories around the world. She is known widely for development of crime pattern theory. She has twice been keynote speaker at NIJ Maps Conferences. She is a recipient of the R.V.G. Clarke Award from the Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis Symposium and of the President's Award from the Western Society of Criminology. Her current research includes the analysis of prolific offender travel directionality and the use of computational topology in understanding the structure of crime patterns.

Paul J. Brantingham is RCMP University Professor of Crime Analysis at Simon Fraser University and Associate Director of ICURS. He received degrees in government and law at Columbia University and in Criminology at Cambridge University. He is a member of the California Bar. Prof. Brantingham has background and interest in linking the policy research needs within government with the criminological and legal skills within universities. He served as Director of Programme Evaluation and Special Reviews at the Public Service Commission of Canada and has served as a faculty dean and as a department head at Simon Fraser University. He currently is an academic advisor for Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, is on the editorial board of numerous criminology journals and is the author of over 100 scientific papers, policy documents, articles, monographs and books. His most recent book is *Classics in Environmental Criminology* (co-edited with Martin Andresen and Bryan Kinney). Prof. Brantingham is a past president of the Western Society of Criminology and a past program chair for the American Society of Criminology. He is co-developer of crime pattern theory, originator of crime gravity indexing as an alternative measure of crime problems faced by police in different communities and a primary developer of several crime analysis tools prototyped at ICURS including the Crime Analysis System-Pacific Region (CAS-PR) for tracking crime trends in detail and a criminal case analysis system, Cour-BC. His current research is focused on development of measures of the complexity of police work.

Derek B. Cornish and Ron first met in 1959 as students at Bristol University, and later worked together at the Home Office. Derek joined the London School of Economics in 1978 to teach psychology, criminology and research methods, taking early retirement in 2002. Ron and Derek have collaborated on many projects connected with offender rehabilitation, the rational choice perspective and situational crime prevention over the years.

John E. Eck is Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. He received his Masters of Public Policy from the University of Michigan in 1977 and his doctorate in Criminology from the University of Maryland in 1994. Dr Eck specializes in police effectiveness and crime prevention. He is particularly interested in the study of high-crime locations and the development of methods for preventing crimes at places. He has written numerous articles and books on

policing, crime patterns, drug control, crime mapping, research methods and computer simulation of crime patterns. Many of his publications are designed to assist police in their efforts to reduce crime.

Paul Ekblom is Professor of Design Against Crime at the Design Against Crime Research Centre, Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London. Besides involvement in design and crime, he holds Ron Clarke entirely responsible for a career in the theory, practice and evaluation of situational crime prevention, crime prevention arms races and the capture and dissemination of knowledge of good practice.

Graham Farrell is Professor of Criminology and Director of the Midlands Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice at Loughborough University, Senior Research Fellow at the ICURS at Simon Fraser University, and an associate of the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College London. He has conducted research on various areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, particularly repeat victimisation and situational crime prevention.

Marcus Felson has been a leader not only in crime theory ('the routine activity approach') but also in applying that theory to reducing crime. His central argument is that everyday legal activities set the stage for the illegal activities that feed on them. He is Professor of Criminal Justice at Texas State University, and has also been a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Rutgers University and University of Southern California. Prof. Felson has been Visiting Scholar at the University of Stockholm and the Free University of Amsterdam, where he is a member of the Royal Academy. He received his BA from the University of Chicago and his PhD from the University of Michigan. Prof. Felson has been a guest lecturer in over twenty nations, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Author of more than eighty professional papers, including 'Redesigning hell: preventing crime and disorder at the Port Authority Bus Terminal', he is co-editor (with Ronald V. Clarke) of *Business Crime and Routine Activity and Rational Choice* and co-author of *Opportunity Makes the Thief*. A recent book of his, *Crime and Nature*, extends crime theory as part of the life sciences.

Joshua D. Freilich is the Acting Director of the Criminal Justice PhD programme and a member of the Criminal Justice Department at John Jay College, the City University of New York. He is a lead investigator for the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), a Center for Excellence of the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS); a member of the Terrorism Research and Analysis Project (TRAP), sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Behavioral Science Unit (BSU); and a member of the Global Terrorism Database's (GTD) Advisory Board. Freilich's research focuses on causes of and responses to terrorism and criminological theory, particularly environmental criminology. His research has been funded by DHS directly as well as through START. Freilich is currently the principal

investigator (with Steven Chermak) on the United States Extremist Crime Database (ECDB) study, a large-scale data-collection effort that is building the first-of-its-kind relational database of crimes committed by far-right, Al-Qaeda directed and influenced, and animal rights and environmental rights extremists in the United States reported in an open source.

Herman Goldstein is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and the original architect of the problem-oriented approach to policing. His first experiences in working with the police were in Philadelphia as a graduate student in governmental administration at the University of Pennsylvania and subsequently as an assistant to the city manager of Portland, Maine. He spent two years observing the on-the-street operations of the police in Wisconsin and Michigan as a researcher with the American Bar Foundation's Survey of the Administration of Criminal Justice, and then participated in the analysis phase of that landmark project. From 1960 to 1964, he was Executive Assistant to the superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, O.W. Wilson, the widely recognized architect of the professional model of policing. Prof. Goldstein has published widely on problem-oriented policing, the police function, police discretion, the political accountability of the police and the control of police misconduct. He was co-author of the American Bar Association Standards Relating to the Urban Police Function. His 1977 book, *Policing a Free Society*, is among the most frequently cited works on the police. He first described the problem-oriented approach to policing in a 1979 article, which he expanded upon in his 1990 book, *Problem-oriented Policing*. Prof. Goldstein's research and writings have inspired many efforts to implement and advance problem-oriented policing in police agencies around the world.

Mike Hough is Co-Director of the Institute for Criminal Policy Research at Birkbeck, University of London. Prof. Hough has published on a range of criminological topics including probation work, youth justice, policing, crime prevention and community safety, anti-social behaviour, probation and drugs. Current studies include research on sentencing, on youth justice and on public trust in justice.

Shane Johnson is Professor and Deputy Head of Department at the UCL Department of Security and Crime Science. He has published over sixty papers on topics including predictors of victimisation risk, crime and design, the impact of prevention strategies on crime, space-time patterns of insurgent attacks, and offender foraging activity. He has received funding from a range of sponsors including the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Engineering and Physical Research Council (EPSRC), the UK Home Office and the UK National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA).

David M. Kennedy is Director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. He directed the Boston Gun Project, whose 'Operation Ceasefire' intervention was responsible for

a more than 60 per cent reduction in youth homicide victimisation and won the Ford Foundation Innovations in Government Award, the Herman Goldstein International Award for Problem Oriented Policing and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Webber Seavey Award. He developed the 'High Point' drug market elimination strategy, which also won an Innovations in Government Award. He helped design and field the Justice Department's Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative, the Treasury Department's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative and the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Drug Market Intervention Program. He is Co-Chair of the National Network for Safe Communities, which includes more than 50 jurisdictions – among them Los Angeles, Chicago, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Boston, Providence, High Point, North Carolina, Newark and the states of California and North Carolina – and is dedicated to reducing crime, reducing incarceration and addressing the racial conflict associated with traditional crime policy. He is the author of *Deterrence and Crime Prevention: Reconsidering the Prospect of Sanction*, co-author of *Beyond 911: A New Era for Policing* and author of a wide range of articles on gang violence, drug markets, domestic violence, firearms trafficking, deterrence theory and other public safety issues. His next book, *Don't Shoot*, will be published by Bloomsbury in the autumn of 2011.

Johannes Knutsson is a professor of Police Research at the Norwegian Police University College. Dr Knutsson is also a visiting professor at Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, University College London. His research interests have been policing, problem-oriented policing, crime prevention and the evaluation of crime preventive measures.

Nancy La Vigne is Director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where she leads a staff of over thirty-five researchers and oversees a research portfolio of more than three dozen active projects spanning a wide array of crime, justice and public safety topics. Before being appointed as Director, Dr La Vigne served for eight years as a senior research associate at the Urban Institute, directing projects on prisoner re-entry, crime prevention and the evaluation of criminal justice technologies. Prior to joining the Urban Institute, Dr La Vigne was the founding director of the Crime Mapping Research Center (since renamed the Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety Program) at the National Institute of Justice, the research, technology and evaluation arm of the US Department of Justice (DOJ). She later served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs within DOJ. She has held positions as Research Director for the Texas sentencing commission, Research Fellow at the Police Executive Research Forum, and Consultant to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. Her research interests focus on criminal justice evaluation, prisoner re-entry, crime prevention and the spatial analysis of crime and criminal behaviour. She has published widely on these topics, appearing in a variety of scholarly journals and practitioner publications. Dr La Vigne holds a BA in Government from Smith College, a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the

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Gloria Laycock OBE graduated in psychology from University College London in 1968 and completed her PhD there in 1975. She worked in the Home Office for over thirty years of which almost twenty years were spent on research and development in the policing and crime prevention fields. She has extensive research experience in the UK and has acted as a consultant on policing and crime prevention in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, South Africa and Europe. In 1999 she was awarded an International Visiting Fellowship by the United States DOJ based in Washington DC. She returned to the UK in April 2001 from a four-month consultancy at the Australian Institute of Criminology in Canberra to become Director of the University College London's Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science. She was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2008 for services to crime policy. Prof. Laycock is now Director of the Community Policing and Police Science Institute in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

David Lester has doctoral degrees from Cambridge University in Social and Political Science and Brandeis University in Psychology. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona. He is also President-Elect of the American Association of Suicidology, and he is a former president of the International Association for Suicide Prevention. He has published extensively on suicide, murder and other issues in thanatology. His recent books include *Mass Murder* (2004), *Katie's Diary: Unlocking the Mystery of a Suicide* (2004), *Is There Life after Death?* (2005), *A Multiple-self Theory of Personality* (2009), and *Preventing Suicide: Why We Don't and How We Might* (2010).

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Mike Maxfield is Professor of Criminal Justice at John Jay College. He is the author of articles and books on a variety of topics – victimisation, policing, homicide, community corrections, auto theft and long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect. He is the co-author (with Earl Babbie) of the textbook, *Research Methods for Criminal Justice and Criminology*, now in its sixth edition, and currently serves as the editor of the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. Formerly a professor at Rutgers University, Maxfield received his PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University.

Pat Mayhew worked for much of her career as a researcher in the Home Office. She joined the Home Office Research Unit at about the time that Ron Clarke

did, and she worked with him until his departure in 1984. She was a visiting fellow at the National Institute of Justice in Washington, DC in the late 1980s, and was the consultant criminologist at the Australian Institute of Criminology between 2002 and 2003. Between 2004 and 2008 she was Director of the Crime and Justice Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Since then, she has worked as a freelance criminologist consultant.

Mangai Natarajan is Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is an active policy-oriented researcher who has published widely in four areas: drug trafficking; women police; domestic violence; and international criminal justice. Her recent publications include *International Crime and Justice* (2011) and *Crime Opportunity Theories: Routine Activity, Rational Choice and their Variants* (2011). She is currently studying burn and acid attacks on young women in India.

Graeme R. Newman is Distinguished Teaching Professor at the School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany and Associate Director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing. He has known Ron Clarke for an awfully long time and is honoured to count him among his best friends. The friendship has even survived the co-authoring of several articles and books, which include *Super Highway Robbery* (2003), *Outsmarting the Terrorists* (2006), *Designing out Crime from Products and Systems* (2006) and *Policing Terrorism: An Executive's Guide* (2008). Newman's recent major works include *Crime and Immigration* with Joshua Freilich (2006), *Perspectives on Identity Theft* with Megan McNally (2008), a new translation of Cesare Beccaria's *On Crimes and Punishments* with Pietro Marongiu (2009), *Reducing Terrorism through Situational Crime Prevention* with Joshua Freilich (2010) and *Crime and Punishment around the World* in four volumes (2010).

Ken Pease OBE, a forensic psychologist by training, is currently Visiting Professor at University College London and the Universities of Chester, Loughborough and Manchester. Before retirement, he held chairs at the Universities of Manchester and Saskatchewan where he worked in the maximum security Regional Psychiatric Centre (Prairies). He has acted as Head of the Police Research Group at the Home Office and has been a member of the Parole Board for England and Wales. He was a member of the Home Office Design and Technology Alliance and sat on the Steering Group of the DBERR review of Home Office science.

Nick Ross is a British broadcaster and journalist best known for the top-rated BBC police appeal show *Crimewatch* which he presented for twenty-three years. Dismayed by traditional criminology's failure to create solutions to crime, and inspired by Ron Clarke and Ken Pease especially, he coined the term 'crime science' and founded the University College London's Jill Dando Institute, which is named after his *Crimewatch* co-presenter who was murdered in 1999. He has served on several UK government advisory boards, was for many years an adviser to Victim Support and Crime Concern along with other crime-related

charities and is a board member of Crimestoppers. He has several honorary titles (he is an honorary fellow and visiting professor at University College London, has an honorary doctorate from Queen's University Belfast and is an honorary fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminologists) but no academic qualifications beyond a forty-year-old psychology degree. Apart from crime and victimisation, his other abiding interests include the promotion of evidence-based public policy (he is a trustee of Sense About Science) and in particular evidence-based medicine (he is President of HealthWatch and is Chairman or a board member of several other healthcare organisations).

Michael S. Scott is Director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing and Clinical Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. He currently chairs the judging committee for the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. Scott was formerly chief of police in Lauderhill, Florida; served in various civilian administrative positions in the St Louis, Missouri, Metropolitan, Ft Pierce, Florida, and New York City police departments; and was a police officer in the Madison, Wisconsin, police department. He was a senior researcher at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in Washington, DC. In 1996, he received PERF's Gary P. Hayes Award for innovation and leadership in policing. Scott holds a law degree from Harvard Law School and a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Martha J. Smith received a JD from New York University and then attended Rutgers University, School of Criminal Justice, where Ron Clarke served as her dissertation chair on a study that looked at vandalism decision making. She and Dr Clarke have worked together on a number of different situational crime prevention projects since then, including papers on crime on public transport, anticipatory benefits and the development of the situational crime prevention typology. Currently, she is an associate professor at Wichita State University.

Cody W. Telep is a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University and a research assistant in the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. His research interests include innovations in policing, police education and evidence-based policy. His recent work includes a Campbell Collaboration systematic review on the effectiveness of problem-oriented policing, the Evidence-Based Policing Matrix, and a study of the impact of police officer education on abuse of authority attitudes.

Nick Tilley OBE is Director of the Security Science Doctoral Research Training Centre at University College London. He is also Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Nottingham Trent University. His research interests lie in policing, crime prevention and programme evaluation methodology. He was awarded an OBE for services to policing and crime reduction in the 2005 Queen's Birthday Honours. He was elected to the Academy of the Social Sciences in 2009.

David Weisburd is the Walter E. Meyer Professor of Law and Criminal Justice and Director of the Institute of Criminology of the Hebrew University Faculty

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Richard Wortley joined University College London in August 2010 as Director of the Jill Dando Institute for Security and Crime Science, and Head of the Department of Security and Crime Science. He was previously Head of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University (Australia). He began his career as a prison psychologist and is a former chair of the Australian College of Forensic Psychologists. His research interests centre on the role that immediate environments play in behaviour, especially in criminal, corrupt and antisocial acts. Funded research areas include official misconduct in prison, whistleblowing in the public sector, child sexual abuse, the investigation of internet child exploitation, and intimate partner homicide.

Series editor's foreword

I am especially delighted to write the foreword for this celebration of the work of Ron Clarke. Crime science can trace no single lineage but rather it has evolved from a number of environmental theories of crime that began appearing from the 1970s. Nevertheless, few would disagree that the most influential of these seminal approaches as far as crime science is concerned was Ron Clarke's model of situational crime prevention.

I am assuming that if you have picked up this book then you will have at least some familiarity with the contributions that Ron Clarke has made to the theory and practice of crime prevention. You will certainly have a better appreciation of just what an important and much-admired figure he has been in crime prevention after you have read the book. So I won't go into details about his work here. But I would like to highlight two lessons from Ron Clarke that have been guiding principles in the development of crime science.

The first lesson is to be specific. There are many models of crime prevention; what distinguishes Clarke's approach is the focus on the minutia of specific crime events. Clarke realised that preventing 'crime' was an impossible task. Preventing 'a' crime however, was a different matter. He was among the first to realise that the secret to crime prevention was the careful and detailed analysis of the micro-environments associated with particular crimes. Where others might have talked vaguely about crime being caused by bad neighbourhoods, Clarke demanded to know precisely what crimes, and what particular aspects of the neighbourhood were allowing these crimes to occur – the what, where, when, why, who and how. Situational crime prevention is characterised by a methodical, problem-solving approach. It is this approach derived from the scientific method that forms the basis of crime science.

The second lesson is to make an impact. Clarke's writings from the very beginning have been designed to inform practice. Those who know him will know that he is scathing of criminological papers that are inaccessible and self-indulgent, and that ultimately serve no practical purpose. He has a tenacious, single-minded commitment to reducing crime. Moreover, he has always sought to make his ideas clear and memorable – to choose just the right word, to crystallise concepts into summary tables, to invent a catchy acronym. Some of his most important writings have been guidebooks intended for use by front-line practitioners. But mark well,

in his writing he may strive for simplicity but the content of his writing is far from simplistic. Clarke is an outstanding academic and I have little doubt that he has made a major and enduring contribution to crime prevention and to the field of criminology more generally.

As crime science has evolved over the last ten years its scope has broadened. To the traditional focus on crime prevention has been added a focus on crime detection – in the event that a crime does occur let us also bring the scientific method to bear of the task of apprehending the offender as swiftly as possible. Crime science has also sought more explicitly to draw in contributions from the physical sciences as well as the social sciences. Situational crime prevention, however, remains a core focus of crime science. I can think of no fitter book to join the Crime Science series than this one.