Crime and Place
Why and how Police should look at places rather than people

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Introduction

• Crime fighting and prevention (soft policing) focus at people
• Why?
• What is the problem with the „usual suspects“?
It is time...

Shifting crime and justice resources from prisons to police
Shifting police from people to places

David Weisburd
 Hebrew University
 George Mason University

“*We need to shift the focus of policing from people to places.* Police practices today continue to be focused primarily on individuals. They usually begin with "people" who call the police. They are focused on identifying offenders who commit crimes. They "end" with the arrests of those offenders and their processing through the criminal justice system. (…).”

http://www.popcenter.org/Library/CrimePrevention/Volume_04/02-Sherman.pdf

Police know who their clients are...

- ... and where they are coming from...
- We should use these informations!
- But for what purposes?

"one minute the pack are at each other's throats, and the next minute, they're the best of friends"

Top 10 Worst places to live in England 2013

Here we have it, the Top 10 Worst places to live in England for 2013. This list is not based on any hard statistical evidence, but the volume of comments on Chavtowns. We have applied for access to the police.uk API, so next years figures should take the volume of anti-social behaviour in the area as well!

1. Hull
Milo says: "I was born and bred in Hull and can honestly say you're bang on with your description. What a f**king dump this place is"

2. Middlesbrough
Jimi says: "I have lived on the outskirts of Boro for 29 years and would never dream of living within Boro itself, it really is a s**thole"

3. Bradford
Foggy says: "I have had the misfortune of living in the Bradford area for most of my life and can honestly say anyone disagreeing with this has either never been there, is delusional, or is a smacked up chav"

4. Croydon
Anonymous says: "Croydon and many parts of the UK are descending into s**t with this underclass of backward sheep f**th that are the chavs – and this is the future of the country – we are f**ked"

5. Hackney
Anonymous says: "I'm staying with a friend who lives in Hackney (near Hackney Ctrl Tube Station)... is it really the worst place in the UK"

6. Gravesend --> Click link for a list of Gravesend articles!
Biguprai says: "Gravesend is populated by the most grotesque, lusthoms, vile and vulgar sub-human vermin that one could ever have the misfortune to come across. The vast majority of its inhabitants (chavs and pikes) are foul, hateful, and degraded beings who, in evolutionary terms, have not evolved much from the amoebe"
Theory of Social Desorganization

- Chicago-School 1920ies (Clifford R. Shaw, Henry McKay u.a.)
- Robert E. Park und Ernest W. Burgess: concentric zones
- Social desorganization theory: **People move, crime stays**
- Robert E. Park "The City“ (1925)

**The Concentric Zone Model:**
1. Central Business District
2. Transitional Zone
   - Recent Immigrant Groups
   - Deteriorated Housing
   - Factories
   - Abandoned Buildings
3. Working Class Zone
   - Single Family Tenements
4. Residential Zone
   - Single Family Homes
   - Yards/Garages
5. Commuter Zone
   - Suburbs
„Attracting Areas“ in Hamburg

Violent Crimes per 1000 inhabitants

What are „attracting areas“, what are „breeding areas“?
„Attracting Areas“ in Heidelberg 2001 (!)
Kriminalitätsatlas Heidelberg
Next step: Changes in Crime
Berlin 2006 – 2011
Background: Crime and Poverty

Crimes 2010

Source: Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband

Poverty 2011
Hamburg

Social structur

Crimes
Correlation between unequal (!) income & homicides

But also between crime &
• violent crimes
• health
• education
• adiposis
• consumption of fast food
• teenage pregnancy
• …
What we know

Crime is not the only problem we can „map“. We can also map:
- Poverty
- Social discrimination
- Education
- Health

How they are related to each other?
What is the „additional value“ of crime mapping, combined with other information available at neighborhood-level?
• Tools have been used for some years by police to analyze crimes and offenders geographically.

• **Crime mapping software** is used in different, and sometimes stigmatizing, ways.
Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (ClearMap, Chicago Police Department)

http://gis.chicagopolice.org/
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<tr>
<th>Crime Types</th>
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<td>Simple Assault (7)</td>
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<td>Arson</td>
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<td>Liquor License</td>
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<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
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<td>Misc Non-Index Offense</td>
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Crime Reports (a private Site!)
https://www.crimereports.com/

“... to help law enforcement agencies put crime data in the hands of those who care about it most—citizens”
Megan's Law is an informal name for laws in the United States requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders, which was created in response to the murder of Megan Kanka. Commonly included information is the offender's name, picture, address, incarceration date, and nature of crime. The information is often displayed on free public websites, but can be published in newspapers, distributed in pamphlets, or through various other means.
Megan’s Law (by State of California Department of Justice)

Because maps only reflect sex registrants on which we have access, you are encouraged to utilize the "Near Me" function for access to complete listings of sex registrants available on this Internet site.
National Sex Offender Public Registry
http://www.nsopr.gov/

“This site, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, allows parents and concerned citizens to search existing public state and territory sex offender registries beyond their own states.”

„real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search”
Collateral damages?

Well known stigmatising effects for released prisoners and their families

- Loss of social contacts, isolation
- Loss of work and home
- Physical and psychological threats
- Stress

Consequences are dysfunktional

No lower, mostly higher recidivism rate

In 2009:

MONTPELIER, Vt. -- A Vermont court has ruled that a convicted sex offender cannot be barred from living in areas near where children are often found.
Next step? Google Earth Plus ...

Google Earth Catches Crime: Florida Deputy Uses Virtual Globe to Make Arrest
Since August 2013, in Poland some prisoners released get a **GPS/GIS-Chip** implanted. At [http://www.gps.tracking.google.com](http://www.gps.tracking.google.com) you can search for the name, the city or the region, where the probationer is actually underway.
Crime Places: Burglary in Bremen

This and the next slides have been provided by Ulrich.Goritzka@Polizei.Bremen.de
Use of Kernel (square matrix used for image convolution)
Crime scenes with and without suspect

Legende

TO_ED_Wohnung_Fälle2011_01
mit TV
● mit TV
△ ohne TV
Crime Scenes: Space-Time Visualising and repeat adress mapping
City Blocks and focus points (micro units) (Bremen)

- specific characteristics of places inhibit or encourage crime
- opportunity and social disorganisation cause crime

David Weisburd, The Criminology of Place, p.164

3 % of the addresses in Minneapolis produced 50% of all calls to the police (Weisburd, p. 9)
City Blocks (micro units) (Bremen)

The „Top-Three“ of Bremen
Combination of crime and social data (Bremen)
A new approach builds on insights of the mental mapping literature, the social networks literature, the daily activities pattern literature, and the travel to crime literature to propose *egohoods* as "waves washing across the surface of cities", opposed to independent units with nonoverlapping boundaries.

This approach assumes that the **social context** is of importance.

- Hipp/Boessen: EGOHOODS AS WAVES WASHING ACROSS THE CITY: A NEW MEASURE OF "NEIGHBORHOODS", CRIMINOLOGY Vol. 51, 2, 2013, p. 287-
Thank you for listening, and let’s start our „mind mapping“.