

# Sharpening up CPTED

Paul Ekblom



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# Genesis 11, 1-9



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2-1

# Genesis 11, 1-9

- Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.
- They said to each other, "Let us build a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens..."
- But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us confuse their language so they will not understand each other."
- So the LORD scattered them over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel - because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world.



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2-2

# CPTEDbabel?



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3-1

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- The Tower of Babel story is a pretty good analogy for CPTED
  - It relates to the built environment
  - It could be seen as a crime impact statement - 'OMG! If they can build this, they're capable of anything!'



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  - Being scattered all over the Earth is not such a problem with air travel and the internet... and of being reunited every so often by conferences like this one... and we're situated on the Great Plains too
  - But finally, and most seriously, we have the issue of linguistic confusion: if we stretch this to include conceptual confusion, it's where I believe CPTED is today



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  - Being scattered all over the Earth is not such a problem with air travel and the internet... and of being reunited every so often by conferences like this one... and we're situated on the Great Plains too
  - But finally, and most seriously, we have the issue of linguistic confusion: if we stretch this to include conceptual confusion, it's where I believe CPTED is today
- I'm a firm believer in CPTED, but I want it to be as good as it can be – so please take what follows as a constructive critique from a close friend rather than the Wrath of the Lord



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3-5

## What's coming up

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4-1

## What's coming up

- Confusion within CPTED

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4-2

## What's coming up

- Confusion within CPTED
- How the confusion happened

4

4-3

## What's coming up

- Confusion within CPTED
- How the confusion happened
- Confusion
  - Between CPTED and other preventive approaches
  - Within crime prevention more generally
  - Within security

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4-4

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- Confusion within CPTED
- How the confusion happened
- Confusion
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  - Within security
- The consequences of these confusions

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- Confusion within CPTED
- How the confusion happened
- Confusion
  - Between CPTED and other preventive approaches
  - Within crime prevention more generally
  - Within security
- The consequences of these confusions
- How to make things better – discourses, definitions and frameworks... experimental thoughts

4

4-6

## Confusion within CPTED

- All the core concepts of CPTED overlap
  - Where does defensibility end, territoriality begin? Likewise defence and access control?
- All fail to distinguish between nature of **Action** and qualities of **Place**
  - Defence & Defensibility, Surveillance & Surveillability etc
  - And Territorial motivation/emotion, Territorial behaviour and plain Territory
- All fail to distinguish between **Preparation & Operation**
  - **Installation of Walls** enabling **Defence**
  - **Sightlines** enabling **Surveillance**
- Target-hardening has particular limitations
  - What **exactly** is the target to be protected – the house or the Ultra HD TV set inside it?
  - And what about target **softening**?



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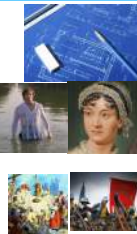


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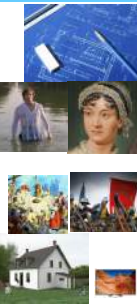


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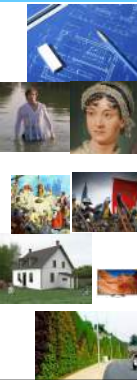


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### Research by Victoria Gibson & colleagues at University of Northumbria

- Analysis of 64 CPTED documents identified
  - Significant terminological conflicts
  - Free-for-all use of vernacular terms to characterise CPTED framework, with little rationale – e.g. substitution of 'Movement Control' for 'Access control'
  - CPTED organised under anything from 3 – 7 headings
  - But total of 58 terms used
  - 25 out of 64 papers offered a framework either of the author's own interpretation or unreferenced

D. Johnson, V. Gibson and M. McCabe (2014). 'Designing in Crime Prevention, Designing out Ambiguity: Practice issues with the CPTED knowledge framework available to professionals in the field and its potentially ambiguous nature.' *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* DOI: 10.1057/cpcs.2014.3

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7-1

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  - Concern about revolution rather than accumulation
  - Divisive among practitioners/theorists



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7-7

## Confusion between CPTED and other approaches to crime prevention

- CPTED label often used synonymously with crime prevention in general
- This risks
  - Over-reaching our expertise
  - Diluting quality of knowledge in both fields

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8

## Confusion within Crime Prevention more generally

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9-1

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- Lack of clarity over status of **Routine Activities, Rational Choice** – are they theory, perspective, truism, approach? Is **Pattern Theory** a theory?

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- Sloppy usage

- '**Likely offender**' (includes capability) shrunk to '**motivated offender**'
- **Guardian** used for all preventer roles including place manager, handler of offender... and where are the planner, designer, architect and developer?

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9-5

### Confusion within Crime Prevention more generally

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10-1

### Confusion within Crime Prevention more generally

- Poor integration between perspectives

- RC is psychological, RA ecological, PT spatial
- All use slightly different terminology, or same words with different nuances
- Put together, they have gaps and partial overlaps
- And they shy away from **offender-related** factors – knowing about offender goals, resources and emotional precipitators can help design situational interventions

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- Process model (SARA) too crude

- **Response** covers huge diversity of action, from fitting locks to running security campaigns to building Olympic stadia – hard to capture, organise, retrieve, articulate practice knowledge



10

10-4

### Confusion within Security

- Many meanings of

- **Threat** (risk, hazard, intent, intent + capability)
- **Vulnerability** (weak points, exposure, manifest risk pattern)
- **Hazard** (harmful event, something with potential to cause harm)
- **Risk** (likelihood, likelihood x harm; negative uncertainty or all uncertainty)

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### What are the consequences of the confusion?



12

12-1

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- Our tools for thinking & communicating about CPTED principles and CPTED action are blunt & inefficient



12

12-2

### What are the consequences of the confusion?

- Our tools for thinking & communicating about CPTED principles and CPTED action are blunt & inefficient
- Operationally, this can
  - Limit the scope of the problems we can tackle
  - Allow objectives to drift – e.g. from inclusive community safety to exclusive gated security
  - Reduce the quality of interventions suggested/ designed to address particular problems
  - Constrain our ability to undertake the CPTED process as professionally and rigorously as we might
  - Disadvantage CPTED in the wider planning/ development process
  - Hinder collaboration within CPTED locally, nationally and internationally, and limit the transfer of CPTED principles to other cultures and contexts



12

12-3

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13

13-1

### What are the consequences of the confusion?

- In the background
  - Hinder collaboration and cross-fertilisation with wider disciplines/ professions – especially links with criminology, security and architecture
  - Hinder the capture, consolidation, retrieval & sharing of practice knowledge – efficient training and briefing is increasingly important with staff turnover/ reductions
  - Jeopardise formal research, evaluation of what works, & theory building
  - Stymie computer simulation/ agent-based modelling which can increasingly contribute to research, training, planning/design of developments, and to crime impact assessment



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13-7

### Consequences of confusion – the example of Territoriality



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### The example of Territoriality

Territoriality is central to CPTED – but **poorly defined**, so we can't

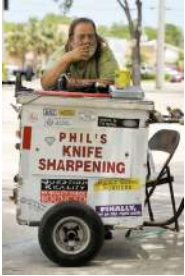
- Reliably spot **weaknesses** in design relating to territoriality
- Positively design **for** territoriality – designers need clear briefs
- Monitor & adjust **mechanisms** of prevention (how designs work)
- Clarify **values** embedded in design (e.g. connection with inclusiveness)
- Undertake innovative tradeoffs with values **outside** security e.g. between territoriality and aesthetics
- Handle tradeoffs and conflicts **within** security e.g. territoriality v surveillance (walls demark private space, but may block sightlines)
- Be alert to **cultural differences** in how territoriality is interpreted

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15

## How to make things better?

- Time for a sharpener



16

16-1

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16

16-2



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17

17-1

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  - **Environmental/architectural** discourse – building properties, structures, features
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  - Action and implementation discourse – the messy people bits without which it all fails

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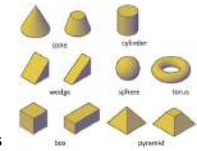
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### Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives

#### Causal properties

- Space
  - Movement
  - Manipulation/force
  - Shelter/refuge
  - Perception/ prospect
  - Understandability/ information
  - Motivation/ emotion
  - Ownership, competition, conflict
- Each has physical, psychological and social dimensions

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18-2

### Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives

#### Structural Features

- Nodes
- Paths
- Barriers /screens
- Enclosures/ containers
- Furniture
- Signage

18

18-3

**Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives**

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
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|--|---|--|

18

18-4

**Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives**

|  |   |  |
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**Expanding the detail of properties, and of features & content that confer them**

- Sight
- Sound ...etc

18-5

**Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives**

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**Expanding the detail of properties, and of features & content that confer them**

- Sight
- Light
- Discrimination – camouflage etc
- Sightlines

18-7

**Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives**

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**Expanding the detail of properties, and of features & content that confer them**

- Sight
- Light
- Discrimination – camouflage etc
- Sightlines
- » features affecting this property:
  - Dog-legs, Sight screens, Barriers, Recesses, Enclosures, Containers
- » content affecting this property:
  - Crowds, Parked cars

18-8

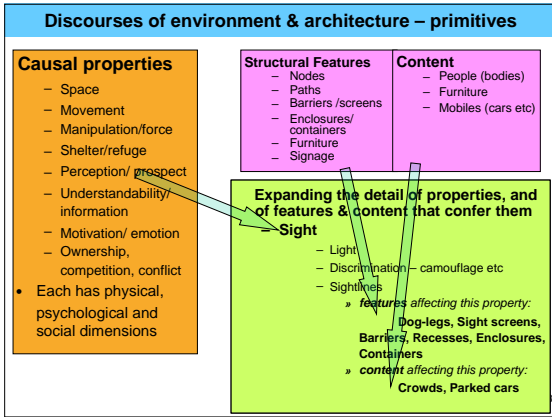
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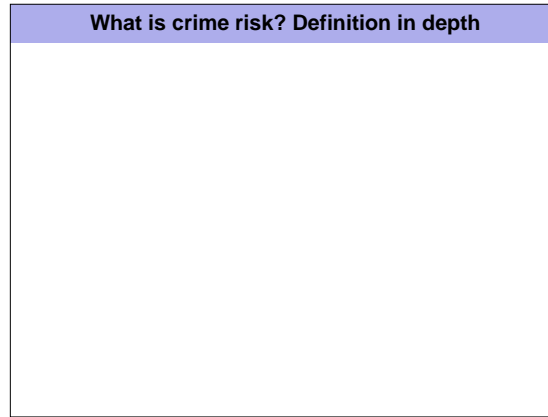
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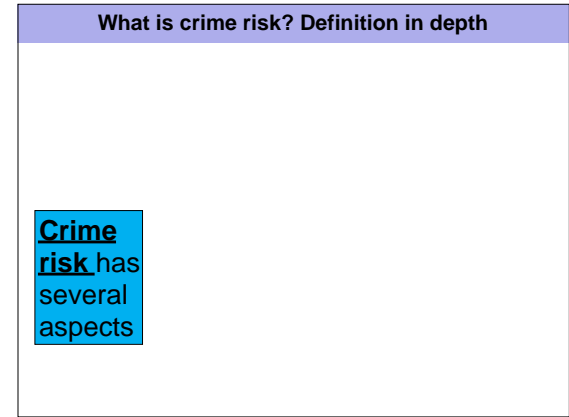
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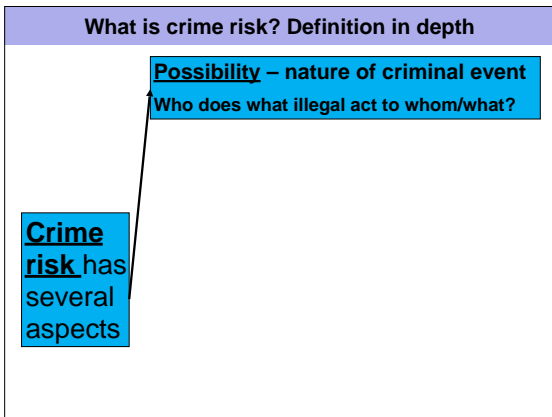
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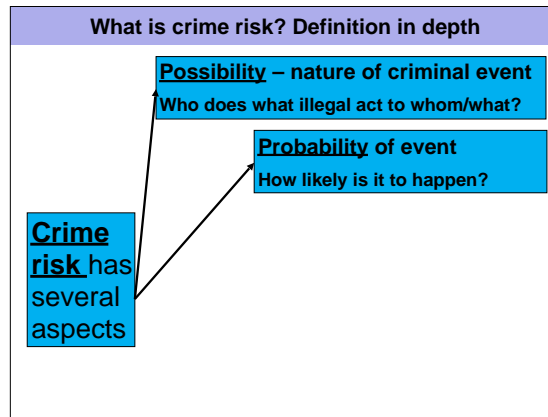
19-1



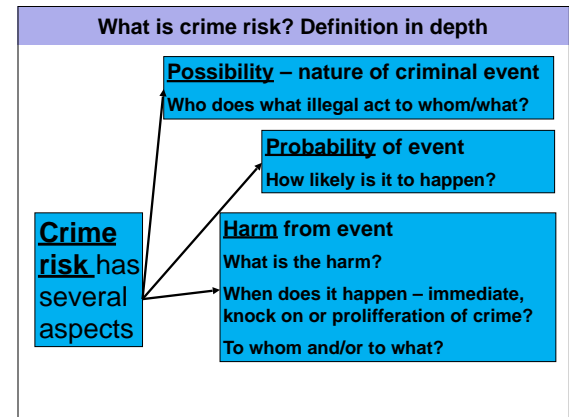
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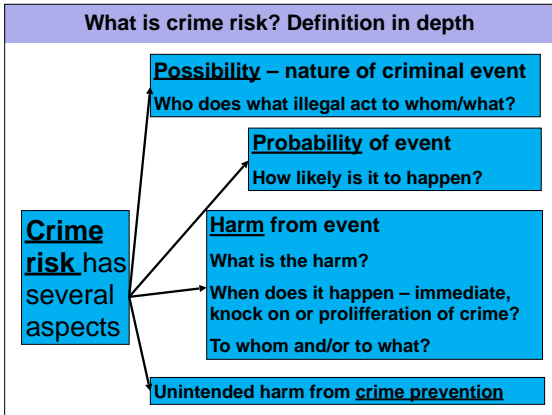
19-3



19-4



19-5



19-6

**What is crime prevention?**

- Crime prevention seeks to reduce the risk of criminal events
- In particular, to

20-1

**What is crime prevention?**

- Crime prevention seeks to reduce the risk of criminal events
- In particular, to

Eliminate **possibility** of crime  
or if not

20-2

**What is crime prevention?**

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Eliminate **possibility** of crime  
or if not

Reduce **probability** of criminal events  
or if not

20-3

**What is crime prevention?**

- Crime prevention seeks to reduce the risk of criminal events
- In particular, to

Eliminate **possibility** of crime  
or if not

Reduce **probability** of criminal events  
or if not

Reduce or mitigate **harm** when events do happen – including propagation of crime

20-4

**Discourse of Crime and Crime Prevention – causes and interventions**

21-1

Discourse of Crime and Crime Prevention  
– causes and interventions



21

21-2

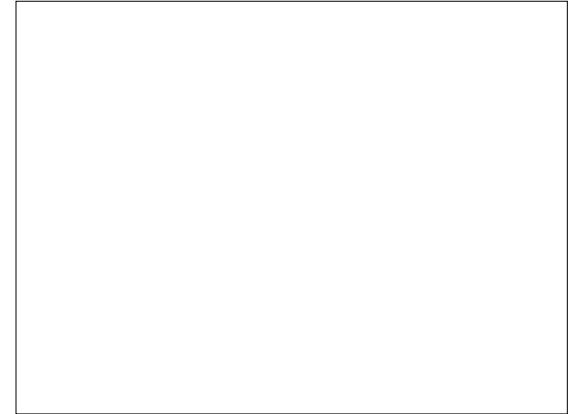
Discourse of Crime and Crime Prevention  
– causes and interventions



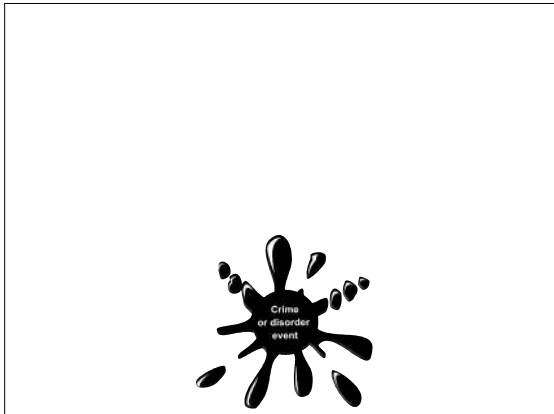
Very simple – but very limiting –  
can't handle the detail

21

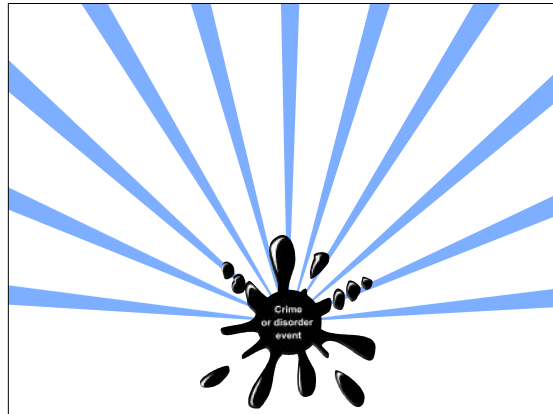
21-3



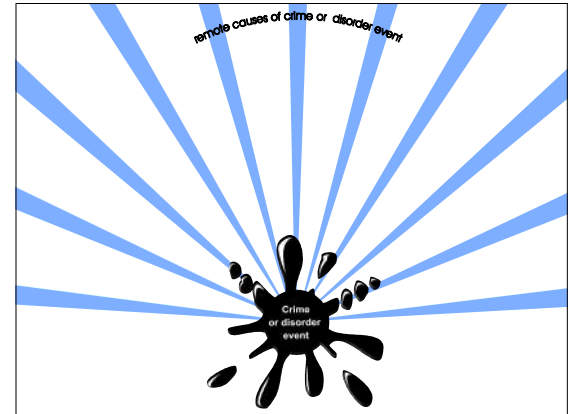
22-1



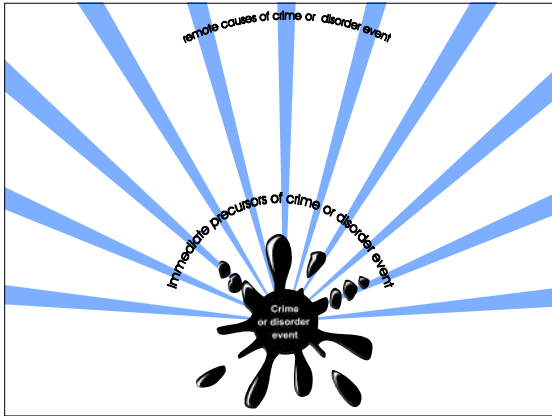
22-2



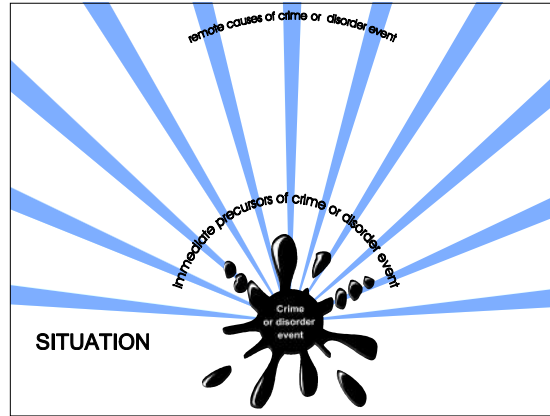
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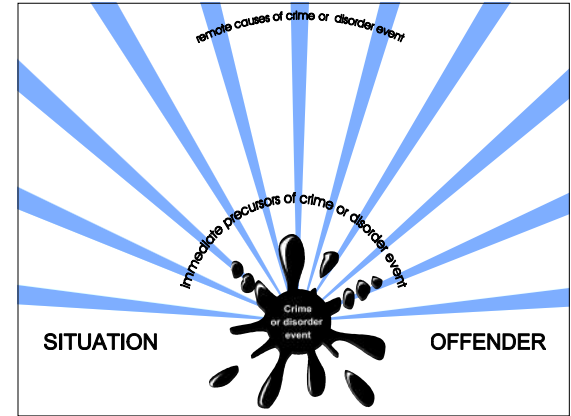
22-4



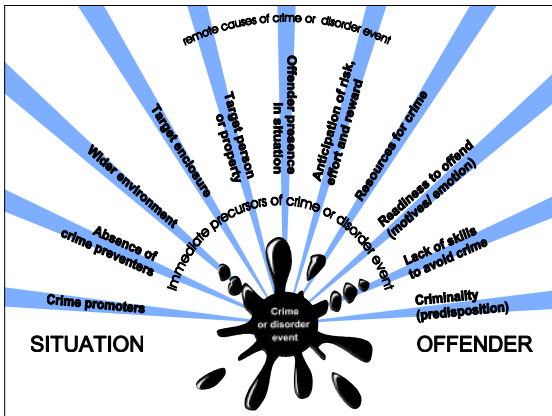
22-5



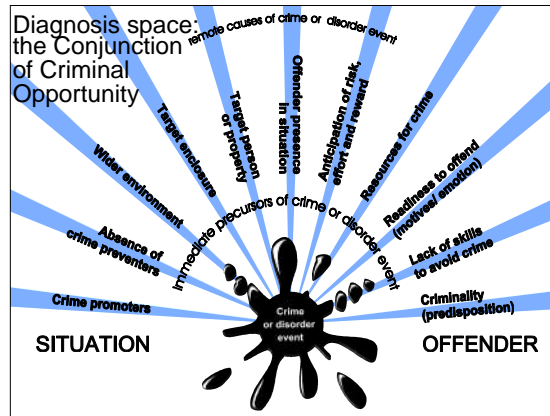
22-6



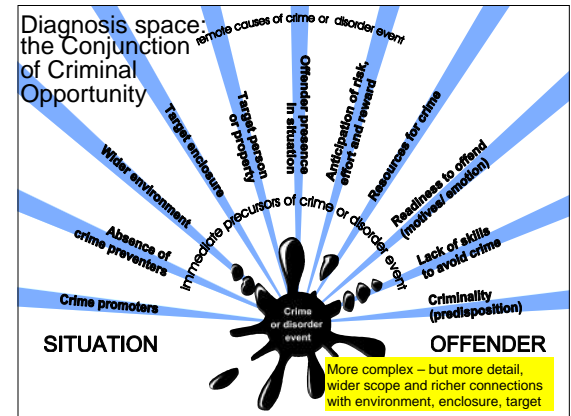
22-7



22-8

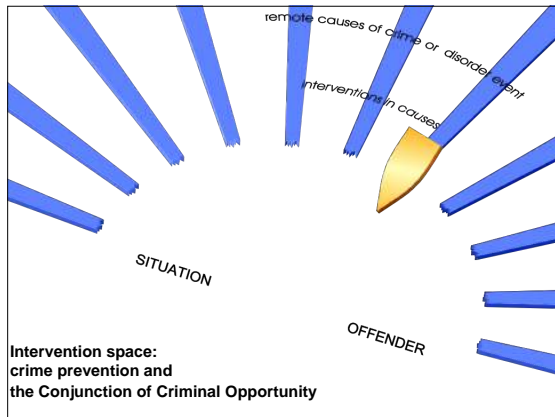


22-9



22-10





23

### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions – Counterterrorism project

Project on what works tackling terrorism at complex stations

[www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/acc/projects/reducing-serious-crime-and-terrorism-at-mmpmts/](http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/acc/projects/reducing-serious-crime-and-terrorism-at-mmpmts/)

24

24-1

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24

24-2

### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions – Counterterrorism project

Project on what works tackling terrorism at complex stations

Start with map of causes of terrorism events, and the perpetrator perspective, and drop the interventions onto them later

[www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/acc/projects/reducing-serious-crime-and-terrorism-at-mmpmts/](http://www.hud.ac.uk/research/researchcentres/acc/projects/reducing-serious-crime-and-terrorism-at-mmpmts/)

24

24-3

### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

Start by 'thinking perpetrator' – intent, capability, perception, presence

25

25

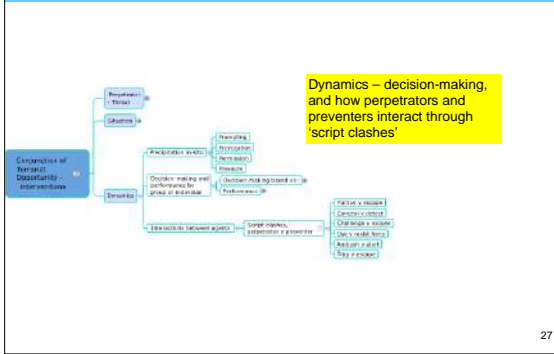
### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

Then 'think situation' – target, target enclosure, preventers and promoters

26

26

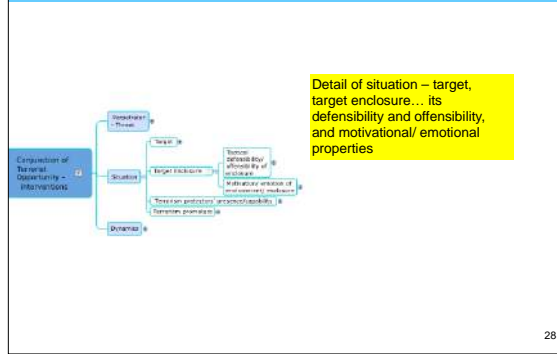
## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



Dynamics – decision-making, and how perpetrators and preventers interact through 'script clashes'

27

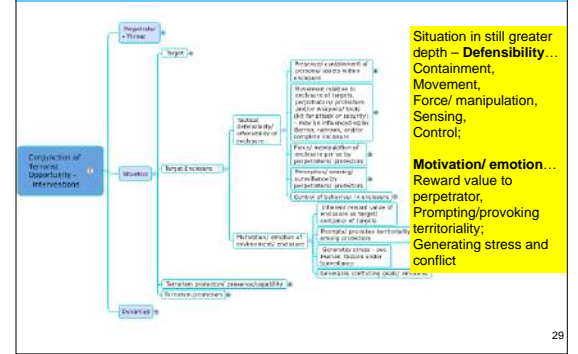
## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



Detail of situation – target, target enclosure ... its defensibility and offensibility, and motivational/ emotional properties

28

## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

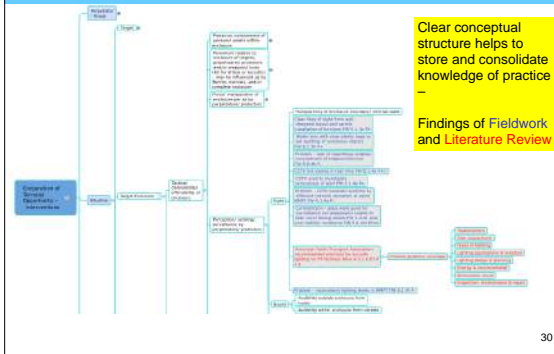


Situation in still greater depth – Defensibility... Containment, Movement, Force/ manipulation, Sensing, Control;

Motivation/ emotion ... Reward value to perpetrator, Prompting/provoking territoriality; Generating stress and conflict

29

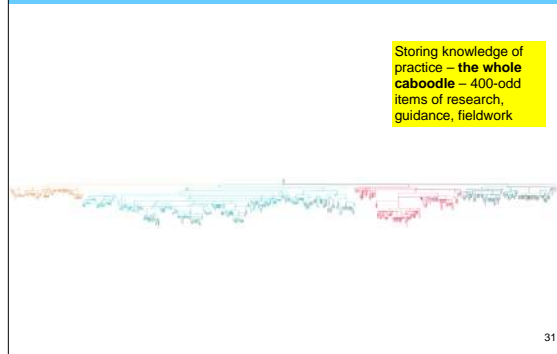
## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



Clear conceptual structure helps to store and consolidate knowledge of practice – Findings of Fieldwork and Literature Review

30

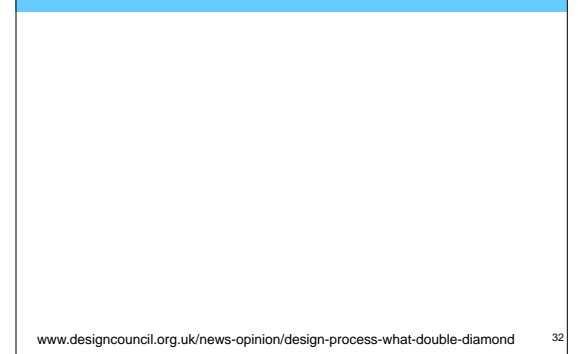
## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



Storing knowledge of practice – the whole caboodle – 400-odd items of research, guidance, fieldwork

31

## Discourse of Design – Process models



[www.designcouncil.org.uk/news-opinion/design-process-what-double-diamond](http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/news-opinion/design-process-what-double-diamond)

32-1

## Discourse of Design – Process models

- Ted Kitchen – CPTED lacks a decent process model

32-2

## Discourse of Design – Process models

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- Design has a generic model – the **Double Diamond**

32-3

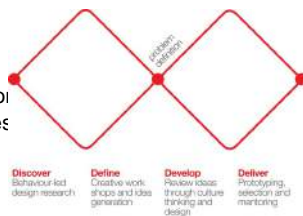
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- Not so far removed from Designate, Define, Design

32-4

## Discourse of Design – Process models

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32-5

## Discourse of Crime and Crime Prevention – Process models

- Crime prevention has SARA ....
- But also 5Is which can arguably catch more of the detail and complexity of preventive action
  - The better to connect with CPTED

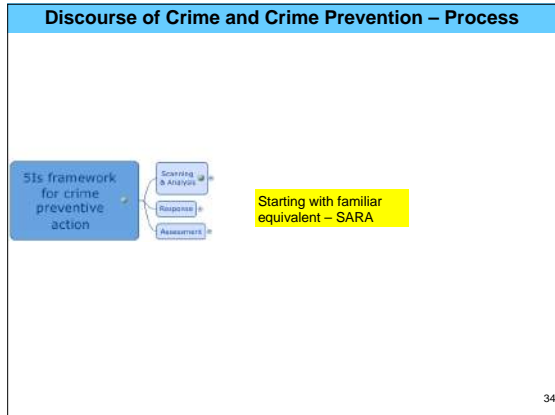
5Is framework for crime preventive action

33

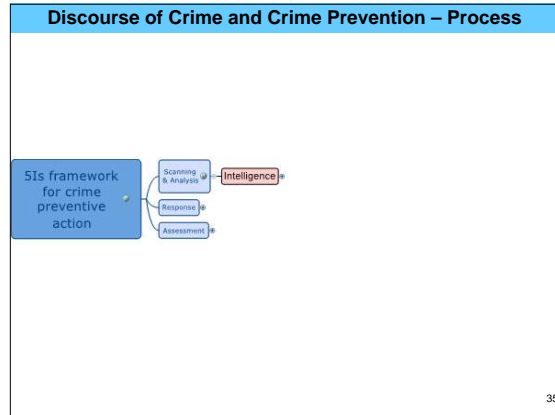
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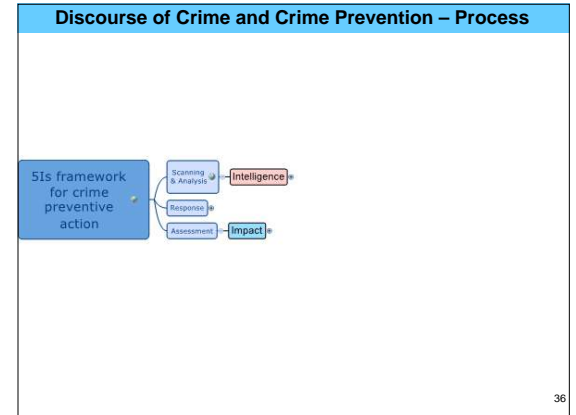
34-1



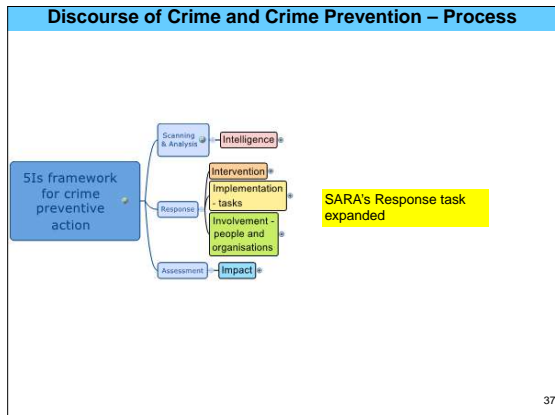
34-2



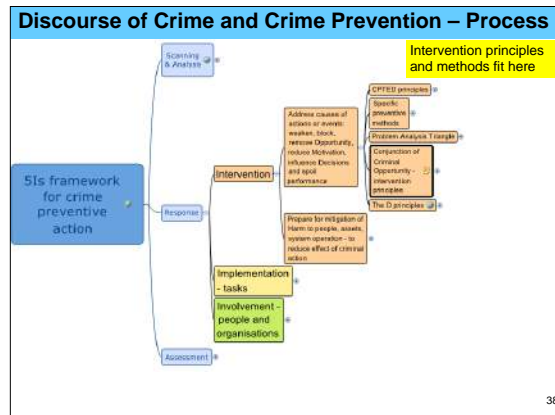
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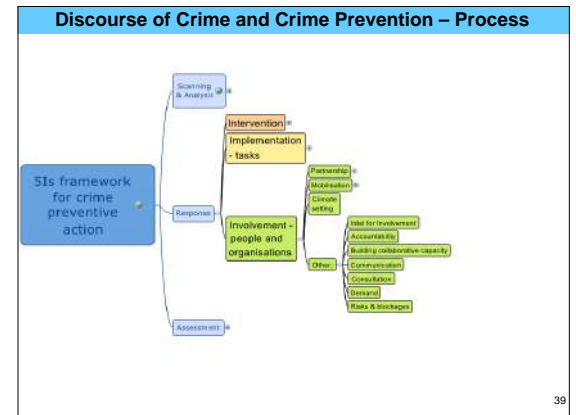
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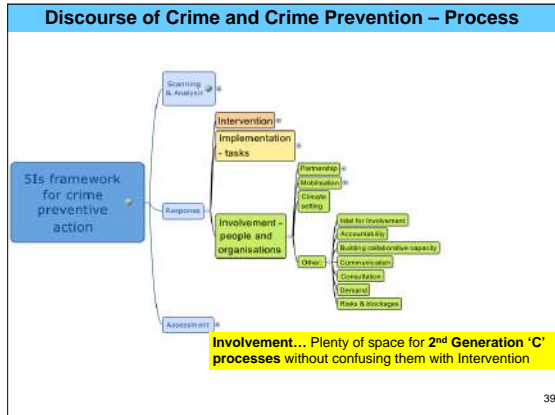
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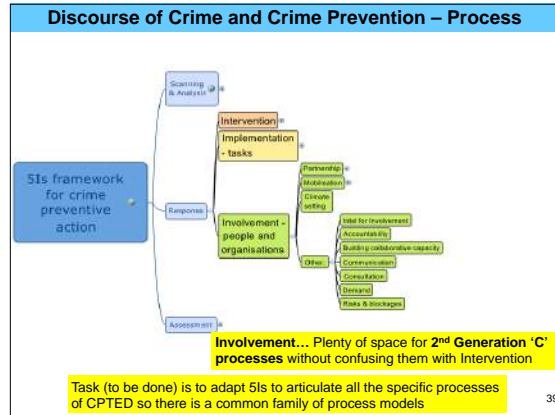
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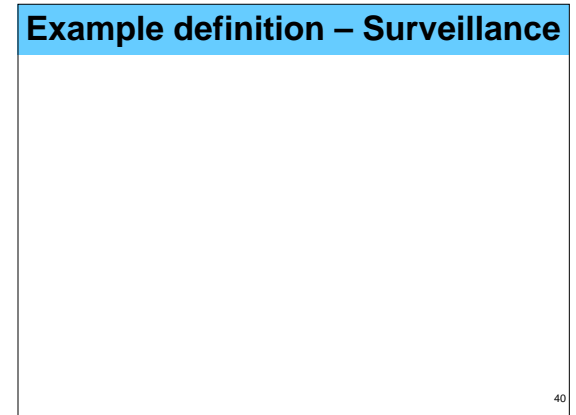
39-1



39-2



39-3



40-1

### Example definition – Surveillance

- **Surveillance** is an **activity** for which someone or some institution, acting in a **crime preventer role**, has taken responsibility

40

40-2

### Example definition – Surveillance

- **Surveillance** is an **activity** for which someone or some institution, acting in a **crime preventer role**, has taken responsibility
- **Surveillability** is an instrumental **property** of the **environment** conferred by **features** e.g. sightlines and lighting, that facilitate surveillance; and **content** e.g. obscured by parked cars

40

40-3

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40

40-4

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- Other definitions at end of this presentation and see also <http://reconstructcpted.wordpress.com>

40

40-5

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillability

41

41

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillability → Property of environment (Surveillability) → Features and content of built environment

42

42

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillability → Property of environment (Surveillability) → Features and content of built environment → (Design, Construction, Maintenance, Management, Use, Control, Security, Safety, Health, Well-being, Quality of life, etc.)

43

43

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillability → Property of environment (Surveillability) → Features and content of built environment → (Design, Construction, Maintenance, Management, Use, Control, Security, Safety, Health, Well-being, Quality of life, etc.) → (Territoriality, Defensible Space, Prospect, etc.) → (Crime prevention, etc.)

44

44-1

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillability → Property of environment (Surveillability) → Features and content of built environment → (Design, Construction, Maintenance, Management, Use, Control, Security, Safety, Health, Well-being, Quality of life, etc.) → (Territoriality, Defensible Space, Prospect, etc.) → (Crime prevention, etc.) → (Intervention, etc.)

All this could well be disrupted and modified by new research e.g. interviews with offenders – but it's designed to be a flexible, adaptive 'learning engine'

44

44-2

## Overall message

- CPTED needs a controlled vocabulary and sharpened concepts...
- *But* we designers against crime must combine discipline & rigour *with* exploration & creativity
- And this must cover material, informational and social dimensions
- The people stuff in particular is what makes or breaks CPTED



45

45

## The End is nigh

- Hopefully I've combined the destroyer role of Shiva with the creator role of Brahma, whilst – like Vishnu - preserving what's good about the research and the huge body of experience on CPTED

46-1

## The End is nigh



- Hopefully I've combined the destroyer role of Shiva with the creator role of Brahma, whilst – like Vishnu - preserving what's good about the research and the huge body of experience on CPTED

46-2

## The End is nigh



- Hopefully I've combined the destroyer role of Shiva with the creator role of Brahma, whilst – like Vishnu - preserving what's good about the research and the huge body of experience on CPTED

46-3

## The End is nigh



- Hopefully I've combined the destroyer role of Shiva with the creator role of Brahma, whilst – like Vishnu - preserving what's good about the research and the huge body of experience on CPTED

46-4

[reconstructcpted.wordpress.com](http://reconstructcpted.wordpress.com)

[5isframework.wordpress.com](http://5isframework.wordpress.com)

[designagainstcrime.com/methodology-resources/crime-frameworks/](http://designagainstcrime.com/methodology-resources/crime-frameworks/)

[p.ekblom@csm.arts.ac.uk](mailto:p.ekblom@csm.arts.ac.uk)

47

47

## Extras

48

48

## A Definition of CPTED

49

49-1

## A Definition of CPTED

- **CP** Reducing probability of crime and related problems, and their consequent harm, and enhancing the quality of life through community safety

49

49-2

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- **CP** Reducing probability of crime and related problems, and their consequent harm, and enhancing the quality of life through community safety
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49

49-3

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- **CP** Reducing probability of crime and related problems, and their consequent harm, and enhancing the quality of life through community safety
- **ED** By using processes of planning and design of environment
- On a range of scales and types of place from individual buildings and interiors to wider landscapes, neighbourhoods and cities

49

49-4

## A Definition of CPTED

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- To produce designs that are 'fit for purpose', and contextually appropriate in all other respects

49

49-5



### A Definition of CPTED

- **CP** Reducing probability of crime and related problems, and their consequent harm, and enhancing the quality of life through community safety
- **ED** By using processes of planning and design of environment
- On a range of scales and types of place from individual buildings and interiors to wider landscapes, neighbourhoods and cities
- To produce designs that are 'fit for purpose', and contextually appropriate in all other respects
- Whilst achieving a balance between
  - the efficiency of avoiding crime problems *before* construction
  - and the *adaptability* of tackling them through subsequent management and maintenance

49

49-6

### Territoriality

50

50-1

### Territoriality

- Territoriality is both a **value** in itself (an Englishman's home is his castle) and an **instrumental means** to crime prevention ends

50

50-2

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- Territoriality is both a **value** in itself (an Englishman's home is his castle) and an **instrumental means** to crime prevention ends
- As used in CPTED practice and literature, it is unclear whether it is a **human attribute**, or a socially-ascribed and physical **property of space**

50

50-3

### Territoriality

- Territoriality is both a **value** in itself (an Englishman's home is his castle) and an **instrumental means** to crime prevention ends
- As used in CPTED practice and literature, it is unclear whether it is a **human attribute**, or a socially-ascribed and physical **property of space**
- Best to consider it as both (**territoriality** and **territory**), subsumed under an **ecological** framework which includes human **agents** in relation to their **environment**

50

50-4

### Territoriality – human side (1)

51

51-1

### Territoriality – human side (1)

- A complex **propensity** of perceptual, emotional and motivational tendencies, goals and resources leading to responses of acquisition, preferential enjoyment, ownership, management, control and defence of a tract of space

51

51-2

### Territoriality – human side (1)

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- These processes may operate individually or collectively at group, community, institutional or national level

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51-3

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- Territoriality is a common human propensity but may be **realised** and **communicated** differently by different individuals and/or (sub)cultures

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51-4

### Territoriality – human side (2)

52

52-1

### Territoriality – human side (2)

- Territory is held **relative to other possible owners**, so
  - There have to be relations of either **acceptance/ legitimacy or conflict** between private parties, or with the involvement of the community and/or state
  - and **cultural understandings** of concepts of ownership, norms (and laws) of legitimate acquisition, use, defence etc

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52-2

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52-3

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- Territoriality in particular requires people's **roles** to be understood
- **Sharing** of territory will pose particular issues

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52-4

### Territory – spatial side (1)

53

53-1

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- Has to be **extended** in space and **durable** over some time period (brief or lasting)

53

53-2

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53

53-3

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- Has to be **extended** in space and **durable** over some time period (brief or lasting)
- May extend into virtual or cyber space
- Will normally have properties relating to **utility to users**
  - Either for **itself** (a private garden to enjoy)
  - Or as an **enclosure** to secure their person and belongings

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- Has to have the **properties** of **identifiability** (whose is it?) and **demarkability** (where is it/what are its boundaries?)

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53-5

### Territory – spatial side (2)

54

54-1

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- May also have properties of **access control** and **wider defensibility**, both of which may be facilitated by **surveillability** and **hardening of enclosure**

54

54-2

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- Will usually require **maintenance**, which influences image
- All these properties may be influenced for good or for bad by
  - The **design** of the environment on micro to macro **scales**
  - In interaction with the **social context**

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54-5

### Defensible Space

55

55-1

### Defensible Space

- An instrumental **property** of the **environment**

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55-2

### Defensible Space

- An instrumental **property** of the **environment**
- Conferred by **features** eg barriers and markers, plus the property of surveillability

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55-3

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- An instrumental **property** of the **environment**
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- Linked to **capacity of people** to defend it through human resources (eg numbers, assertiveness, knowledge of how to challenge and respond) and technical resources eg alarms

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- **Defending** the space is an **activity** closely linked to **Territoriality**

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55-5

### Target hardening

56

56-1

### Target hardening

- A preventive **activity** whose purpose is to give material or informational **targets of crime** the **property of resistance to physical attack** in the service of some offender's attempt to **misappropriate** (steal), **mistreat** (damage), **mishandle** (counterfeit, smuggle), **misuse** (as tool or weapon) or **misbehave** with (in antisocial behaviour)

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- Hardened **enclosures** may contribute to **Defensible Space**
- **Target hardening** of built environment against mistreatment, misuse or misbehaviour may aid (or spoil) **Image and Maintenance**

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56-5

### Access control

57

57-1

### Access control

- An **activity** intended to
  - Discriminate between individuals seeking to enter the interior **space** of an **enclosure** (in terms of who, when, what carrying/wearing and how they are behaving)
  - To prevent their committing crime by their presence (eg minors in a bar), or their actions once within the enclosure

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- May be facilitated by **Defensible Space**

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57-4

### Activity support

58

58-1

### Activity support

- A **property** of the **environment** which variously
  - **Alerts, informs, motivates, empowers and directs** people to enter it and remain there
  - Where they act as **users** playing legitimate roles/ undertaking legitimate activities, and thus as potential **crime preventers**
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58-2

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  - **Occupying space** that would otherwise have been taken by (potential) offenders
  - Their mere **presence** may **deter and discourage** offending
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- **Territoriality** may empower owners/managers to *influence* activity support, & visitors to *accept* influence

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58-4

### Image & Maintenance

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59-1

### Image & Maintenance

- **Image** is an **individually/collectively** held **perception** with **emotional** content

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59-2

### Image & Maintenance

- **Image** is an **individually/collectively** held **perception** with **emotional** content
- It relates variously to
  - **Crime risk**
  - Wider **community safety/quality of life**
  - **Reputation** of residents/users etc
  - Influencing people's **decisions and actions** (eg to visit, work, live there)

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- **Image and maintenance** together may influence **objective crime risk** by **prompting, provoking or permitting** offending through broken windows-type processes

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59-4

### Image & Maintenance

60

60-1

### Image & Maintenance

- **Maintenance** is **activity** (or the **state** of an **environment** reflecting that activity or its absence), which influences **image**
  - Both in terms of the litter, graffiti etc which may be present
  - And by the perception of the very fact that someone is/is not doing the maintenance

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60-2

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  - Both in terms of the litter, graffiti etc which may be present
  - And by the perception of the very fact that someone is/is not doing the maintenance
- Maintenance relates to **Territoriality** in terms of
  - Individuals, families or institutions being motivated and permitted to take responsibility for undertaking maintenance of a given **space**
  - and **defensibility** and **access control** to enable them to do the maintenance without interference, or risk of it being messed up

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60-3