

SpringerBriefs in Criminology

SpringerBriefs in Crime and Place

John E. Eck · Shannon J. Linning · Tamara D. Herold

Place Management and Crime

Ownership and Property
Rights as a Source of
Social Control

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as a Source of Social Control

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About This Book

Why do a few addresses have so much crime but most places have so little? And what can we do about it? These are the questions we tackle in this book. The theory, evidence, and practices we discuss developed over 30 years, beginning in the early 1990s. The theory, evidence, and practices were the result of many collaborations among academics, police officials, and community members. In the process, our research led new crime reduction strategies and made us question some basic ideas in criminology.

This book is the first all-encompassing description of place management theory and practice. It is the prequel to our earlier work, *Whose 'Eyes on the Street' Control Crime? Expanding Place Management into Neighborhoods*. In that book, we show how place management creates safe or unsafe areas within cities. It begins where this book ends. The people who own and operate places are the subject of this book.

We designed this book for a broad audience. Students and their instructors should find it useful for exploring the criminology of place and challenging community criminology. Activist readers, those in communities or government agencies, interested in doing something about crime, will find our book useful for developing crime reduction strategies.

We strived to make our ideas clear and readable to a wide audience, not just academic researchers. We use tables showing the relationships among studies and theory. We use figures to diagram our ideas. And we use photographs of places to give readers a gut sense of the range of places we are discussing.

The study and application of place management theory is ongoing. We mark the topics where the social science evidence is extremely strong. And we mark where the evidence is modest or weak, contradictory, or absent. As much as we have learned over the last three decades, there is much yet to learn.

“Power follows property.”

John Adams, Charles Beard, Sir John Dalrymple, Aldous Huxley, James Madison, Daniel Webster, and maybe more. Others have implied the same sentiment, but with more words. All are following James Harrington, *The Commonwealth of Oceana* (1656).

We hope our book gives you sharp probing questions you can use to forge useful ways to reduce crime. We urge you to collect data and evidence about the successes of your efforts, and pass what you learned to others so they can learn. Much of what we learned, we learned from practitioners who shared their successes and failures. We hope you do the same.

Acknowledgments

We give a hearty shout-out to Police Chief Maris Herold of the Boulder Police Department. Not only is she married to one of us, she has been a stalwart supporter of crime-place research, a perceptive advice giver, and an inspirational innovator. We would follow her into any place.

As always, many thanks to Charlotte Navarro, who provided amazingly perceptive comments.

We also give our heartfelt thanks to our editors, Dr. Sue-Ming Yang and Dr. Josh Hinkle. They enthusiastically embraced our idea for this book and gave us great advice.

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About the Authors

John E. Eck has worked on ways to improve policing, particularly criminal investigations management and problem-oriented policing, since 1977. While assisting police with their problem-solving efforts, he became fascinated with crime places. He created the idea of place management during his work with the San Diego Police Department and while writing his doctoral dissertation. This led to his spending over 25 years developing the implications of place management for crime prevention, often in vital collaboration with current and former graduate students. He is a professor in the School of Criminal Justice within the University of Cincinnati, author of *Writing with Sweet Clarity*, and second author of *Whose 'Eyes on the Street' Control Crime? Expanding Place Management into Neighborhoods*.

Shannon J. Linning is an assistant professor in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. She earned her doctorate in criminal justice with an emphasis in crime prevention from the University of Cincinnati. Her research examines how we can reduce crime at places by partnering with those in property development, business, real estate, and urban planning. Her work is published in various peer-reviewed journals. Her newest book, *Whose 'Eyes on the Street' Control Crime? Expanding Place Management into Neighborhoods*, has been nominated for the Michael J. Hindelang Outstanding Book Award through the American Society of Criminology.

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