

Tourism and Crime: key themes



Edited by

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The Preventive Turn in Crime Control and its Relationship with Tourism

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Design and setting by P.K. McBride

9 The Preventive Turn in Crime Control and its Relationship with Tourism

Gordon Hughes

This chapter includes the following elements:

- ◆ A discussion of definitions of ‘crime prevention’ in the criminological literature
 - ◆ An analysis of the emergence of crime prevention policy from the 1970s onwards
 - ◆ An overview of the ‘preventive turn’ of recent decades and the development of an institutional architecture of prevention beyond the criminal justice system
 - ◆ A discussion of forms of ‘situational’ and ‘social’ crime prevention, and how these might relate to tourism
 - ◆ An account of the emergence of community safety and partnership working.
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Introduction

Previous chapters in this collection have illustrated both the considerable risks and realities of criminal victimisation for tourists whilst also emphasising that significant numbers of tourists also appear to worry little about issues of insecurity and danger. There are then urgent questions regarding the prevention, or at best reduction, of such risks associated with both the places and people who make up the worlds of tourism. In turn there are quite specific challenges for crime prevention policies associated with tourist spaces and activities. Let us not forget that tourists and tourist localities may also be ‘hot-spots’ for violent and anti-social behaviour, as notoriously illustrated by both the UK’s weekend night-time economy areas and further afield in holiday resorts such as Falaraki, Rhodes. In terms of responding to these problems and in a similar manner to the fears many schools have in publishing exclusion rates for unruly children in a competitive environment of school recruitment targets and league tables, the overt discussion of the dangers and risks of criminal victimisation in sites of tourism as well as the promotion of

preventive, anti-crime measures may literally be ‘bad for business’. That noted, the importance of crime prevention issues for any criminological discussion of contemporary experiences of tourism (whether this be the ‘edgework’ thrills of the surfer or the more sedate pursuits of the caravanner) cannot be underestimated. Accordingly, this chapter offers an overview of the major trends in crime prevention in contemporary late modern societies. Our major empirical focus will be on preventive initiatives associated with British developments although, given the global reach of tourism, our discussion cannot be restricted to trends and issues defined narrowly by a national frame.

The chapter is structured as follows. Following an initial discussion of the possible definitions of crime prevention in the criminological literature in the following section, we then turn to the institutional emergence of crime prevention in the decades since the 1970s across many jurisdictions. In the second section the key institutional features of the ‘preventive turn’ in late modernity (Garland, 2001) are discussed across the increasingly blurred boundaries of the public and private realms of the governance of security. In the third and fourth sections, the governmental rationales and techniques of what have been termed ‘situational’ and ‘social’ crime prevention programmes are presented and assessed. Finally, the fifth section discusses the rise of community safety partnership working in the UK as representative of a new form of multi-agency governance, drawing on both situational and to a lesser degree, social interventions. Throughout this overview of developments in crime prevention in late modernity, relevant links with the tourism studies literature will be drawn.

Defining crime prevention

Across the world, the last four decades have witnessed both a growth of interest in and heightened political and policy salience of crime prevention and increasingly that of community safety. This growing interest spans the varied constituencies of criminological researchers, practitioners in the crime control system, private sector knowledge brokers, politicians and a range of the ‘publics’. Indeed the terms ‘prevention’, ‘safety’ and increasingly, that of ‘security’ and ‘risk management’ have become key referents, alongside if not prioritised over criminal justice, in crime control policy circles across many countries of the world. The impact of both these discursive and institutional shifts are clearly manifested in the formal policy and practice developments in the management of tourism as is evident more generally in the world of business and commerce. Furthermore, their impact is evident in the mass of individual decisions, calculations and activities taken up by consumers of tourism, processes themselves constituted by often ‘risky’ mobilities and flows of populations across time and space. Given the focus of this text it is impossible to understand the criminogenic features of tourist practices and their management without taking account of the preventive measures and strategies generated by both public and private agencies.

Chapter extract

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