

# Sharpening up CPTED

## Paul Ekblom



1

## CPTEDbabel?



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3-1

## Genesis 11, 1-9



2

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.



2

2-2

## CPTEDbabel?



3

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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



3-4

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  - 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



3-5

## What's coming up

4

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- Confusion within CPTED

4

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

4

4-4

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- Confusion within CPTED
- How the confusion happened
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  - Within crime prevention more generally
  - 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

4-6

4

## 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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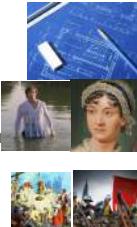
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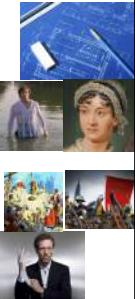


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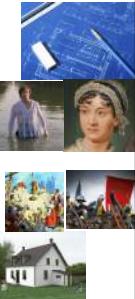


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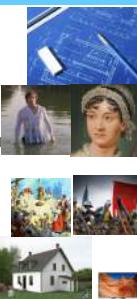


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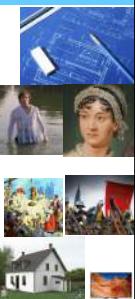


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5-9

## 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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6

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7-1

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  - 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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## Confusion within Crime Prevention more generally

9-1

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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?



9

9-5

### Confusion within Crime Prevention more generally

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- 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?**



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12-1

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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

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- 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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### 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 demarcate 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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  - **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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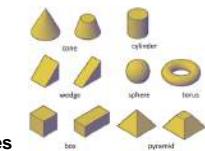
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17-7

### Discourses of environment & architecture – primitives

18

18-1

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#### Causal properties

- Space
  - Movement
  - Manipulation/force
  - Shelter/refuge
  - Perception/ prospect
  - Understandability/ information
  - Motivation/ emotion
  - Ownership, competition, conflict
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18-2

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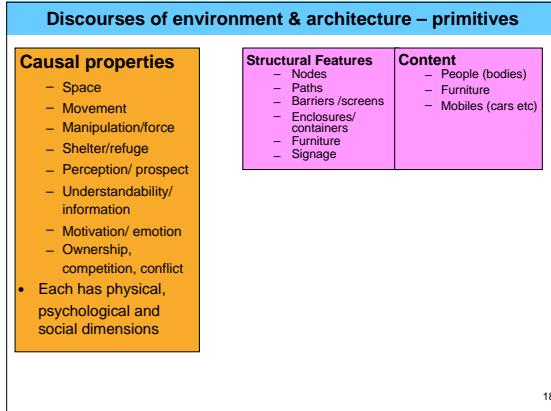
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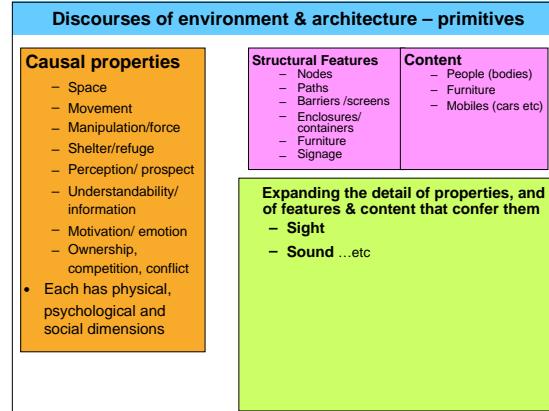
- Nodes
- Paths
- Barriers /screens
- Enclosures/ containers
- Furniture
- Signage

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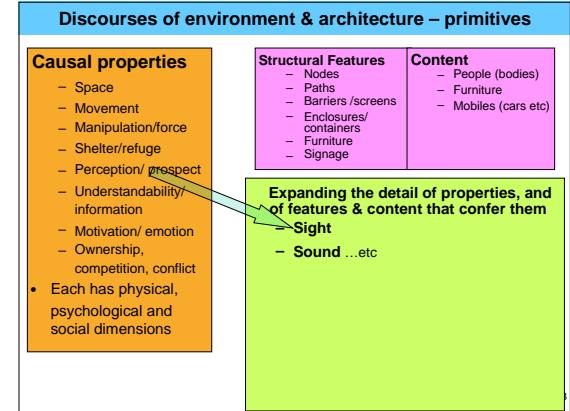
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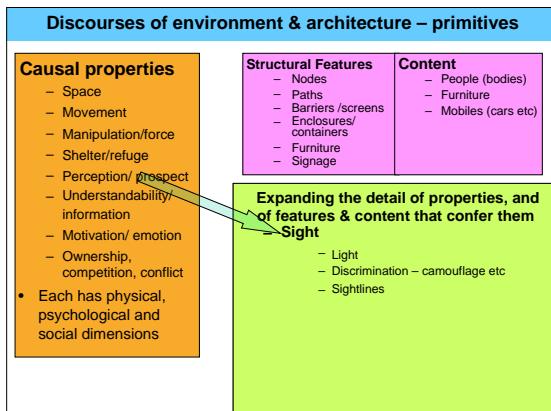
18-4



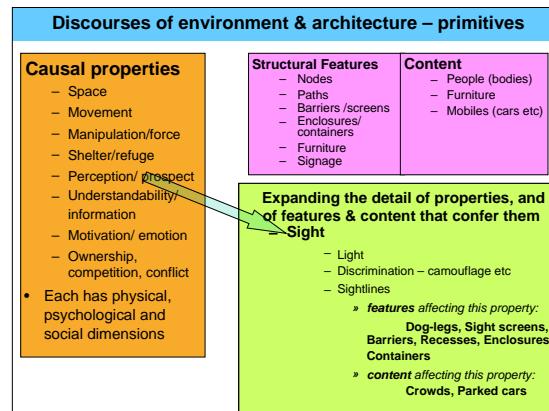
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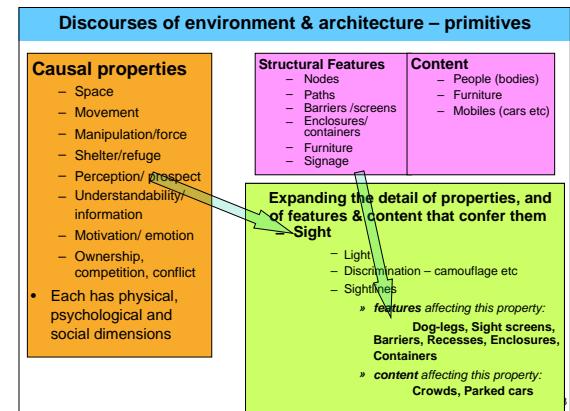
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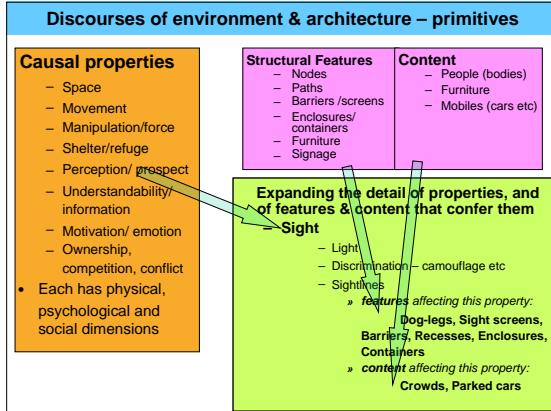
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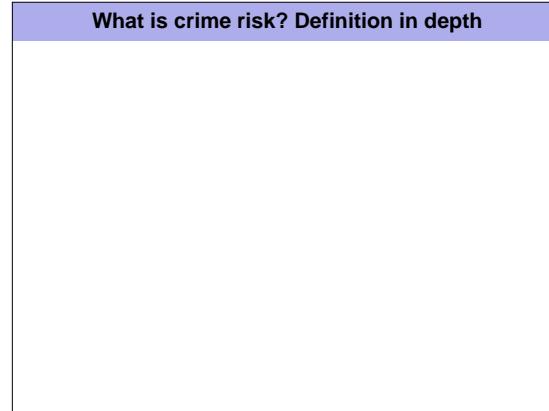
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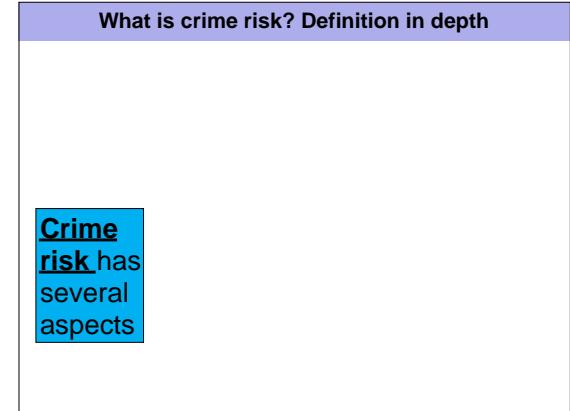
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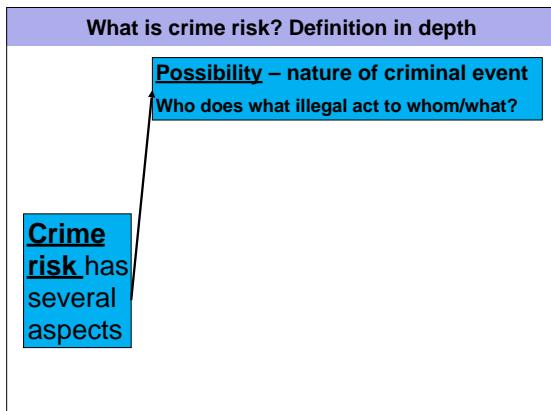
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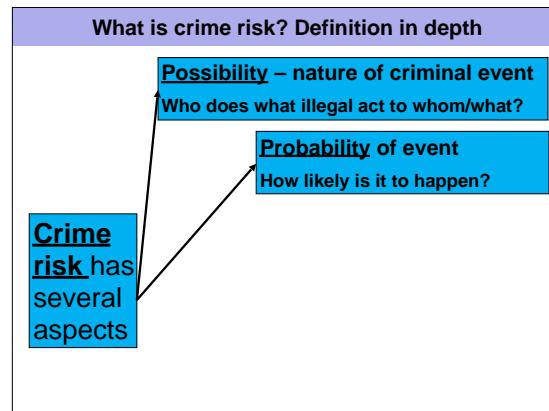
19-1



19-2



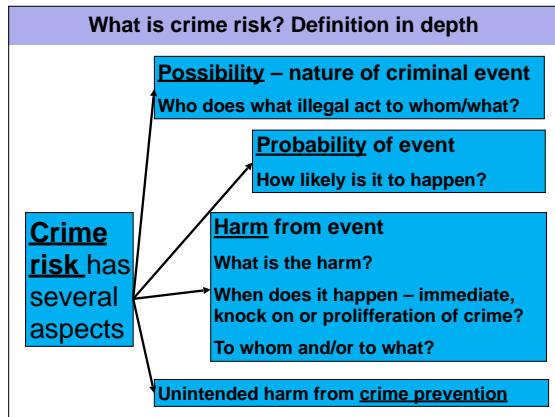
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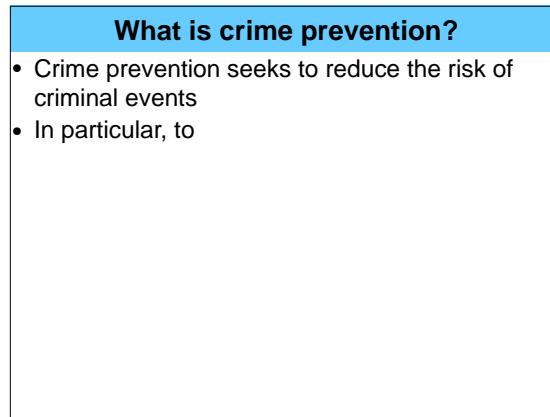
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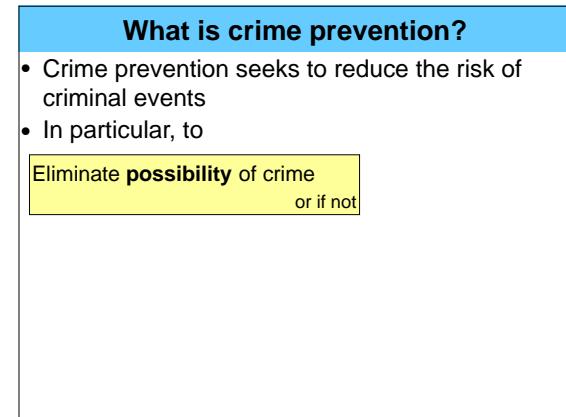
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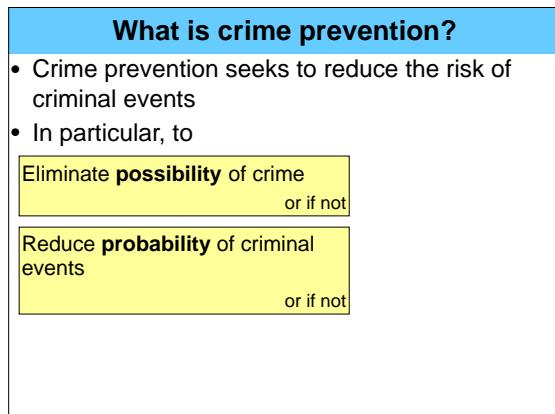
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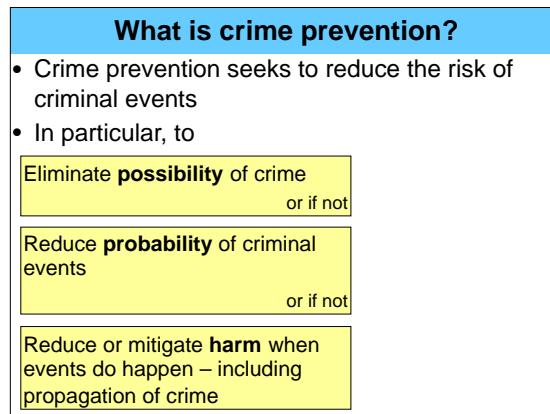
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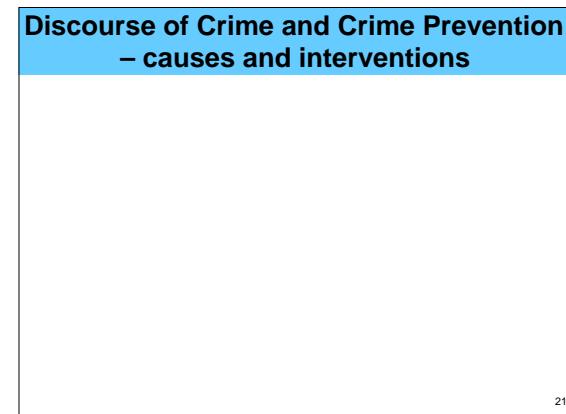
20-2



20-3



20-4



21

21-1

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



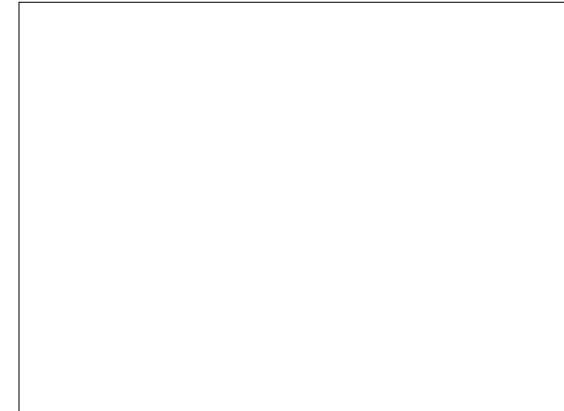
21-2

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

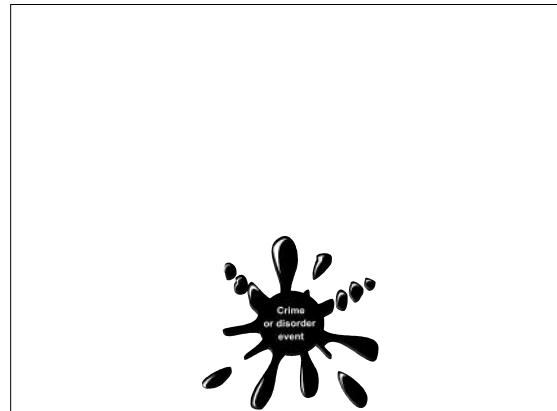


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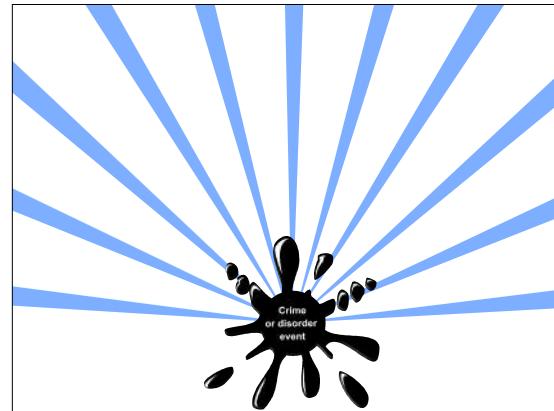
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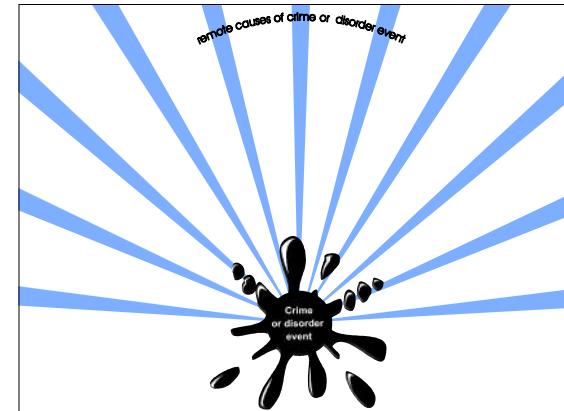
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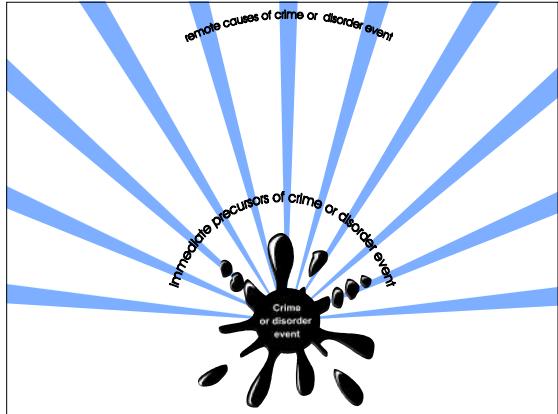
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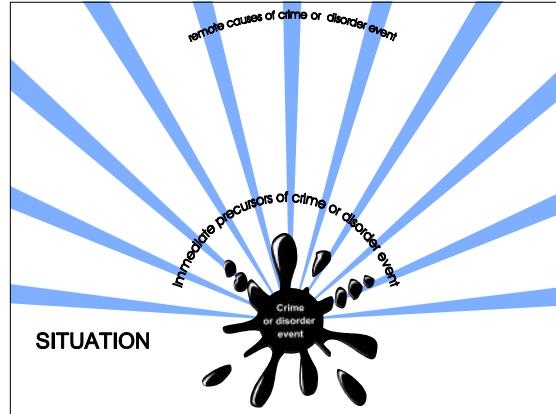
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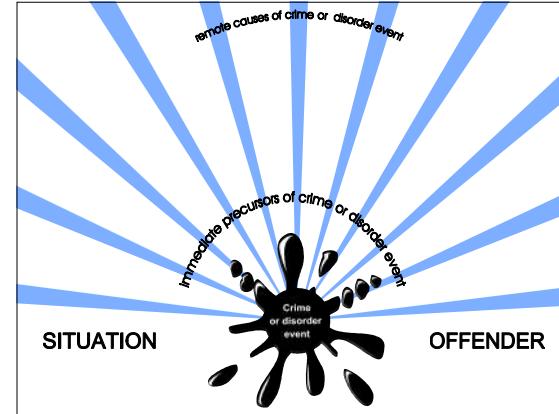
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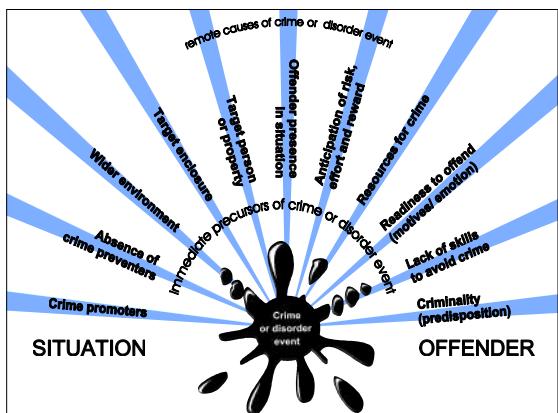
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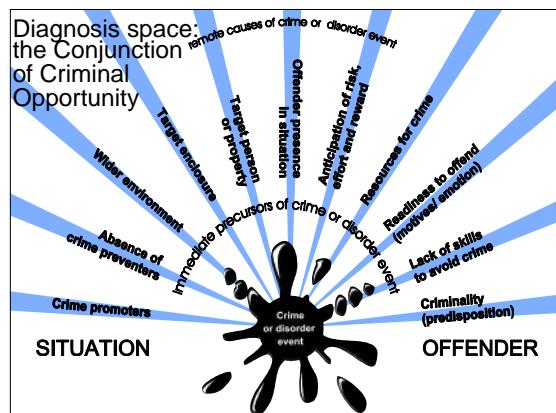
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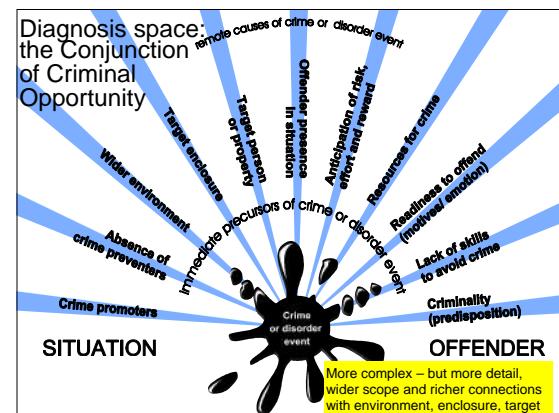
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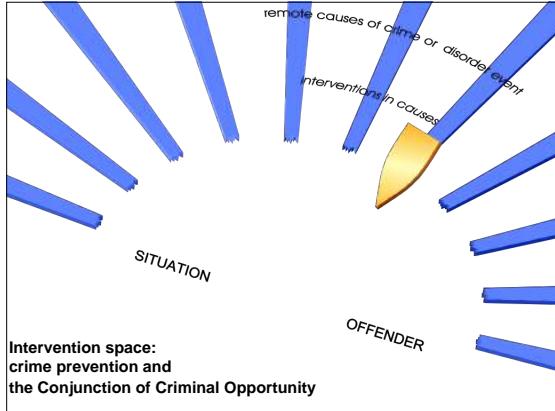
22-8



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

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

24

24-3

### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

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

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

25

25

### Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

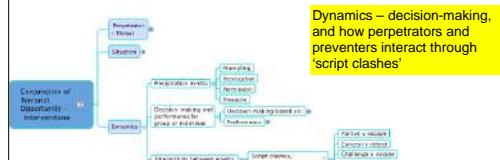
Then 'think situation' – target, target enclosure, preventers and promoters

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

26

26

## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



27

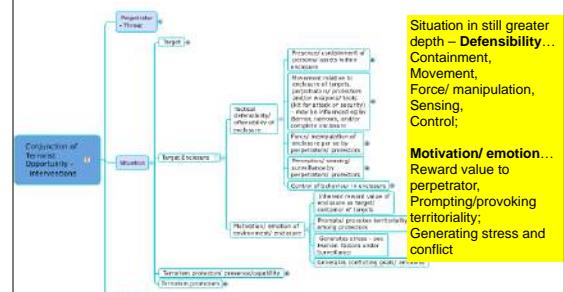
## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



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Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

# Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions

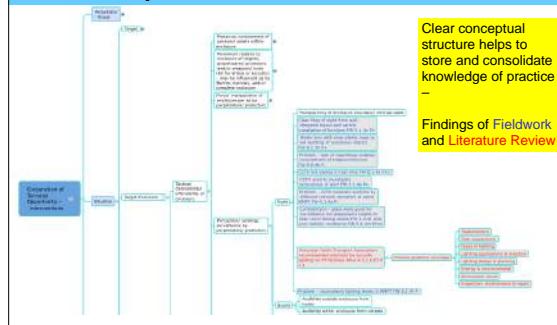


- Situation in still greater depth – **Defensibility**...
  - Containment,
  - Movement,
  - Force/ manipulation,
  - Sensing,
  - Control;
- Motivation/ emotion...**
  - Reward value to perpetrator,
  - Prompting/provoking territoriality;
  - Generating stress and conflict.

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

29

## Combining environmental properties and crime preventive interventions



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

## Discourse of Design – Process models

- Ted Kitchen – CPTED lacks a decent process model

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32

32-2

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

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

32

32-3

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- Not so far removed from Designate, Define, Design

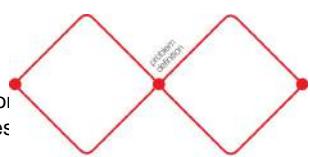
[www.designcouncil.org.uk/news-opinion/design-process-what-double-diamond](http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/news-opinion/design-process-what-double-diamond)

32

32-4

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

32

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

<http://5isframework.wordpress.com>

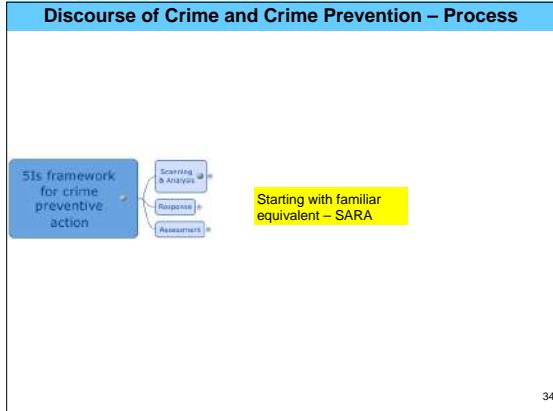
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## Discourse of Crime and Crime Prevention – Process

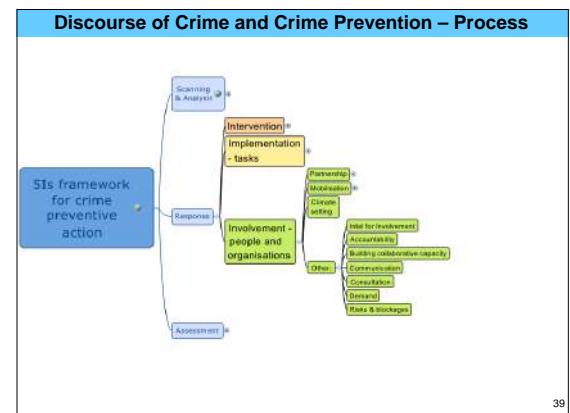
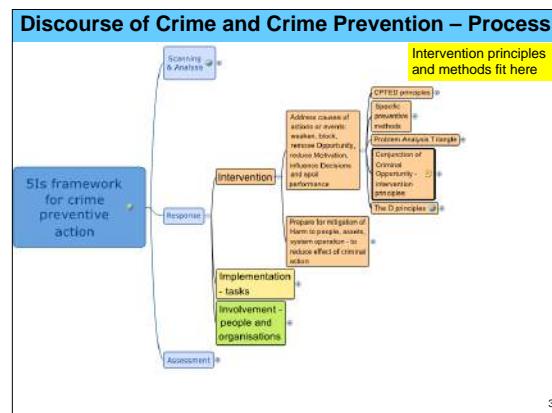
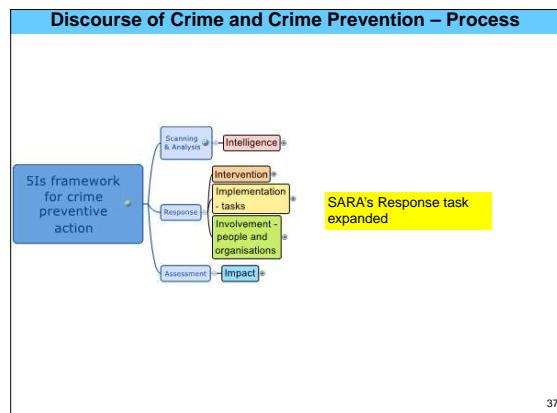
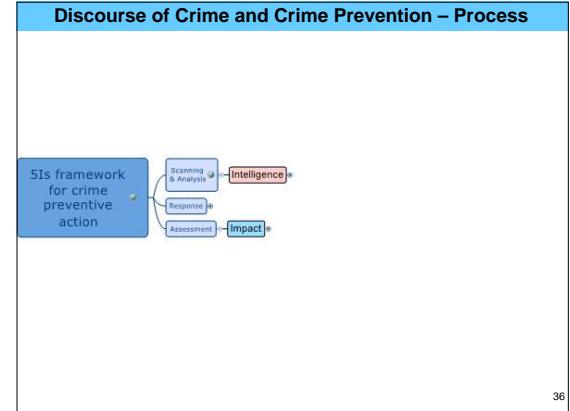
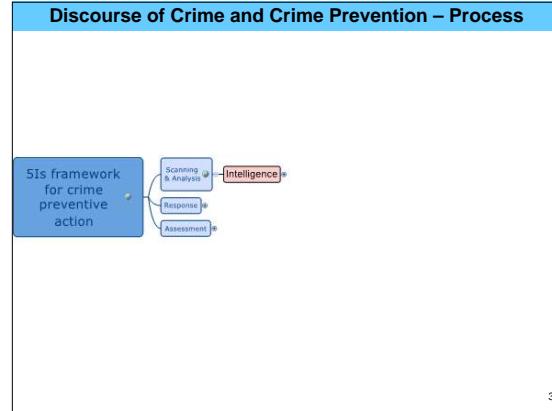


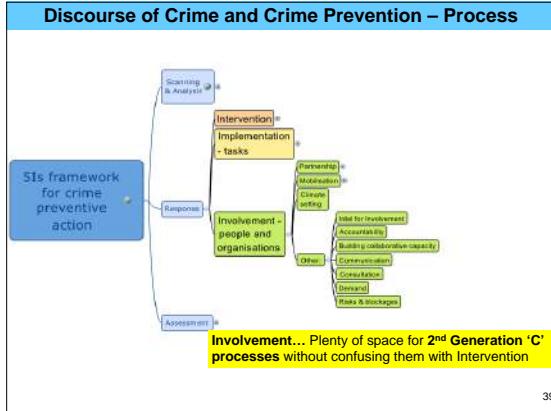
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34-1

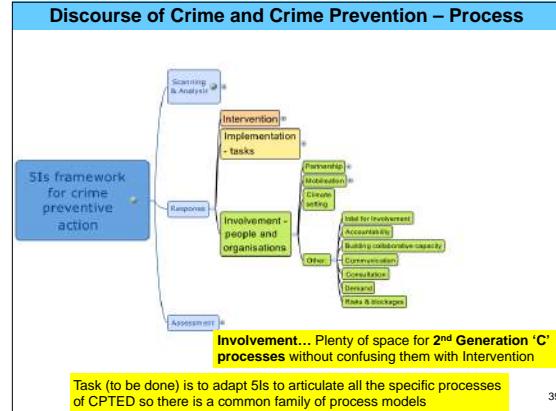


34-2

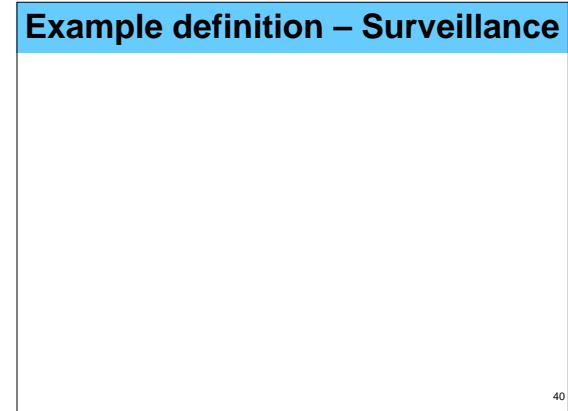




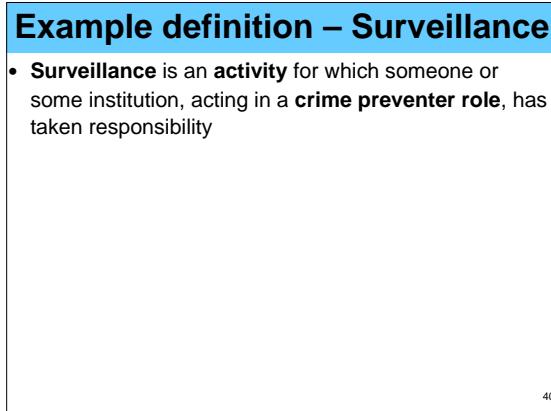
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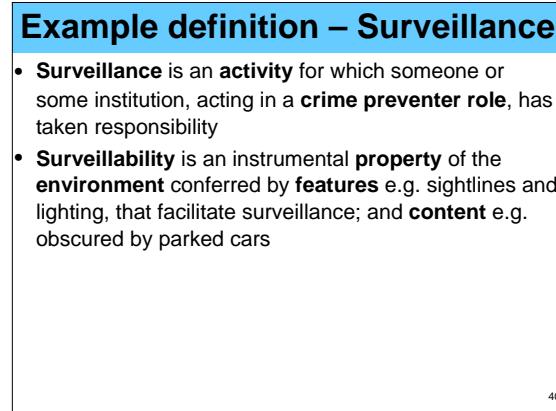
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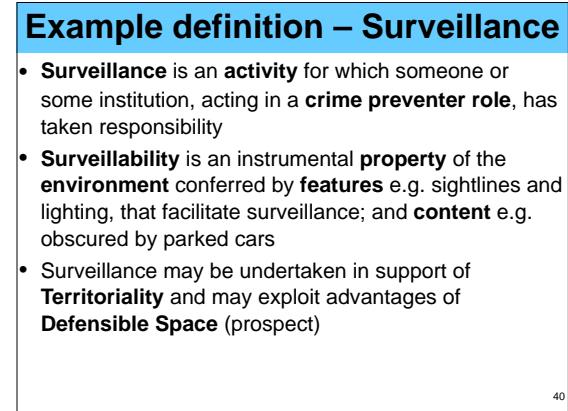
40-1



40-2



40-3



40-4

## 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
- Surveillance may be undertaken in support of **Territoriality** and may exploit advantages of **Defensible Space** (prospect)
- Other definitions at end of this presentation and see also <http://reconstructcpted.wordpress.com>

40

40-5

## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → surveillance

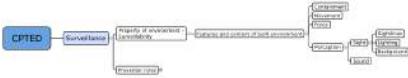
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## Surveillance – concept map

CPTED → Surveillance → *(property of environment + surveillance) + content*

## Surveillance – concept map



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43

## Surveillance – concept map



44

44-1

## Surveillance – concept map



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

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- 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



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46-3

## The End is nigh



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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

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## Extras

48

48

## A Definition of CPTED

49-1

49

## 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

49-2

49

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- **ED** By using processes of planning and design of environment

49-3

49

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- **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

49-4

49

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- **ED** By using processes of planning and design of environment
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  - To produce designs that are 'fit for purpose', and contextually appropriate in all other respects

49-5

49

### 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

### Territoriality

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

50

50-1

### 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**

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

51-2

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

51-3

### 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
- These processes may operate individually or collectively at group, community, institutional or national level
- Territoriality is a common human propensity but may be **realised** and **communicated** differently by different individuals and/or (sub)cultures

51-4

### 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

52-1

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- Territoriality in particular requires people's **roles** to be understood

52-2

52-3

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  - and **cultural understandings** of concepts of ownership, norms (and laws) of legitimate acquisition, use, defence etc
- Territoriality in particular requires people's **roles** to be understood
- **Sharing** of territory will pose particular issues

52

52-4

### Territory – spatial side (1)

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

53

53-2

### Territory – spatial side (1)

- Has to be **extended** in space and **durable** over some time period (brief or lasting)
- May extend into virtual or cyber space

53

53-3

### Territory – spatial side (1)

- 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

53

53-4

### Territory – spatial side (1)

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

53

53-5

Territory – spatial side (2)
54

54-1

Territory – spatial side (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May also have properties of <b>access control</b> and <b>wider defensibility</b>, both of which may be facilitated by <b>surveillability</b> and <b>hardening of enclosure</b></li> </ul>

54

Territory – spatial side (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May also have properties of <b>access control</b> and <b>wider defensibility</b>, both of which may be facilitated by <b>surveillability</b> and <b>hardening of enclosure</b></li> <li>Will have an <b>image</b> to the owner and/or to other parties</li> </ul>

54

Territory – spatial side (2)
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54

Territory – spatial side (2)
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54

Defensible Space
55

55

### Defensible Space

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

55-2

55

### Defensible Space

- An instrumental **property** of the **environment**
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- **Defending** the space is an **activity** closely linked to **Territoriality**

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### 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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## Access control

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  - 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)
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<b>Activity support</b>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>property of the environment</b> which variously <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Alerts, informs, motivates, empowers and directs</b> people to enter it and remain there</li> <li>– Where they act as <b>users</b> playing legitimate roles/ undertaking legitimate activities, and thus as potential <b>crime preventers</b></li> <li>– And/or which channels them away from <b>conflict</b> over space, noise, incompatible behaviour etc</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>Image &amp; Maintenance</b>

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## Image & Maintenance

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

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- **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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## Image & Maintenance

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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

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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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