

CRIME & SPACE

COMPARING THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL & SPATIAL FACTORS ON CRIME PATTERNS AT MACRO LEVEL OF A LONDON BOROUGH

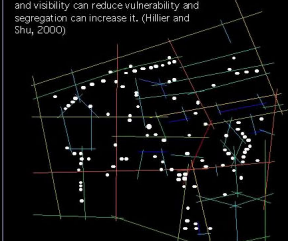
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INTRODUCTION

It is unclear whether spatial or socio-economic factors are responsible for higher crime rates in more integrated and central areas.

The fact that higher crime rates in integrated and central areas may be simply that these areas have higher densities of population and premises and greater mixes of use, and thus higher crime opportunities. but they also tend to have less advantaged populations who are known to be more vulnerable to crime in general.

A recent study on spatial patterns of crime has shown that at a micro level of the individual dwelling and its neighbouring spaces, spatial integration and visibility can reduce vulnerability and segregation can increase it. (Hillier and Shu, 2000)



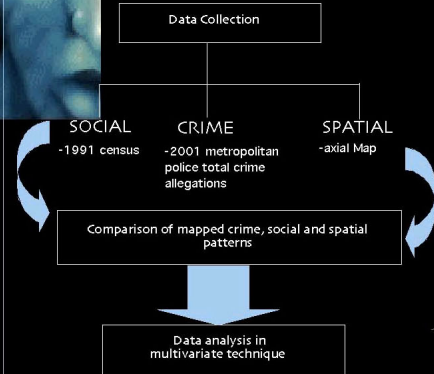
Source : B. Hillier (2002), The Socio-Logic of The City

AIM OF STUDY

The study aims to examine how far spatial or socio-economic factors are responsible for apparent higher crime rates in more integrated and central areas.

2

RESEARCH PROCEDURE



5

CONCLUSION

The evidence suggests that while crime rates are higher in integrated areas, they are also high in deprived areas. Also, space and social factors relate to each other, so that integrated and central areas have disadvantaged populations. This means the effects of space on crime can be hidden in a multivariate analysis which also include social factors. In conclusion, the study has confirmed the difficulty of separating social and spatial influences, and multivariate analysis at this level was of limited use. Future studies could include: micro level analysis; regional level analysis; focusing on residential layouts or morphology; focusing on particular types of crime; and investigating further the relationship between social and space factors.

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RESULTS

1. Prima Facie Effects

There appears to be a slight tendency for overall crime rates to be higher in more integrated areas (fig. 1a & b).

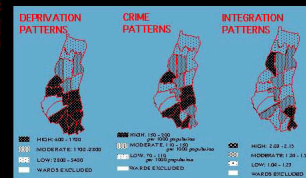


Figure 2(a) Comparing Deprivation, Crime and Integration Patterns

The patterns in figure 2(a) suggest that space seems to go with crime though not significantly, and so does deprivation index, but space also seems to go with deprivation index [fig. 2(a) and fig. 2(b)].

2. Effects Of Social Factors On Crime Rates

A strong relation is observed between social factors in the wards and the average crime rates (fig. 2 and fig. 3)

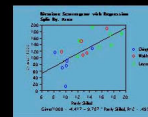


Figure 3(a): Crime vs. Deprivation Index

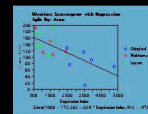


Figure 3(b): Crime vs. Deprivation Index

Figure 1(a) : Crime vs. index 3

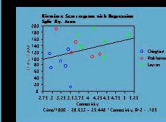
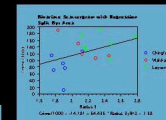


Figure 1(b): Crime vs. connectivity

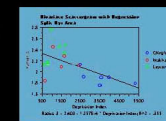


Figure 2(b): index 3 vs. Deprivation index

3. Effects Of Social And Spatial Factors On Crime Rates

The spatial factors of wards when considered alongside socio-economic and demographic factors in a multivariate analysis, the effects disappear, and with certain spatial variables even seem to be reversed.