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WHOSE 'EYES ON THE STREET' CONTROL CRIME?

Expanding Place Management into Neighborhoods

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Whose 'Eyes on the Street' Control Crime?

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Abstract: Jane Jacobs coined the phrase eyes on the street to depict those who maintain order in cities. Most criminologists assume these eyes belong to residents. In this Element we show that most of the eyes she described belonged to shopkeepers and property owners. They, along with governments, wield immense power through property ownership and regulation. From her work, we propose a Neo-Jacobian perspective to reframe how crime is connected to neighborhood function through deliberate decision-making at places. It advances three major turning points for criminology. This includes turns from: 1. residents to place managers as the primary source of informal social control; 2. ecological processes to outsiders' deliberate actions that create crime opportunities; and 3. a top-down macro- to bottom-up micro-spatial explanation of crime patterns. This perspective demonstrates the need for criminology to integrate further into economics, political science, urban planning, and history to improve crime control policies.

Keywords: Jane Jacobs, crime at place, place management, hot spots, property ownership, urban planning, community criminology, neighborhoods, informal social control

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