



Reflections of Place-Based Crime Prevention Strategies on Planning System and Urban Transformation: A Developing Country Perspective

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Today, crime and fear of crime, which turned to be a part of urban life, not only affect its economic and social sustainability, but also limits urban people in their choice of space and time for all their activities like dwelling, working, eating, education, shopping, and entertaining. In its occurrence, crime embodies a variety of aspects in terms of social, economic, cultural, behavioral, spatial, and temporal differences.

The studies, which explore the distribution of crime incidents in providing strategies for its prevention, are based on that incidents have distinct patterns and are not distributed randomly in place (in terms of space and time) and the theories that they rely on are take names like event / opportunity / place-based crime / crime place / environmental criminology or new crime ecology. According to these; the distribution of incidents differ with respect to those parts of cities having different structural characteristics and to the extent that the relationship between the distribution of incidents and the urban structure is identified and explained, the possibility of prevention of crime by urban planning and design increases.

This paper deals with the exploration of such a relationship in a case area and resolutions suggested by the new crime ecology theories like Defensible Space, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and Crime Pattern in terms of Turkish planning system including urban transformation from a critical perspective. For this purpose, in this study, which in one aspect involves the empirical testing of the new theories, the spatial and temporal distribution of place related incidents against people, property and people and property are explored for a one-year period in a police station zone, i.e., Etlik, within Ankara Metropolis comprising planned, squatter, and in-transition settlements.

As for the findings, in summary, in line with the new theories, incidents at global scale displayed clustering in space and time in the study area. Generally, incidents in aggregate, concentrated mostly in planned; less in in-transition; least in squatter areas; and particularly during spring-summer months. In parallel to this, the relationship between the urban structure and distribution of incidents is explained in detail. In conclusion, by elaborating on a case area within Ankara, the problems of the Turkish planning system including urban transformation, which is implemented in a similar manner in big cities of Türkiye are put forward, and then, concrete strategies are provided for place-based prevention of crimes within the context of the planning system.

KEY WORDS: Urban transformation, 'Planning/designing out crime', New (place-based) crime ecological theories.