Q&A – 13 May 2021 – Prof. Marcus Felson

1. **Could you please talk about drinking zones in smaller cities/towns?**

   Smaller cities can easily become regional drinking centers for surrounding towns and small cities. Central place theory can help predict where. Road access can also help predict where regional drinking centers will be found.

2. **You mentioned about bad and good management of bars. Do you know if there is evidence based on types of owners, such as owner of multiple businesses, business chains, and unique business owners? Or maybe local bar owners vs corporations or not local owners?**

   Three types are common: (a) stand alone bars; (b) a few bars owned by the same buy; and (c) corporate bar ownership, e.g., Guiness owning many pubs in Britain. Sometimes type (c) exposes the large company to risk of lawsuits and bad publicity, encouraging them to manage their bars better, train their bartenders, and hire more experienced employees. However, the owner remoteness might also contribute more problems. Sometimes small bars are the worst or the best, depending on the owner's responsibility. Not all small bars are quaint pubs. Also, some bars push their problem contributions outdoors.

3. **How would COVID change these patterns? (I have not been in a bar for a long time.)**

   Covid clearly reduced activity in entertainment zones, hence related crime and disorder.

4. **What role do you think private security has in preventing violence in bars/taverns?**

   Private security by far outnumbers public police in society and in drinking zones. Some bouncers are violent, and some are hired for their criminal past. Many bar security personnel are off-duty police or former police. Part of their job is to keep problems off the books so the bar does not lose its license. In other words, coverup is part of their job. In other cases, a good bar can use its personnel to keep the peace.

5. **How about tourism? Bars are near hotels and hotels are often near a major attractors or the center city. Does your model address tourism or growth in contemporary cities for city residents?**

   Andrew Lemieux and I did a chapter or two on visitor crime, distinguishing evening visitors who go home from short-term tourists, and from longer-staying vacationers. Tourism is highly varied, with concomitant influences on the degree of crime and disorder produced.

6. **One of the distinctive patterns is the nighttime risky context that impact of gender. I have a vivid memory of this one situation-On February 24, 2006, St. Guillen, our John Jay's MA criminal Justice student met with her best friend at a nightclub around 3:30 a.m. on February 25, the two**

women argued over whether to go home. Higgins left; later, in a 3:50 a.m. phone call, St. Guillen assured Higgins that she would soon be leaving for home. She was last seen at 4:00 a.m at a bar named 'The Falls'. Seventeen hours after St. Guillen spoke with her friend, police in [Brooklyn](#) received an anonymous phone call alerting them to a dead woman's body[Soon after authorities realized that a bouncer may have been the perpetrator, nightclub owners and local politicians met to discuss ways to improve nightlife safety. In February 2007, New York City enacted a law (Imette_St._Guillen Law) requiring enhanced security and bouncer vetting. New York City club owners also agreed to voluntary guidelines which encourage the use of scanning machines to record the identification of their patrons and also encourage screening patrons for weapons. The guidelines provide for more care in dealing with intoxicated female patrons who are alone.This is a policy relates to the risky facilities!

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_Imette_St._Guillen

Bouncers as offenders is a recurring issue.

7. **What do you think the best way to reduce/prevent crime in these areas would be?**

    Look to work by John Eck and Tamara Madensen Herald on this topic, and pay close attention to alcohol control measures, especially in Scandinavia. Such measures can be highly effective. Much of our problem is political – a good deal of the economy in modern cities depends on getting people drunk.

8. **Not sure if this has been covered. But there's a town in County Durham, (Consett) England who use the elderly to control the drinking areas. These are called Street Nanas and Street Grandpas. Police antagnise rather than control.**

    Good idea. More generally the age structure of drinkers has a major impact on negative outcomes, as does the balance of males and females.