

Q&A – 2 September – Prof. Vania Ceccato

1. What role would Big Data and data centers in general play in helping safety for cities?

A major role. I am a (spatial) data enthusiastic and I believe on the value of using good quality data in research and to improve the basis for decision making in planning. We need to continue to develop new methods and theories at the same time re-test old ones (given the potentiality of Big data). AI, for instance, is an emergent area but we should embrace what we have already learned in terms of methods and theories. We should also critically reflect upon the use of data. Who owns the data, how to create platforms in which issues of individual privacy are safeguarded at same time we can fully use the data that is out there. These issues are fundamental to be discussed in the context of smart cities and Bigdata.

I reflect upon this issues in this paper “[Integrating geographical information into urban safety research and planning](#)” .

I highly suggest the series of webinars we will organize this fall - Geoprivacy initiative next year – a whole series of seminars, don't miss it. [Geoprivacy initiative: Geoprivacy, confidentiality and data sharing in research & practice \(early October 2021/ date to be announced – 30/06/2022\) \(kth.se\)](#)

2. Any reason why there are less cases around 16:00?

We were also unsure about the underlying reasons for this pattern. We look at the data and did not find any anomaly. It could be change of shift of personnel and therefore 17:00 would reflect some of upward trend between 15:00 and 17:00. We should compile more data to check this trend. We had only 17 months.

3. How did you collect the data of what parts of the mall crime is happening?

Security Company collected the data. The dataset was detailed with information of location by place. More detail see: Ceccato, V., Falk, Ö., Parsanezhad, P., Tarandi, V. (2017) Visualisation of crime in shopping centres . In: Ceccato and Armitage (Eds.), Retail crime: Evidence and Prevention. <http://kth.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1244405/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

4. Were there differences in the type and volume of crime by floors?

Yes, but most of the stores and other facilities were in the retail floor. In the underground floor, there is a supermarket and a parking lot. Unfortunately our dataset was not as good as in these extra floors as it was in the retail floor. But again, functional spaces vary in the types of crimes they experience depending on what “they do”. I did not test transmission but in a paper we wrote on stations, we were able to see transmission of crime between inside and outside stations.

<http://kth.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1582764/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

5. Where there alcohol served at the food courts?

Beer in some of the restaurants but not all. We would need to check which of these restaurants had a full license. But there were bars outside the food court with 'full alcohol license'.

6. Could you say something more about how you collected information about feelings of insecurity and episodes of witnessing crime?

We collected data using google forms, for details see:

Ceccato, V., Tcacencu, S. (2017) [Perceived Safety in a Shopping Centre: A Swedish Case Study. In: Ceccato and Armitage \(Eds.\), Retail crime: Evidence and Prevention.](#)

7. The mall(s) you did research is it only one mall ore more than one malls in Stockholm?

Yes, this was the only case study (This project was not funded). I am now reproducing this method to libraries in Stockholm, we have 4, 3 controls.

8. First, do you know anything about the offenders who committed the crimes, at least the ones where the police got involved? In absolute numbers, men committed more shoplifting crimes but women had a higher proportion of theirs involving shoplifting. I wonder if the mall you examined had a similar pattern (i.e., women committing more of the thefts and men involved more in violence and vandalism)?

No, we do not do anything with the data. Not for all data had info about gender or age, but I recall there was information. There was anecdotal info about old people. The data was difficult to be extracted. I can have a look at the data again.

9. We reasoned that the offenders of the violence and vandalism were more likely to be non-dormitory residents whereas the offenders of thefts were most likely residents. The study was never published because it a was a contracted report for the office of student housing. But the idea of internal v. external is very relevant to malls, too. I would guess that crimes in the parking lots would occur from someone who just came in for that purpose possibly a customer leaving who saw an opportunity to steal something. Conversely, crimes in the upper floor (a hotel?) would be more likely to occur from someone working or staying there.

Ned - Very interesting points but we did not look at these issues. I know that the hotel had loads of problems, people drinking and breaking the room, people threatening personal. I intended to look at police but we stopped. Did you recall that we had a major hot spots on the western part of Stockholm? That was the shopping mall and the surrounding areas.

Further reading:

Bamfield, J. (2012). Shopping and crime. Palgrave.

Ekblom, P. (1995). Less Crime, by Design. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 539(1), 114–129.

Rengert, G & Ratcliffe, J. (2000/5) Inmate Violence Against Correctional Staff: An Environmental Analysis of Risk.

Savard, D. M., & Kennedy, D. K. (2014). Crime and Security Liability Concerns at Shopping Centers. In K. Walby & R. K. Lippert (Eds.), *Corporate Security in the 21st Century: Theory and Practice in International Perspective* (pp. 254–275). London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Weisburd, D. e. a. (2018). Shopping Crime at Place: The Case of Tel Aviv-Yafo. In A. R. Ceccato V. (Ed.), *Retail Crime: International Evidence and Prevention* (pp. 245-270). Palgrave.

Also:

Ceccato, V. (2018). Perceived Safety in a Shopping Centre: A Swedish Case Study In V. C. a. R. Armitage (Ed.), *Retail crime* (pp. 215-242). Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-73065-3_9

Ceccato, V., Falk, Ö., Parsanezhad, P., & Tarandi, V. (2018). Crime in a Scandinavian Shopping Centre. In A. R. Ceccato V. (Ed.), *Retail crime: International evidence and prevention*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-73065-3>