

# An Integrated Paradigm for Understanding Tourism Crime Victimization: Extending the Routine Activity Framework and the General Theory of Crime and Delinquency

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# Introduction

- ✧ Tourism is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest industry in the global economy (2<sup>nd</sup> largest service industry in the U.S.)
- ✧ Crimes against tourists occur throughout the world
- ✧ There is no country in the world where a tourist is *absolutely* safe
- ✧ Tourism only thrives under peaceful conditions; crimes committed against tourists affect tourism by damaging the destination or city image
- ✧ “The most important prerequisite for a successful tourism industry is a reputation for keeping crime under control and guaranteeing tourists’ safety” (Glensor & Peak, 2004)

# Presentation Outline

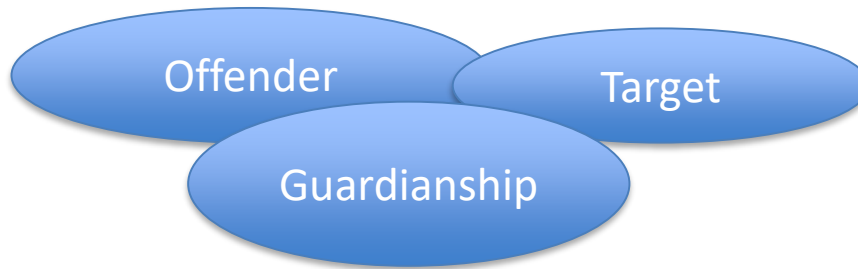
- ✧ Introduce the Classical and Positive Schools of Criminology
- ✧ Describe routine activity theory, self-control theory and hot spots theory
- ✧ Highlight prior research on tourism victimization
- ✧ Summarize “Cybercrime Victimization: An examination of Individual and Situational level factors” (Ngo & Paternoster, 2011)
- ✧ Propose an integrated model to examine tourism victimization
- ✧ Questions & Answers
- ❖ **LUNCH**

# Classical and Positive School of Criminology

- ✧ Classical School of Criminology – emerged in 18<sup>th</sup> century; mostly philosophers & writers; assumes free will, rationality & hedonism; believe that crime is a choice & only effective punishment will address crime
- ✧ Positive School of Criminology – emerged in late 20<sup>th</sup> century; predominantly scientists; assumes that crime is due to forces that are beyond an individual's control; need to address the cause(s) of crime and criminality
- ✧ Dominant classical theories – deterrence, rational choice, & **routine activities**
- ✧ Dominant positivist theories – social disorganization, social learning & strain
- ✧ Mixed theories – control theories (social bonding, **self-control**, age-graded informal social control)

# Routine Activity – Classical Theory of Victimization

- ✧ Routine Activity (Cohen & Felson, 1979; Felson, 1987; 1994)
- ✧ Crime & victimization are more likely when three elements converge in time & space: motivated offender, suitable target & lack of capable guardian



- ✧ Variations in crime are accounted for by variations in the supply of suitable targets and capable guardianship
- ✧ Theory explains property crimes well but not personal crimes
- ✧ Theory as been applied to test offline and online victimization

# Low Self-Control – Mixed Theory of Victimization

- ✧ *A General Theory of Crime and Delinquency*  
(Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990)
- ✧ Applied as a victimization perspective due to the robust correlation between criminality & victimization
- ✧ Theory seeks to explain all types of crime including acts analogous to crime, individual differences in the propensity to commit/refrain from crime, at all ages & under all circumstances; *Very Ambitious Theory!*
- ✧ Crime is caused by low self-control or the inability to delay gratification of immediate impulses & pursue long term goals
- ✧ LSC is established early in life, caused by ineffective parenting
- ✧ Scholars have applied LSC theory to examine offline and online victimization; *One of the most tested theory!*



# Theoretical Perspectives on Tourism Victimization

- ✧ Scholars have relied on the Routine Activities theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) and Hot Spots theory (Crotts, 1996) to examine tourism victimization
- ✧ Hot Spot theory stems from the work by Sherman and colleagues (1985)
- Analyzed 300,000+ calls for service from over 100,000+ addresses & intersections in MN for over a year; found 3% of places accounted for over 50% of the calls
- ❖ Crimes is heavily concentrated in a few “hot spots”
- ❖ Similarly, tourism crime & victimization cluster in certain locations which are generally entertainment oriented

# Prior Research on Tourism Victimization

- ✧ **Boakye (2010)** – examines the effects of suitable targets (accommodation preference, travel arrangement, travel group size) on phone theft, verbal assault & physical assault
  - Inexpensive (vs. hotel) → phone theft & verbal assault
  - Relying on intermediaries → phone theft BUT self-planning → physical assault
  - As group size ↑ verbal assault ↑
- ❖ Study did not include measure of capable guardianship
- ✧ **Harper, Khey & Nolan (2013)** – examined the effect of capable guardianship (deployment of law enforcement) on incidents of robbery in the French Quarter, New Orleans, LA
  - Simple robberies occurred within tourist attraction areas
  - Aggravated robberies occurred in residential areas away from tourist areas & w/ no concentrated police presence
- ❖ Tourists as suitable targets was a given



# Cybercrime Victimization, Routine Activity Theory and Self-Control Theories

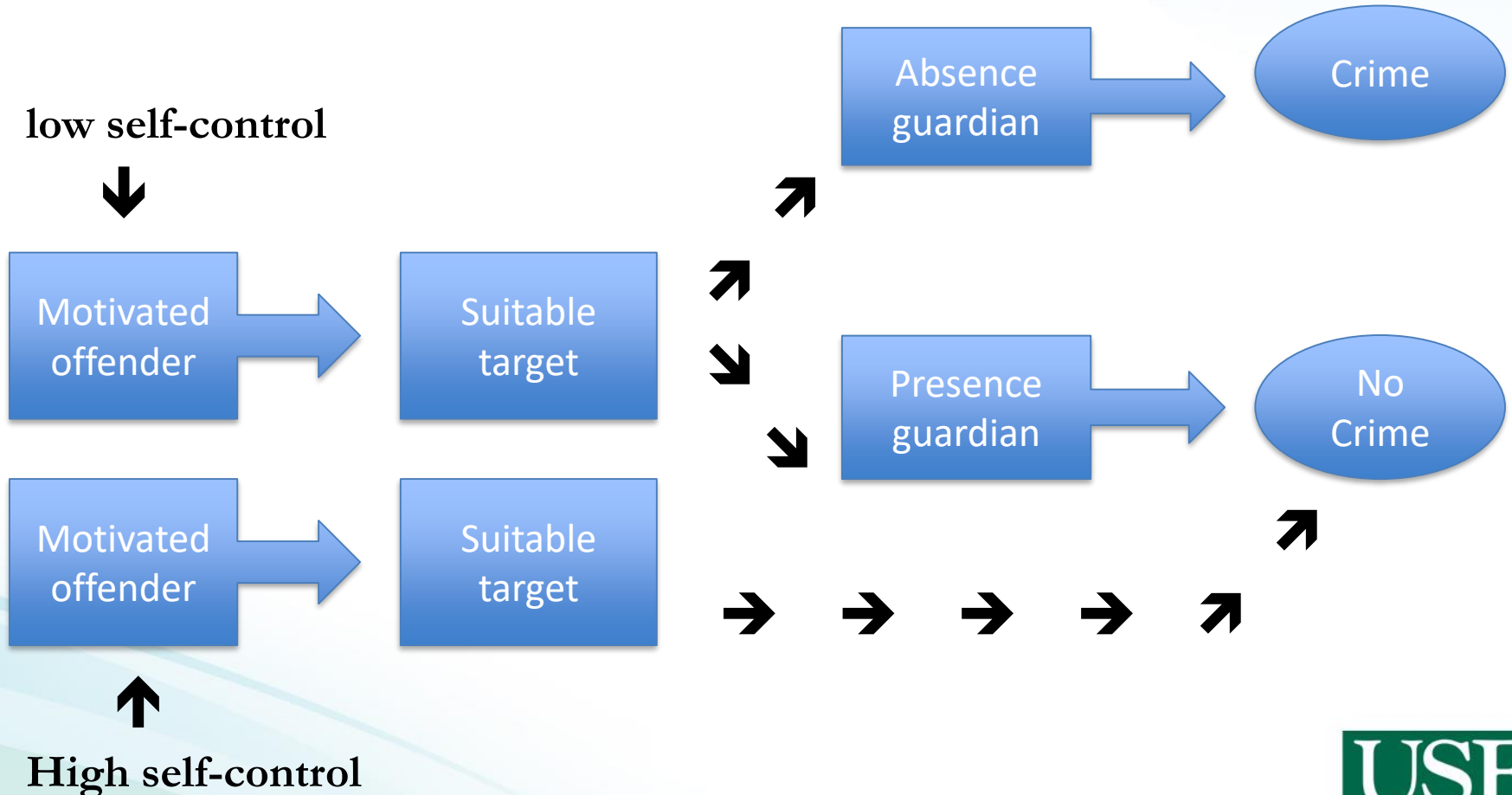
- ✧ Ngo & Paternoster (2011); IJCC  
<https://www.cybercrimejournal.com/ngo2011ijcc.pdf>
- ✧ Applied routine activity & self-control theories to examine cybercrime victimization
- ✧ Convenience sample of college students
- ✧ Low self-control: 24-item scale by Grasmick et al. (1993)
- ✧ Motivated offenders - # of hours per week spent online
- ✧ Suitable target – 1) communicate with strangers online; 2) provide personal info online; 3) open any files or attachments
- ✧ Physical guardianship – anti-virus, spyware, firewall software
- ✧ Personal guardianship – computer knowledge & skills

# Cybercrime Victimization (continued)

- ✧ Examined whether individual & situational factors affect cybercrime *similarly*
- ❖ Low self-control predicted person-based cybercrime victimization (i.e., online harassment by stranger & non-stranger)
- ❖ Exposure to motivated offenders predicted online harassment by a non-stranger
- ❖ Routine activity theory may not be the best framework to explain individual victimization in cyber space
- ◆ The assumption of motivated offenders in routine activity theory needs to be reexamined

# Proposed Integrated Model for Tourism Victimization

✧ Integration of routine activities and self-control theories:



**QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS,  
COMMENTS?**

**THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE REST OF  
THE CONFERENCE!**

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