

**Who Goes Where, Why, and Does What, for What Reason?
Disentangling the Influence of Settings and Selection on the Occurrence of Crime**

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People vary in their action tendencies (propensities) and environments vary in the incentives they create for particular actions. Acts of crime are an outcome of the interaction between people's action tendencies and their exposure to environmental incentives. An important but not very much investigated question in crime causation is the individual (self-selection) and social processes (social selection) that affect how kinds of people come to be introduced to kinds of environments. This may be referred to as the problem of selection.

In this paper we aim to advance our understanding of the role of selection in crime causation. We argue the need to clearly separate and not confuse the understanding of (a) why people take part in some settings rather than others and (b) the influence of settings on people's actions (incl. acts of crime). We argue that why people are exposed to certain environments and how these environments affect their actions (e.g., acts of crime) are two different questions. The former is a question that belongs to the explanation of the causes of the causes (why they end up in certain kinds of settings), and the latter to the explanation of the causes of a person's engagement in acts of crime (why they act as they do).