

# Ecological approaches

Locations of offences & offenders

# Chicago School

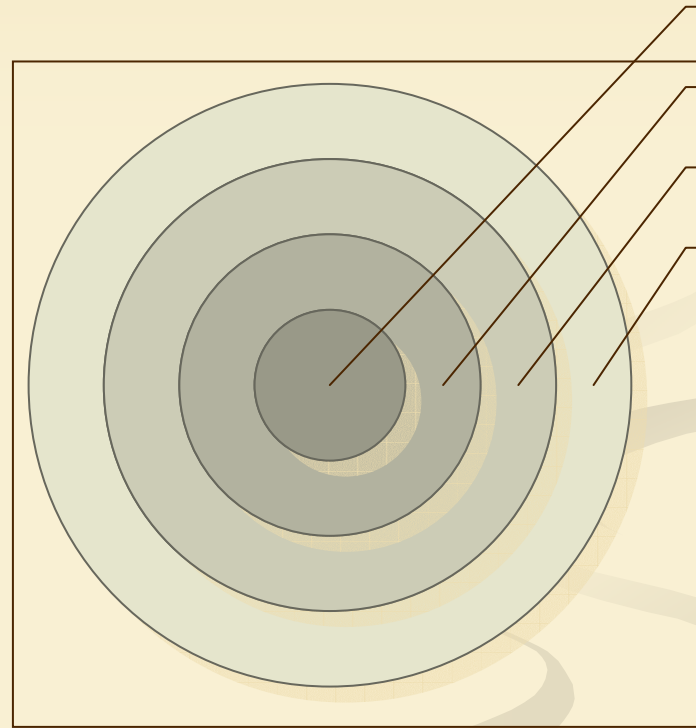
- Chicago early 20<sup>th</sup>C
  - Fast growing
  - Industrial
  - immigration
- New sociology department at university
- Key theorists:
  - Park
  - Burgess
  - Shaw & McKay

# Park (1922)

- City as an organism
- Tensions between individuals & society
  - Freedom v. social control
- Competition & conflict
- Areas develop diff. ways of life
- Need to understand meanings & culture

# Burgess (1925)

- Concentric Zones theory
  - Each zone distinctive



# Shaw & McKay (1931)

- Differing levels of offenders betw. Diff. zones
  - m/ment of population but static levels of offending
- Idea of **Social Disorganisation** w/in Zone of Transition
  - Lack of informal social control

# Shaw & McKay (1942)

## Cultural Transmission Theory

- m/ment away from original ideas
- Crime as cultural norm
  - Set of alternative values
- Transmission from one generation to next

# UK evidence

- May (1950s) study of Liverpool lads
  - Confirmed ideas
- Morris (1957) – no evidence of coherent alternative values
  - Council policies, creation of sink estates (“tipping”)
- Rex & Moore (1967) – Sparkbrook
  - Area not cause of crime
  - Less powerful lose out in housing struggle
- Baldwin & Bottoms (1976)
  - offenders concentrated in particular areas

# Criticisms


- Deterministic – why don't all commit crime
  - BUT May – all do commit crime, only some caught
- Ignores White collar crime
  - likely to be concentrated in other areas
- British cities don't form concentric zones

# Locations of Offences

Brantingham & Brantingham (1991)

## ***Cognitive maps***

- All hold cognitive maps of our surroundings
- Crime occurs where areas of awareness & opportunity overlap

- Clark (1995) – role of opportunity
    - Attractiveness of target
    - Accessibility of target
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# Routine Activities

- Cohen & Felson (1979)
- Coincidence of activities of offenders & victims
- Presence of little formal/informal control & surveillance
  - Time also an issue

(Link to privatisation of public space)

# Time

Hobbs & Lister (2000)

- “nocturnal economy”
  - Lack of surveillance
  - Private policing