

Portrait of a Vandal

Managing Perceived Risk

Netherland²⁰¹⁹

**Valerie Spicer – PhD
Sergeant – Vancouver Police Department**

Motivation for graffiti is vandalism

Graffiti suspects are organized

Graffiti heightens perceived risk

Oppositional Defiance Disorder

Persistent pattern

Temper tantrums

Bullying

Stealing

Lying

Vandalism

Diagnosis 2 to 14

One to 16% of youth

More common in boys

Conduct Disorder

Persistent pattern

Physical aggression

Cruelty animals - people

Stealing

Lying

Vandalism

Diagnosis 14 to 18

5% of youth

More common in boys

Antisocial Personality Disorder

Established character

Psychopathy

Abnormal lack of empathy

Lack in conscience

Violate social norms

Do so without guilt

No treatment

Three to 5% of population

Majority are men

Psychological Barriers

- Co-morbid diseases = higher risk
- Primary disease + one or more diseases
- ODD – Conduct Disorder
- ADHD
- FASD
- Addiction
- Dyslexia
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Professor Graham Martin Reports

“Those in the graffiti subculture are more likely to report serious or extreme drug use, perceived academic failure, physical and sexual abuse, suicide thoughts and behaviours, and are more likely to indicate higher family pathology, parental overprotection and criticism, depression, hopelessness, anxiety, external locus of control and risk taking behaviours, and lower parental care and self esteem.”

(Martin, 2003: 6)

All City: The Book about Taking Space

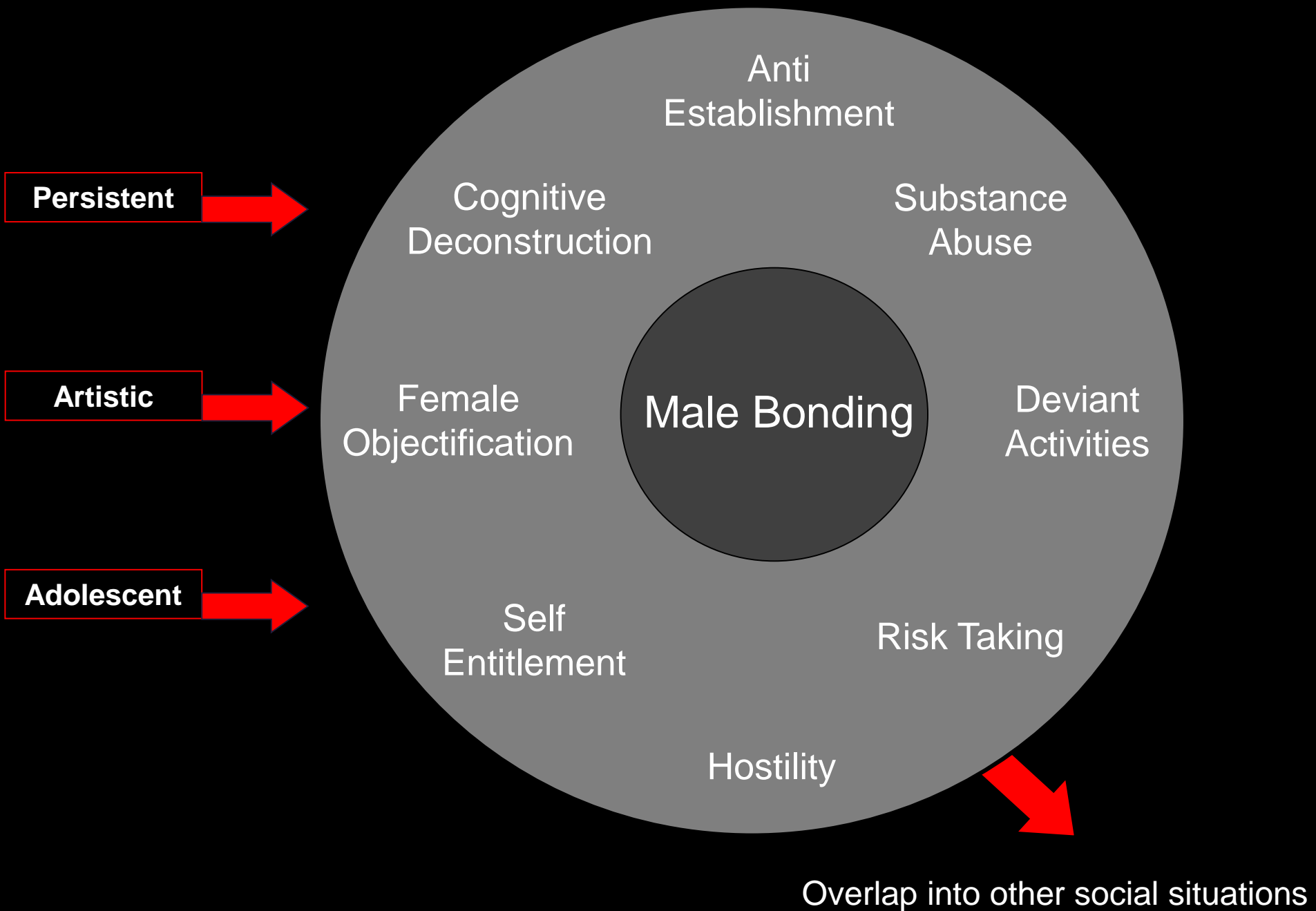
“If you get stopped by building security or anyone who isn’t a cop, run. Odds are they can’t chase you off the property they are paid to protect. Plus they’re probably fat. If you’re in a crowd and a civilian catches you in the act and grabs you, start yelling: “He grabbed my dick faggot faggot.” This may not be the PC thing to do, but it will embarrass the hero. When he loosens his grip, bust a Carl Lewis. Carrying mace or bear spray can also be handy in these situations.”

Paul 107, 2003: 14

Project funded by the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council

Academic Documentation

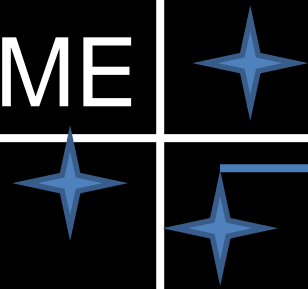
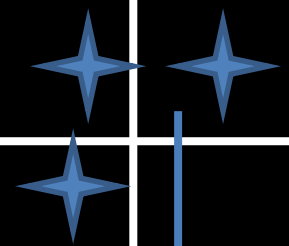
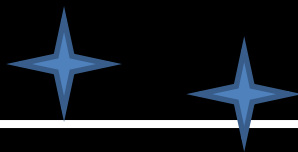
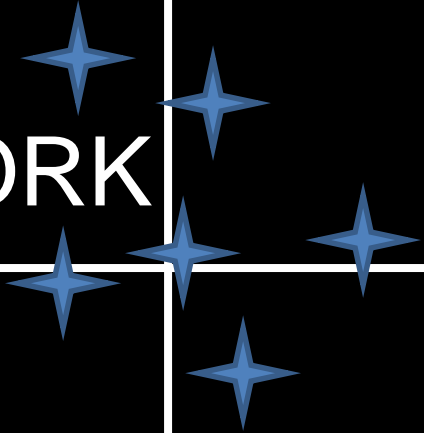
- 134 subjects
 - David Shannon (2001)
 - 25% of sample committed violent offences
 - PhD Thesis – University of Stockholm
- 536 subjects
 - Valerie Spicer (2005)
 - More graffiti = more violence
 - MA Thesis – SFU
- 2600 subjects
 - Graham Martin (2006)
 - 10% of youth aged 13 do graffiti
 - News in Science
- 162 subjects
 - Pani and Sagliaschi (2009)
 - Motivation = excitatory and compulsive feelings
 - Psychological Reports
- 702 subjects
 - Taylor – Marais – Cottman (2012)
 - Juveniles were likely to also commit burglary
 - Adults more violent and drug-related crimes



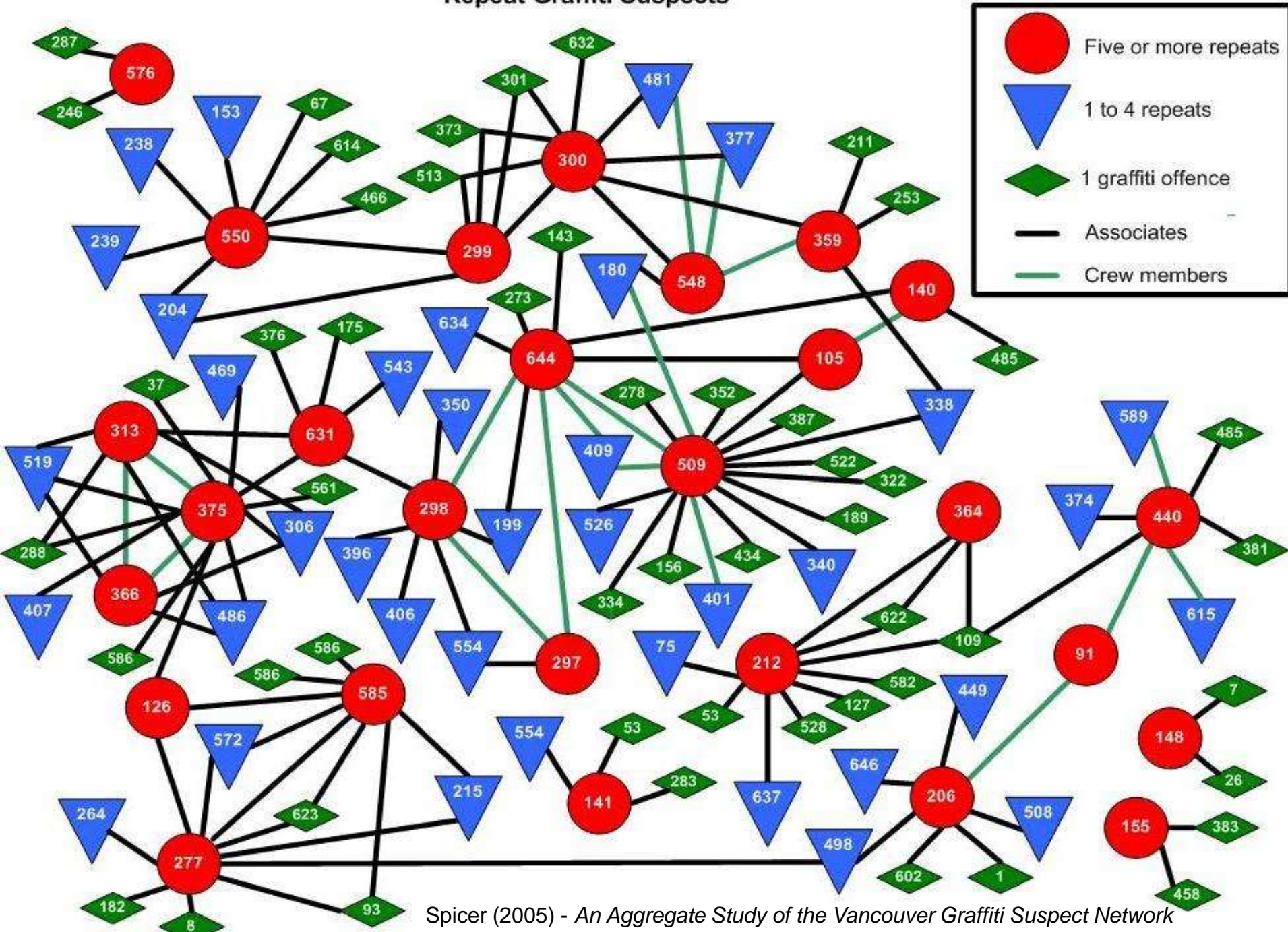
WORK

PLAY

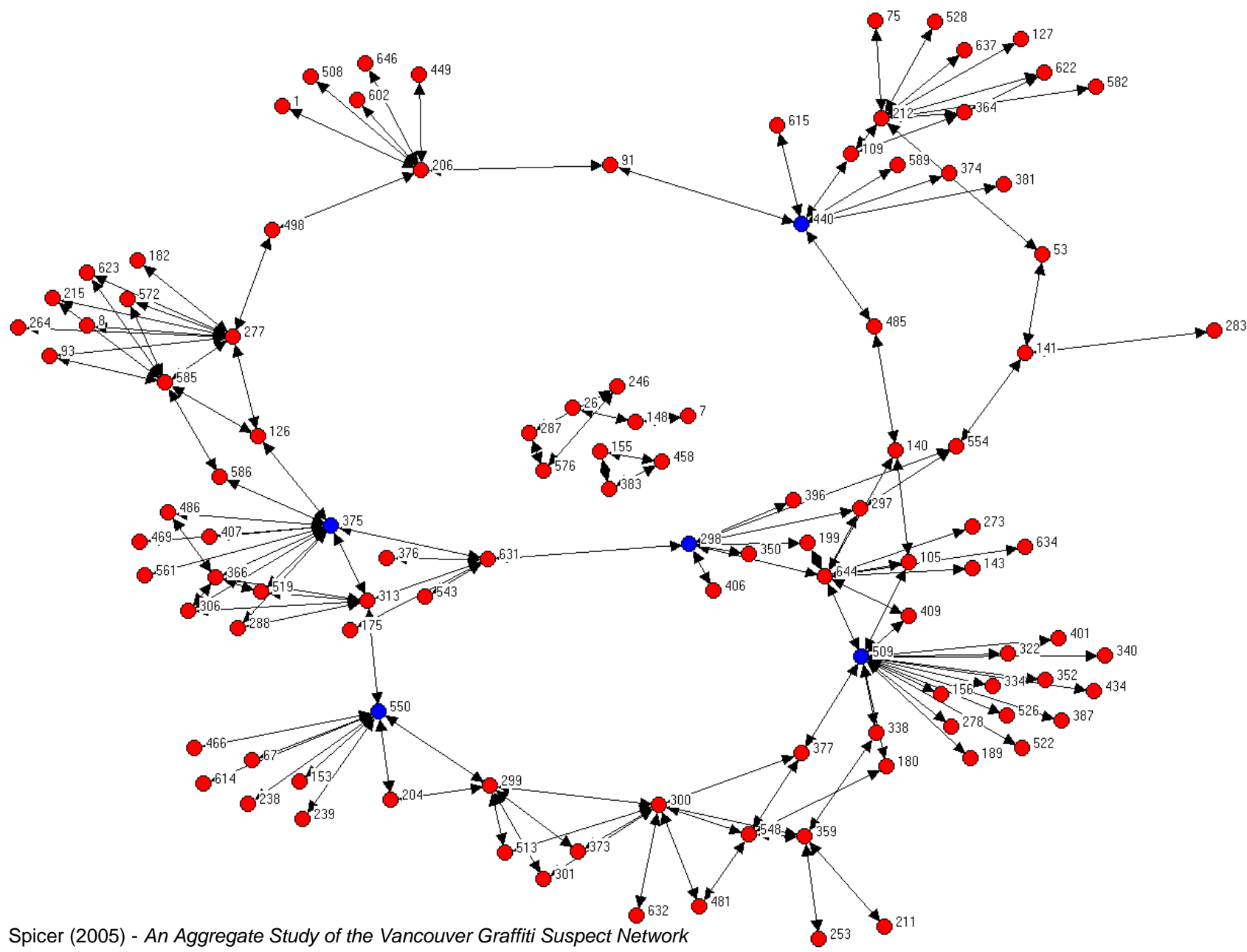
HOME



Repeat Graffiti Suspects



Spicer (2005) - An Aggregate Study of the Vancouver Graffiti Suspect Network



Ties Nodes

ID

- 300
- 301
- 306
- 313
- 322
- 334
- 338
- 340
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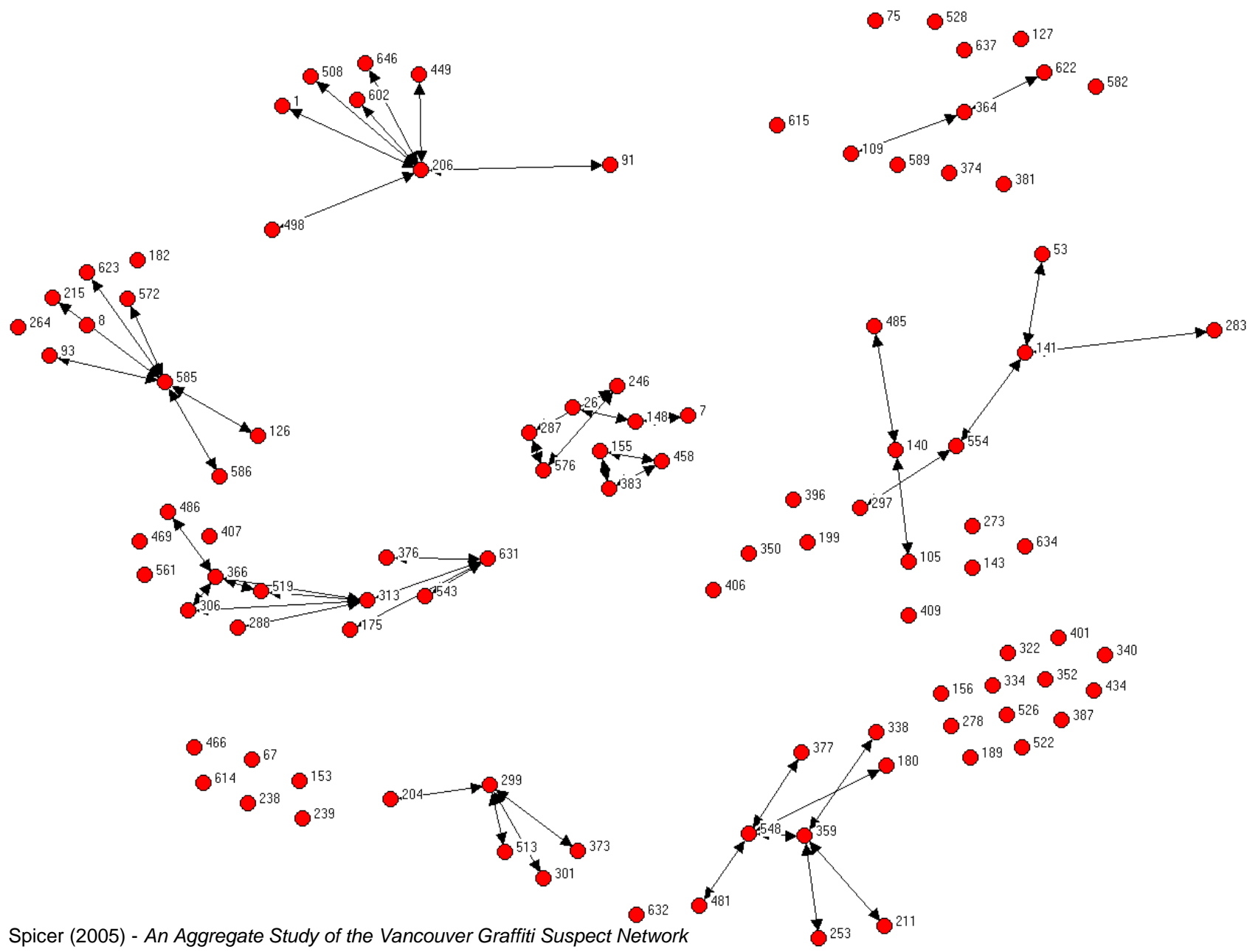
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New And Or

Color Size

Shape

Spicer (2005) - An Aggregate Study of the Vancouver Graffiti Suspect Network



Ties Nodes

ID

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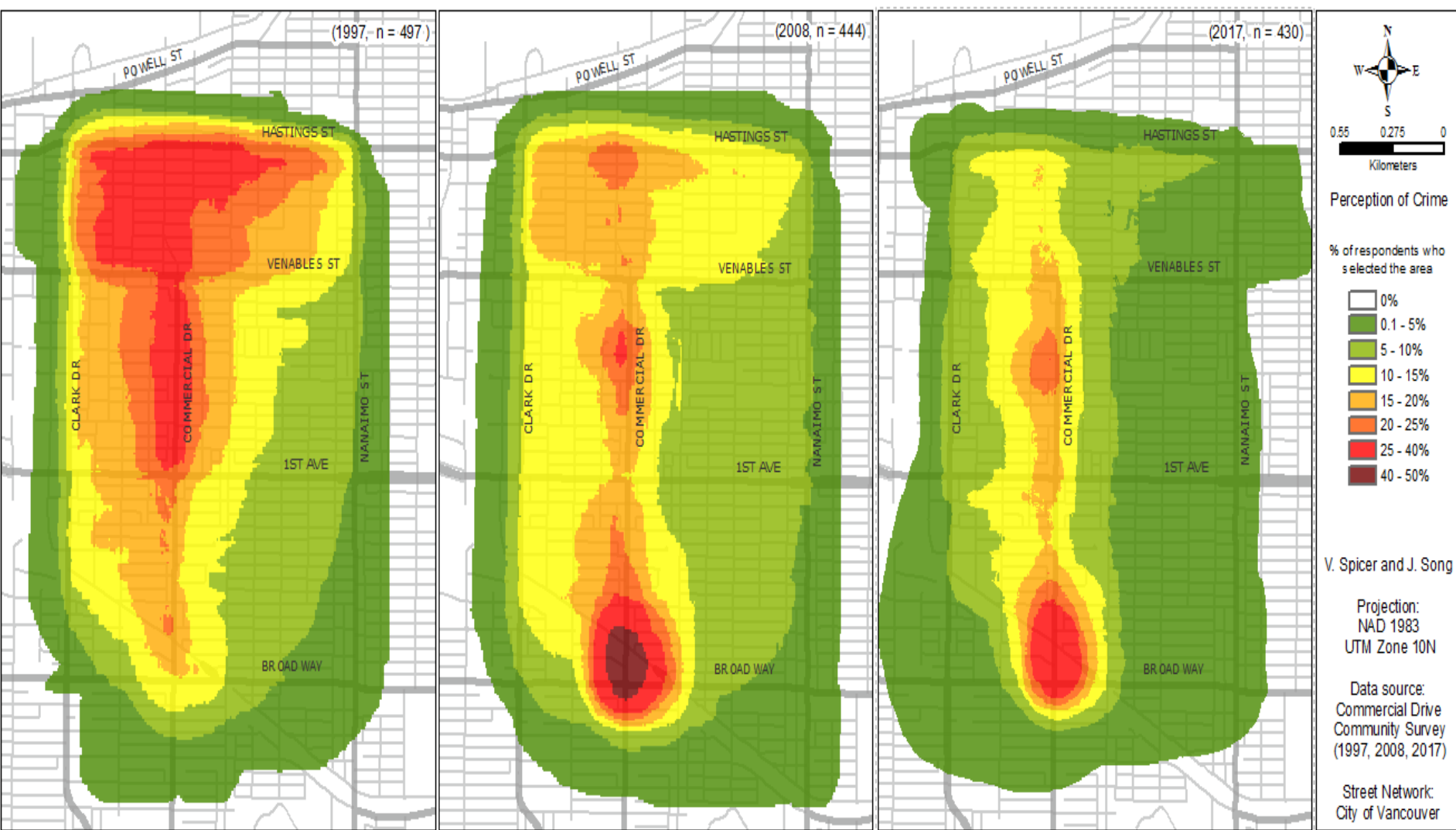
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New And Or

Color Size

Shape

Spicer (2005) - An Aggregate Study of the Vancouver Graffiti Suspect Network



<https://www.gwcpc.ca/20-year-community-survey>

Survey Results

Question 2: Graffiti on Private Property 2017-2007-1997

Please rank the following questions 1 being completely unacceptable and 5 being completely acceptable.		1&2	3	4&5	Yes	No
2.	Do you think graffiti on private property is (2017):	78%	15%	7%	82%	18%
2.	Do you think graffiti on private property is (2007):	73%	16%	11%	90%	10%
2.	Do you think graffiti on private property is (1997):	69%	17%	14%	89%	11%

Question 3: Graffiti on Public Property 2017-2007-1997

Please rank the following questions 1 being completely unacceptable and 5 being completely acceptable.		1&2	3	4&5	Yes	No
3.	Do you think graffiti on public property is (2017):	70%	18%	12%	89%	11%
3.	Do you think graffiti on public property is (2007):	68%	16%	16%	93%	7%
3.	Do you think graffiti on public property is (1997):	62%	15%	23%	94%	6%

<https://www.gwcpc.ca/20-year-community-survey>

Routine Activities Theory

The Routine Activity Theory suggests the minimal elements for a criminal event to occur are a motivated offender, a suitable target and a non-capable guardian, but the inclusion of these elements does not mean a crime will always occur.

offender + target – capable guardian = crime

Cohen & Felson (1979)

TIME

PLACE

offender + victim – capable guardian = fear of crime

Spicer (2012) - *The Geometry of Fear*

Rational Choice Theory

The Rational Choice Theory assumes that individuals are rational and a decision-making process occurs prior to the commission of an offence. When individuals find themselves in a position to commit a crime, they will weigh the situation, considering potential risk and benefits resulting from the act.

low risk + high benefit = crime

Cornish & Clarke (1986)

high risk + high benefit = fear of crime

Spicer (2012) - *The Geometry of Fear*

Geometry of Crime

Offender movement patterns should not be assumed to differ considerably from the movement of the non-criminal population. At the aggregate level, crime will be concentrated in locations where there is a convergence of environmental factors that relate to the general movement of offenders with the availability of suitable targets.

activity space + awareness space = crime

Brantingham & Brantingham (1981) - *The Geometry of Crime*

PREDICTION

PREVENTION

activity space + awareness space = fear of crime

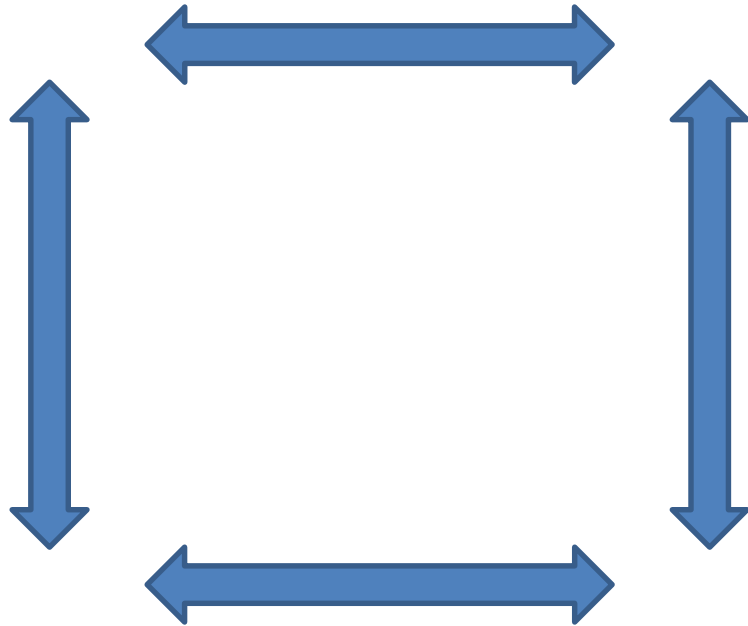
Spicer (2012) - *The Geometry of Fear*

Nodes – Paths – Edges

Brantingham & Brantingham (1993) – *Nodes – Paths – Edges*

INTERSECTIONS

COMMERCIAL STRIPS



TRANSIT HUBS

SCHOOLS

Crime Pattern Theory

The offender's awareness space is a geographical area surrounding travel paths that go between home, work or entertainment locations. As offenders travel from place to place, they receive cues from the environment and identify suitable targets. Offenders build an offending template that will stabilize and becomes fixed.

offending templates

Brantingham & Brantingham (1984) – *Patterns of Crime*

CUES

ROUTINES

PLACES

safety templates

Spicer (2012) - *The Geometry of Fear*

FEAR

PERCEIVED RISK

CONSTRAINT BEHAVIOUR

AVOIDANCE

CRIME

Quality of life

Crime

- Public use of drugs
- Drug dealing
- Aggressive panhandling

**F
E
A
R**

Disorder

- Solicitation
- Graffiti
- Groups of youth loitering
- Unkempt properties
- Squeegee people

**O
F**

Incivility

- Noisy neighbours
- Cycling on sidewalks
- Unleashed dogs
- Litter

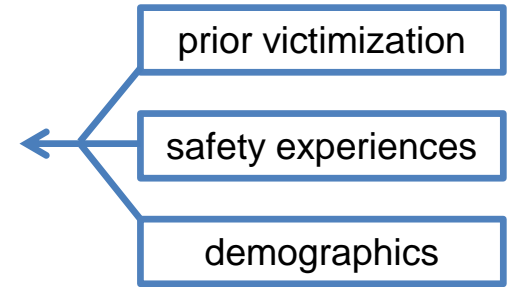
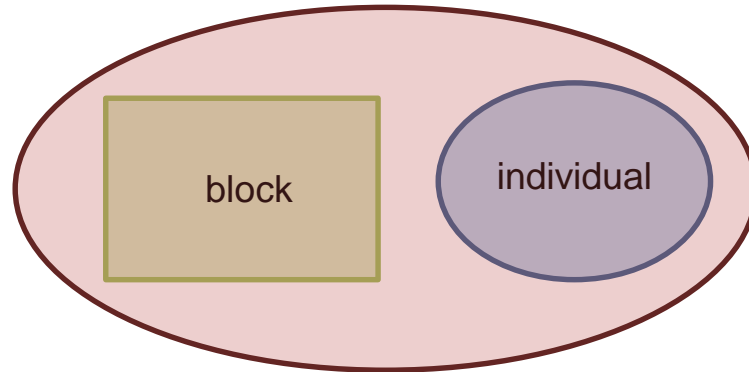
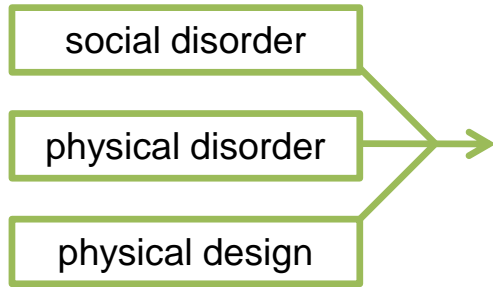
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- Rude strangers
- Traffic congestion

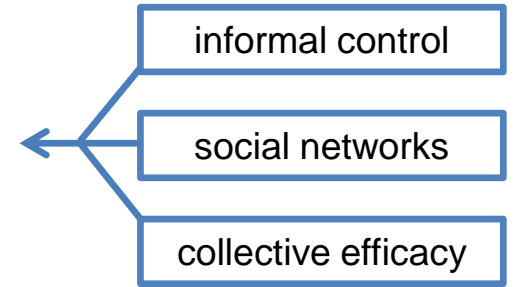
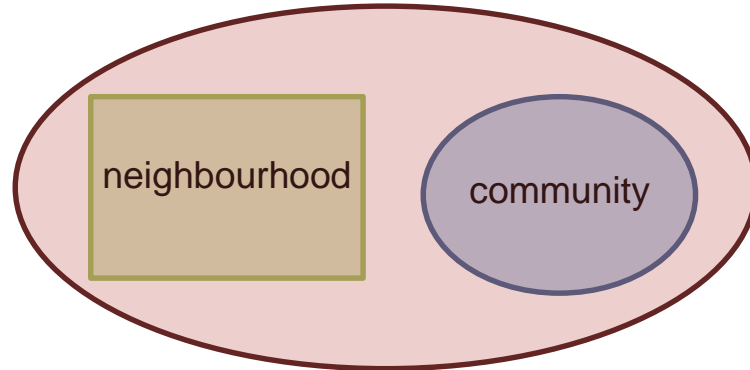
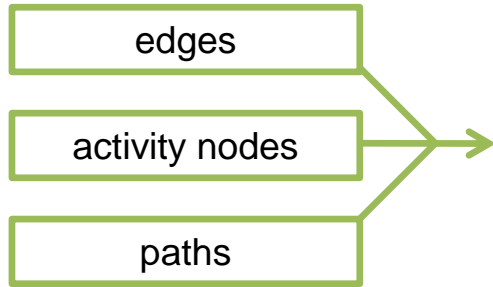
Murals

Outdoor cafe seating

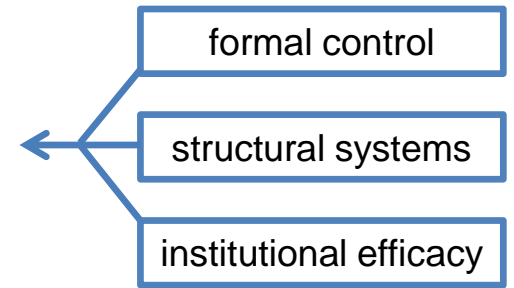
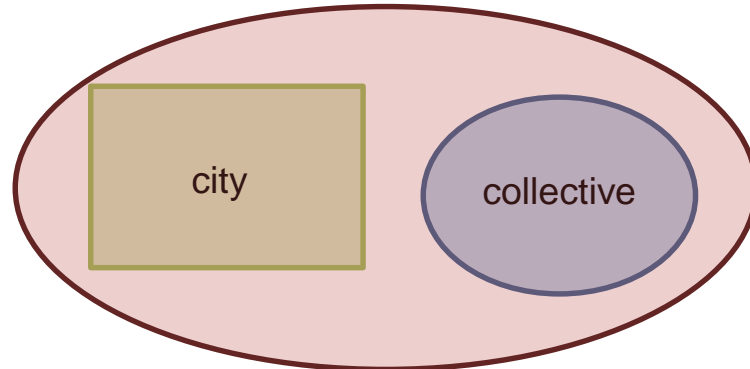
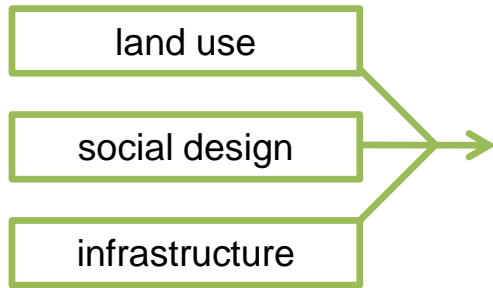
MICRO

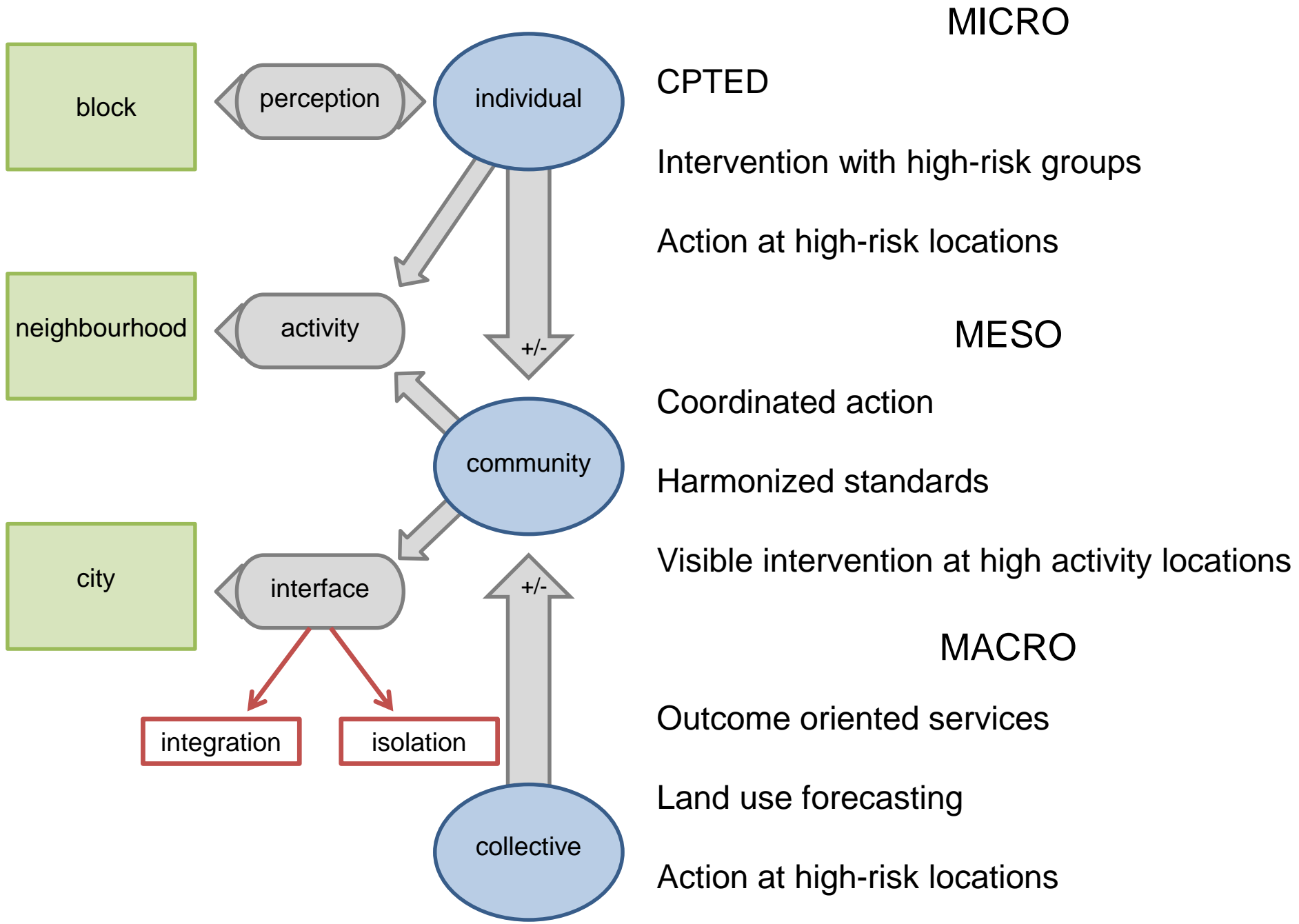


MESO



MACRO





MICRO

CPTED

Intervention with high-risk groups

Action at high-risk locations

MESO

Coordinated action

Harmonized standards

Visible intervention at high activity locations

MACRO

Outcome oriented services

Land use forecasting

Action at high-risk locations

Portrait of a Vandal:

Managing Perceived Risk

An Aggregate Study of the Vancouver Graffiti Suspect Network

www.sfu.ca

Enter: Spicer, Valerie in the author field

The Geometry of Fear:

An Environmental Perspective on Fear and the Perception of Crime

www.sfu.ca

Enter: Spicer, Valerie in the author field

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