



CONTENTS

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY
IN SOUTH AFRICA:
A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE**

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SUMMARY

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The opinions expressed in this thesis and the conclusions reached, are primarily those of the researcher.



SUMMARY

TITLE OF THESIS: Residential burglary in South Africa:
a geographical perspective

by

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DEPARTMENT: Geography, Geoinformatics and Meteorology

DEGREE: D.Phil.

Residential burglary is a serious problem in South Africa, taking into account its high occurrence rate and the financial and psychological impact it has on peoples' lives.

The aim of this study was to investigate residential burglary in a micro-environment in order to identify, describe and explain the key elements and factors that play a role in the burglary process, and to formulate guidelines that could be followed to develop prevention measures and initiatives to curb residential burglary.

The objectives of this study centred primarily around the construction of a conceptual framework, based on a theoretical explanation of residential burglary, and to apply the conceptual framework in two case study areas in the Greater Pretoria metropolitan area. From a theoretical perspective, the study focussed on environmental criminology, known in Geography as the 'geography of crime'.

The realist approach was adopted, instead of a positivistic approach, often associated with geographical studies. The research design and methodology were based on qualitative research techniques and the case-study approach. Research data were gathered through primary (semi-structured interviews) and secondary (statistics and documents) sources. The analysis strategy could be described as "pattern-matching logic", where the initial conceptual framework served as a model against which the codified data could be evaluated.



In the research phase the conceptual framework was tested and validated through the research findings. The research findings confirmed the usefulness of the conceptual framework in that it provided an integrated understanding of the burglary process, and gave a structured and systematic description of the components and elements involved in the burglary process.

The realisation of the research objectives culminated in the final construction of an integrated burglary model, a revised and enriched version of the conceptual framework. The value of this model is vested in its application to conceptualise the burglary process, to identify and analyse the risk factors that determine the vulnerability of a specific target, and to suggest appropriate burglary prevention measures and initiatives.

Based on the findings of the research, an integrated framework for the prevention of residential burglary was developed. By 'integrated' is meant that the prevention initiatives should focus on the main elements of the burglary process, namely, the burglar, the neighbourhood environment, the residents and the situational conditions, and that the implementation of prevention initiatives at the macro, meso and micro levels should complement one another.

This study advocates an integrated approach to investigate residential burglary and to implement prevention measures that combine the efforts of individual households with those of the local communities, law enforcement and development agencies.

Key terms: residential burglary, environmental criminology, geography of crime, burglary patterns, environmental design, residential burglary prevention, crime prevention, situational crime prevention, community policing, enclosed neighbourhoods.



OPSOMMING

TITEL VAN PROEFSKRIF:	Residensiële inbraak in Suid-Afrika: 'n geografiese perspektief deur George Sebastiaan van Zyl
PROMOTOR:	Prof. G.D.H. Wilson
MEDE-PROMOTOR:	Prof. R. Pretorius
DEPARTEMENT:	Geografie, Geoinformatika en Meteorologie
GRAAD:	D.Phil.

Residensiële inbraak is 'n ernstige probleem in Suid-Afrika, gesien in die lig van die voorkoms van misdaad en die finansiële en sielkundige impak daarvan op die lewens van mense.

Die doel van hierdie studie is om ondersoek in te stel na residensiële inbraak in 'n mikro-omgewing deur die sleutelemente en -faktore wat verband hou met inbraak te identifiseer, te beskryf en te verklaar, en om riglyne te formuleer wat gevolg kan word in die ontwikkeling van inbraakvoorkomingsmaatreëls en -inisiatiewe.

Die doelwitte van die studie is hoofsaaklik afgestem op die ontwikkeling van 'n konseptuele raamwerk, gebaseer op 'n teoretiese verklaring van residensiële inbraak en die toepassing van die raamwerk in twee gevallestudie-gebiede in die Groter Pretoria metropolitaanse gebied. Die teoretiese perspektiewe is ontleen aan omgewingskriminologie en wat in Geografie as die 'geografie van misdaad' bekend staan.

Die realisme ("realist") benadering is in hierdie studie gevolg, in plaas van die meer positivistiese benadering wat meestal in geografiese studies gebruik word. Die navorsingsontwerp en metodologie is gebaseer op kwalitatiewe navorsingstegnieke en die gevallestudie-benadering. Navorsingsdata is ingesamel deur gebruik te maak van primêre (semi-gestruktureerde onderhoude) en sekondêre (statistieke en dokumente)



inligtingsbronne. Die metode van analise wat gevolg is, is gebaseer op die 'passing van patrone' ("pattern-matching logic"), deurdat die konseptuele raamwerk gedien het as 'n model aan die hand waarvan die gekodifiseerde data geëvalueer kon word.

Die konseptuele raamwerk is getoets en gevalideer deur die navorsingsbevindinge. Die bevindinge het bevestig dat die konseptuele raamwerk 'n geïntegreerde teoretiese verklaring vir die inbraakverskynsel bied en dat dit 'n gestruktureerde en sistematiese beskrywing gee van die komponente en elemente betrokke in die inbraakverskynsel.

In die finale instansie kon 'n geïntegreerde inbraakmodel gekonstrueer word, wat 'n hersiene en verrykte weergawe van die konseptuele raamwerk is. Die waarde van die model lê daarin dat dit aangewend kan word om die inbraakproses te konseptualiseer, om die risikofaktore wat die kwesbaarheid van 'n spesifieke teiken weerspieël, te identifiseer en te analiseer, en om toepaslike voorkomingsmaatreëls en -inisiatiewe aan die hand te doen.

Gebaseer op die navorsingsbevindinge kon 'n geïntegreerde inbraakvoorkomingsraamwerk ontwikkel word. Met 'geïntegreerd' word bedoel dat voorkomingsmaatreëls afgestem behoort te wees op die hoofelemente van die inbraakproses, naamlik die inbreker, die omgewing, die inwoners en die omstandighede, en dat die implementering van voorkomingsmaatreëls en -inisiatiewe op die makro-, meso- en mikro-vlakke mekaar behoort aan te vul.

Na aanleiding van hierdie studie kan die standpunt gehuldig word dat 'n geïntegreerde benadering om inbrake te ondersoek en te voorkom wat die pogings van individuele huishoudings kombineer met dié van plaaslike gemeenskappe, die polisie en ontwikkelings-agentskappe, die beste resultate sal lewer.

Sleutel terme: *residensiële inbraak, omgewingskriminalologie, geografie van misdaad, inbraakpatrone, omgewingsontwerp, voorkoming van residensiële inbraak, misdaadvoorkoming, situasionele misdaadvoorkoming, gemeenskapspolisiëring, geslote woonbuurtes.*