



CRIME SCRIPTS FOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

How Crime Scripts Fits to Identify the Stages of Crime

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Cornish (1994) proposed the concept of crime script, which is generally viewed as being a special type of schema, known as an event schema, since it organizes our knowledge about how to understand and enact commonplace behavioral processes or routines. Crime scripts are innovative but hitherto neglected way to gain a more detailed understanding of complex forms of crime and design prevention measures (Levi and Maguire, 2004). There are two important requirements for situational crime prevention including the need to be crime-specific and a familiarity with the procedural aspects – the detail of crime commission in relation to specific crimes. Crime scripts demonstrate the complete sequence of actions and decisions before, during, and after a crime, they extend analysis to all stages of crime commission, giving a fuller range of possible intervention points and able to develop the most effective strategies to counter the stages of the crime. Script analysis is designed to assist with understanding the modus operandi by laying out the sequential steps in a completion of a crime (Moreto and Clarke, 2013).

Criminologist have increasingly recognized that there are potential benefits from combining research on organized crime – and especially on trafficking activities – with environmental criminology and situational crime prevention approaches. For example, demonstrated the possibilities offered by a crime script approach for understanding what kind of criminal opportunities the internet offers for conducting wildlife trafficking. Script analysis could offer an updated description of a cutting-edge issue in criminal research and examines the possibilities offered by the methodological approach for the systematic investigation of complex criminal activities (Lavorgna, 2014a). Script analysis has been used as a conceptual framework to identify the structure of criminal opportunities that the Internet supplies for wildlife trafficking Lavorgna (2014b).

Schenider (2012) details different crime scripts for various species and suggest various applications of situational crime prevention techniques. She suggested the following actors to be involved in the illegal wildlife trafficking: (1) poacher (2) local courier, (3) national facilitator, (4) national exporter, and (5) receiver in the consumer country (Miliken & Shaw, 2012). According to Ayling (2003), the scripts for illegal wildlife trafficking will vary depending on the product involved and the state of the market, a step may be missing or may meld with another. For example, the advent of Internet technology could result in cutting out the middleman in illicit transnational transactions relating to wildlife (Ayling, 2013).

The multitude of the specific forms of crimes sparked the interest of a few criminologists in undertaking script analysis of wildlife crimes, showed severe difficulties in doing this. Moreto and Clarke (2013) underlined some challenges to developing master scripts of Transnational Illegal Market in Endangered Species (TIMES) because it comprises dozen or hundreds of different crimes. TIMES does not only deal with the different species involved, but also that the transnational illegal market will be very different for certain species that are illegally traded across international borders. It is also partly because these species or species' parts are put to a great variety of uses. The same species in the region might attract different groups of poachers, which have different resources or equipment (Moreto & Clarke, 2013). Moreto and Clarke (2013) stated that a master script for a particular form of the TIMES could be developed through desk research, through discussions with various authorities, and "thinking thief" by putting oneself in the shoes of the offenders and viewing the task from their perspective. Formal investigation could sometimes be justified. Rapid assessment could be done by undertaking a script analysis of published studies; analyzing the police and prosecution case papers of known crimes; interviewing experts and offenders about script elements and linkages; studying the report of undercover operations; interviewing those involved in the legal analogues of the TIMES to understand the means by which legal businesses is transacted and the loopholes available to offender. Lavorgna's study on wildlife trafficking on the Internet (2014b) clearly shows the possibilities offered by a crime script approach for understanding what kind of criminal opportunities the Internet offers for conducting wildlife trafficking.

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