



Department of Criminology Research Series

Presenter:

**Thomas D. Stucky, Ph.D.**

School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University Purdue University- Indianapolis

**“Land Use, Taverns, and Bars, Oh My!**

**Current State of Theory and Research on the  
Physical Environment in Small Area Crime Studies”**

**Abstract:** There has been substantial recent attention to sub-city level units of analysis in crime research, such as street segments, hot spots, and census-based units such as blocks, block groups, and census tracts. The range of crime predictor variables included in this research has been quite variable. Given the volume of research in this area, we argue that developing a set of “usual suspect” predictors makes sense and will help guide both researchers and practitioners, who otherwise have to rely on a fairly ad hoc, “what data do we have hand” approach. Phase one of the project is to survey the literature to catalog the indicators used in small area studies and will be discussed today. Phase two, which is just getting under way, will examine these indicators as fully as possible using data for a single city, followed by replication across cities. Different units of analysis will also be considered, where possible. The long term goal is to identify a comprehensive set of predictors, which can serve as a resource for theory and research in small area crime studies.

Friday, April 7 - 10:00  
Conference Room 351

Faculty, Staff and Students are Invited

