

Presentation title:

Testing the influence of household profile on burglar alarm effectiveness

Speakers: Danielle Robinson and Andromachi Tseloni (Nottingham Trent University, UK)

Several studies have examined the effectiveness of a range of security devices in preventing domestic burglary. Counterintuitively, research in England and Wales has consistently found that burglar alarms have become associated with an increased risk of domestic burglary victimisation (Tseloni et al., 2017). Moreover, adding alarms to homes with no or other security devices reduces the overall protection offered by most security combinations since about 2000 (Tilley et al., 2015). This presentation builds upon this body of work. After expanding the Tilley et al. (2015) study to more recent years (from 2012 to 2019) to identify security combinations to which alarms increase the overall protection conferred to homes (and reduce their burglary risk), it explores the burglary risk and characteristics of households with and without visible burglar alarms. Most population groups categorised, for example, by ethnicity, education level, accommodation type and household composition, have higher burglary risk with a visible alarm than without one. These insights are taken from bivariate (odds ratios and their statistical significance) analyses of five sweeps of the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2015/16-2019/20). Collectively, the findings provide a comprehensive account of who is most likely to have a visible burglar alarm and, further, gain the expected benefit of reduced burglary risk. These findings provide those with a responsibility to reduce crime with the knowledge to make informed choices about security uptake.