Introduction

This special issue of *Security Journal* is a collection of papers presented at the 11th International Symposium on Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis (ECCA), held at the University of Cincinnati from 19th to 21st June 2003. The papers, all of which are of theoretical and practical interest to those in the security field, cover different topics across the disciplines of environmental criminology and crime analysis.

The symposium was attended by 70 leading scholars from a number of countries—Australia, Britain, Canada, France, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and South Africa—as well as a contingent from the United States. This truly international meeting embodied the flavor of many aspects of interest in security issues: a dedicated group of scholars and practitioners with a particular focus on the overarching concern of preventing crime via practical approaches.

The ECCA symposium would not have been possible without support and sponsorship from a number of sources. Reflecting the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, support was received from four sources at the University of Cincinnati: the Division of Criminal Justice in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Geography. We thank Professor Mike Scott, Director of the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (at www.popcenter.org), the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/>), and Professor Gloria Laycock, Director of the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College London (at <http://www.jdi.ucl.ac.uk>). For advice and encouragement during the organization of the event we thank Professor Ron Clarke of Rutgers University. The preparation and running of the symposium would not have been as smooth without the dedicated contributions from University of Cincinnati graduate students Tamara Madensen, Emily Gillespie, Darwin Morgan and Wade Weber.

Among the less formal aspects of the ECCA symposium, we would be remiss if we did not mention an event of unique criminological significance. One of the evening dinners was a riverboat cruise on the Ohio River (on which Cincinnati is built). At this event, it was our pleasure to witness an informal presentation, 'History of Sex and Violence in Cincinnati', by two of the city's famous criminological sons, Marcus and Richard Felson. Though their presentation will not be reprinted in this issue and is unlikely to be available in the future, it was an event that few who were present will ever forget. In particular, we thank them for the humorous insight into the development of routine activity theory as embodied in their childhood shenanigans in local places of interest.

In total, close to 30 formal papers were presented over the two days of the ECCA symposium. The five selected for publication here do not have a particular theme or focus; they make original empirical and theoretical contributions relating to fear and security, computer simulation, repeat victimization, computerized crime-mapping, and street drug markets. Their diversity illustrates the breadth and depth of the contributions that academic crime research can make to the field of security issues.

We hope you enjoy these articles as much as we enjoyed hosting our 'partners in crime' during the ECCA conference.

Graham Farrell, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University
Bonnie S. Fisher, Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati
Lin Liu, Department of Geography, University of Cincinnati
John Eck, Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati