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Preventing crime and perceived unsafety can promote equality as some places and some people are victimized more often than others. Achieving effective prevention, however, initially requires accurate assessments and forecasts of problematic areas, hotspots of crime and/or fear of crime. Looking at the state of research today, to properly forecast unsafety, one should use many different types of crime and fear generators, at different levels of explanation. But extensive data collection can be both time-consuming and costly. Therefore, it is crucial to determine if methods requiring more data collection yield better forecasts of unsafety compared to merely counting past crimes. This dissertation aimed to explore the relationship between historical crime data, environmental factors, and neighborhood characteristics in forecasting unsafety. The findings highlight that for micro-place crime forecasting, rather simple things can get you quite far. Counting past crimes yields similar accuracy as more complex methods with more data collection. However, when forecasting overall neighborhood-level safety, considering collective efficacy, not just crime, is essential. The research also suggests that residential burglary and avoidant behavior due to fear of crime should be analyzed with other variables, than the ones examined in the current dissertation, such as perhaps recent exposure to crime and individual and micro-place level fear generators.

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Doctoral Dissertation

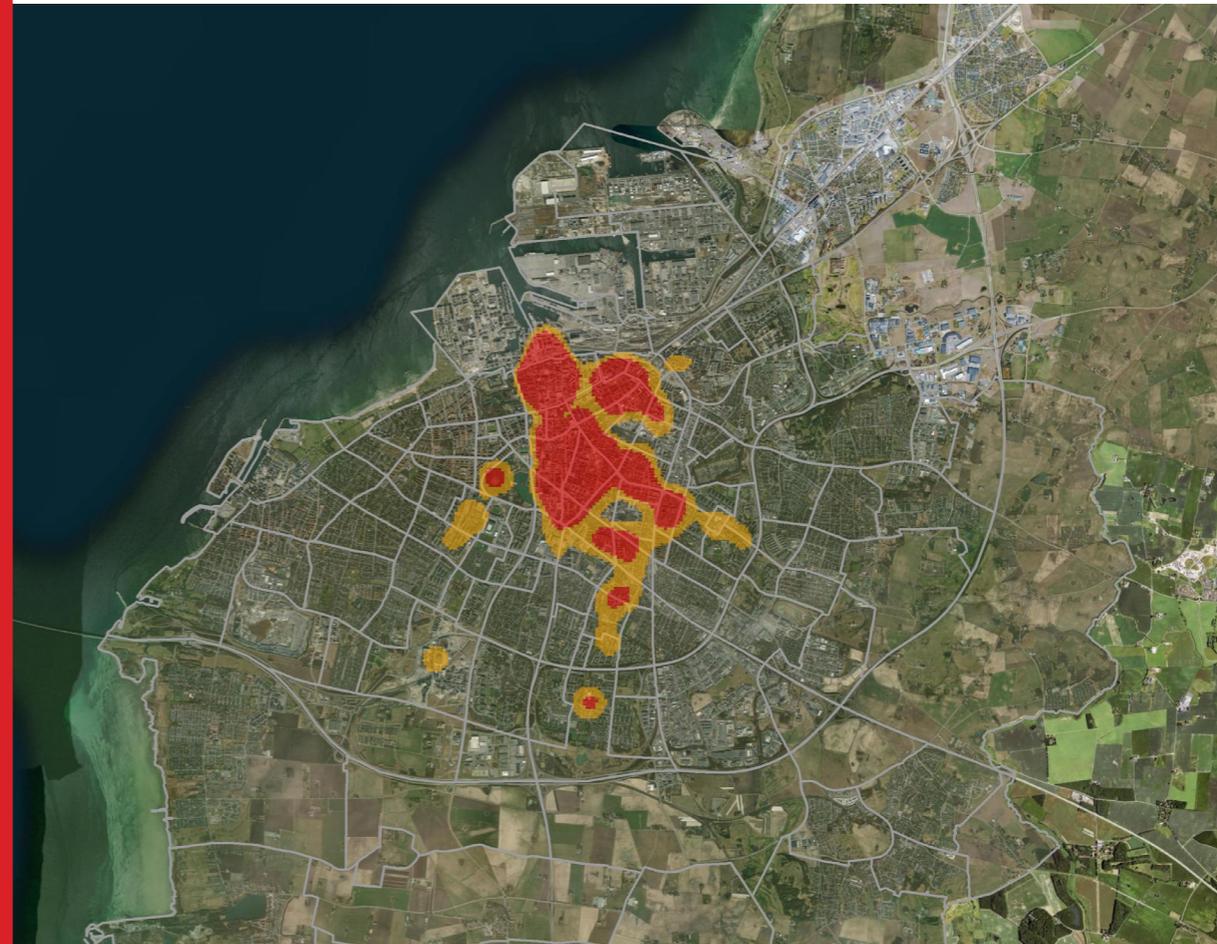
# Forecast: Crime with a chance of feeling unsafe

## Examining unsafety (crime and fear of crime) within the context of the surrounding environment

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