



CLINTON J. ANDREWS

Social Implications of Security and Crime Prevention

Maslow places safety near the top of his hierarchy of human needs, just below physiological demands for air, food, and water. We all seek a level of security that brings some stability to a chaotic world. Events of recent years have only increased the salience of security and the related topic of crime prevention. Yet these are subjects that cry out for balance: we want enough security without sacrificing individual liberties, enough crime prevention without creating a police state. Finding a satisfactory balance requires successful communication among professionals about what strategies really work, as well as open political debate about which cherished values need better protection.

This Special Issue of IEEE Technology and Society Magazine is devoted to the social implications of security and crime prevention. The papers grew out of the 2003 International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS'03), held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and jointly hosted by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT), the International Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Association, and the Dutch government. The papers have evolved substantially during the editorial process, and this Special Issue showcases a remarkably strong and diverse set of offerings tied to the security and crime prevention theme. Authors' backgrounds span

criminology, planning, architecture, engineering, and computer science.

The articles address a range of topics including digital identity, crime proofing of products, security in the built environment, and the creation of moral buffers in modern warfare. The authors have made determined efforts to avoid the trap of determinism — simplifying

reality by explaining results as entirely due to a single, influential factor — and instead they offer nuanced views of their topics. But I hope you will contact us if you disagree with their views.

The problems of balancing between values of security and liberty, efficiency and fairness, collective and individual interests, arise repeatedly in these arti-

cles. In these polarized times, an emphasis on balance might seem inappropriate. I suggest that it is crucial: we need to find better ways to transform spirited public debate into reasoned and reasonable action.

In this issue we introduce two innovations. First, we bundle an interview with architect John Habraken together with four short commentaries inspired by his comments. This highlights points of controversy and agreement in a dramatic fashion. Second, we have created an online discussion forum on the theme of this Special Issue. We hope to make your involvement in the SSIT community much more interactive. To participate, go to <https://www.ieeecommunities.org/ssit>. Please let the editors know how you like these new features.

In these polarized times, an emphasis on balance is crucial.

Clinton J. Andrews, Guest Editor of this Special Issue, and Past-President of IEEE-SSIT, is Associate Professor and Director of the Program in Urban Planning & Policy Development, E.J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Ave. Suite #302, New Brunswick, NJ 08901; email: c.j.andrews@ieee.org.