

Prof. David Weisburd -Short Bio - June 2024

David Weisburd is Walter E. Meyer Professor Emeritus of Law and Criminal Justice in the Institute of Criminology of the Hebrew University Law Faculty, and Distinguished Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University. He received his B.A. from Brandeis University, and his MA MPHL and PhD from Yale University. His main field of interest is criminology. He is particularly noted for his contributions to study of crime at micro geographic units of analysis, policing, experimental methods, and white collar crime.

Professor Weisburd began to explore crime and place more than 30 years ago, and conducted with Lawrence Sherman, the first randomized field trial in hot spots policing. This trial overturned assumptions that the police could not prevent crime, and has been followed by scores of rigorous field trials showing that this approach is effective without leading to displacement. Providing empirical justification for hot spots policing, and other focused geographic efforts to prevent crime, Weisburd identified remarkable levels of crime concentration, and consistency of crime concentrations across cities, which he termed a law of crime concentration at places.

Professor Weisburd is an elected Fellow of the American Society of Criminology, and of the Academy of Experimental Criminology, and a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. He is the honorary president of the Israeli Society of Criminology, a member of the Steering Committee of the Campbell Crime and Justice Group, the Stockholm Prize Committee, and the Scientific Commission of the International Society of Criminology. He was the Chair of the US National Academy of Sciences Committee on Proactive Policing (2015-2017), and served as Chair of the Science Advisory Committee for the Police Commissioner of the Israeli National Police. (2016-2018).

Professor Weisburd is author or editor of more than thirty-five books and more than 250 scientific articles. He was the founding Editor of the Journal of Experimental Criminology and is now the Editor of Cambridge University Press' Elements in Criminology. He has received many awards for his contributions to criminology and crime prevention. These include the most prestigious international prize in this field, the Stockholm Prize in Criminology (2010), and the most important American awards in criminology: the Sutherland Award for "outstanding contributions to the discipline of criminology" (ASC, 2014) and the August Vollmer Award for contributions to the prevention of crime (ASC, 2017). In 2015 Weisburd received the the Israel Prize for Criminology and Social Work, and in 2022 he received the Rothschild Prize for Social Science.