Summary and Keywords

The most prominent law in geography is Tobler’s first law (TFL) of geography, which states that “everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.” No other law in geography has received more attention than TFL. It is important because many spatial statistical methods have been developed since its publication and, especially since the advent of geographic information system (GIS) and geospatial technology, have been conceptually based on it. These methods include global and local indicators of spatial autocorrelation (SA), spatial and spatial-temporal hotspots and cold spots, and spatial interpolation. All of these are highly relevant to spatial crime analysis, modeling, and mapping and will be discussed in the main part of this text.

Keywords: Tobler’s first law (TFL) of geography, spatial autocorrelation (SA), Moran’s I, Geary’s C, local indicator of spatial association (LISA), hotspot, kernel density estimation (KDE), geospatial privacy, geographical masking

Michael Leitner
Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University

Philip Glasner
Department of Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg

Ourania Kounadi
Department of Geoinformatics, University of Salzburg

Access to the complete content on Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology requires a subscription or purchase. Public users are able to search the site and view the abstracts and keywords for each book and chapter without a subscription. If you
are a student or academic complete our librarian recommendation form to recommend the Oxford Research Encyclopedias to your librarians for an institutional free trial.

Please subscribe or login to access full text content.

If you have purchased a print title that contains an access token, please see the token for information about how to register your code.

For questions on access or troubleshooting, please check our FAQs, and if you can't find the answer there, please contact us.