

# Analysis of Crime Patterns

Dr Kate Bowers

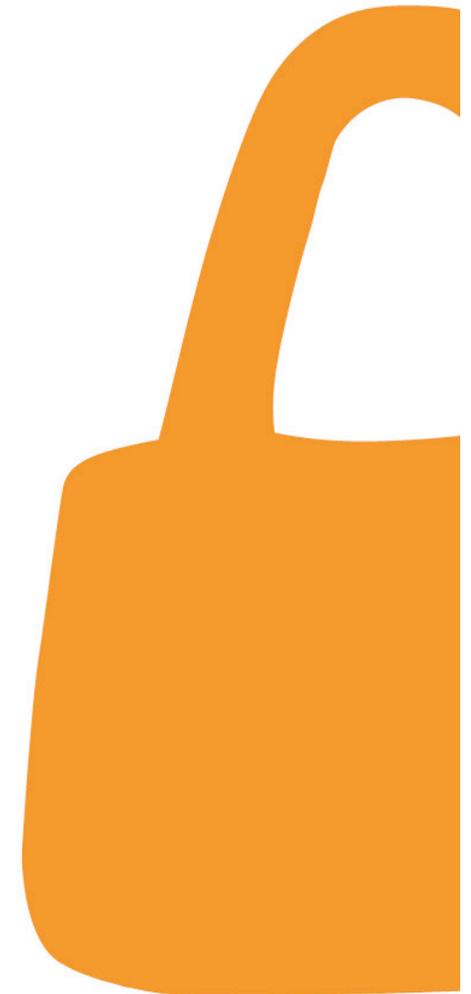
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Arts & Humanities  
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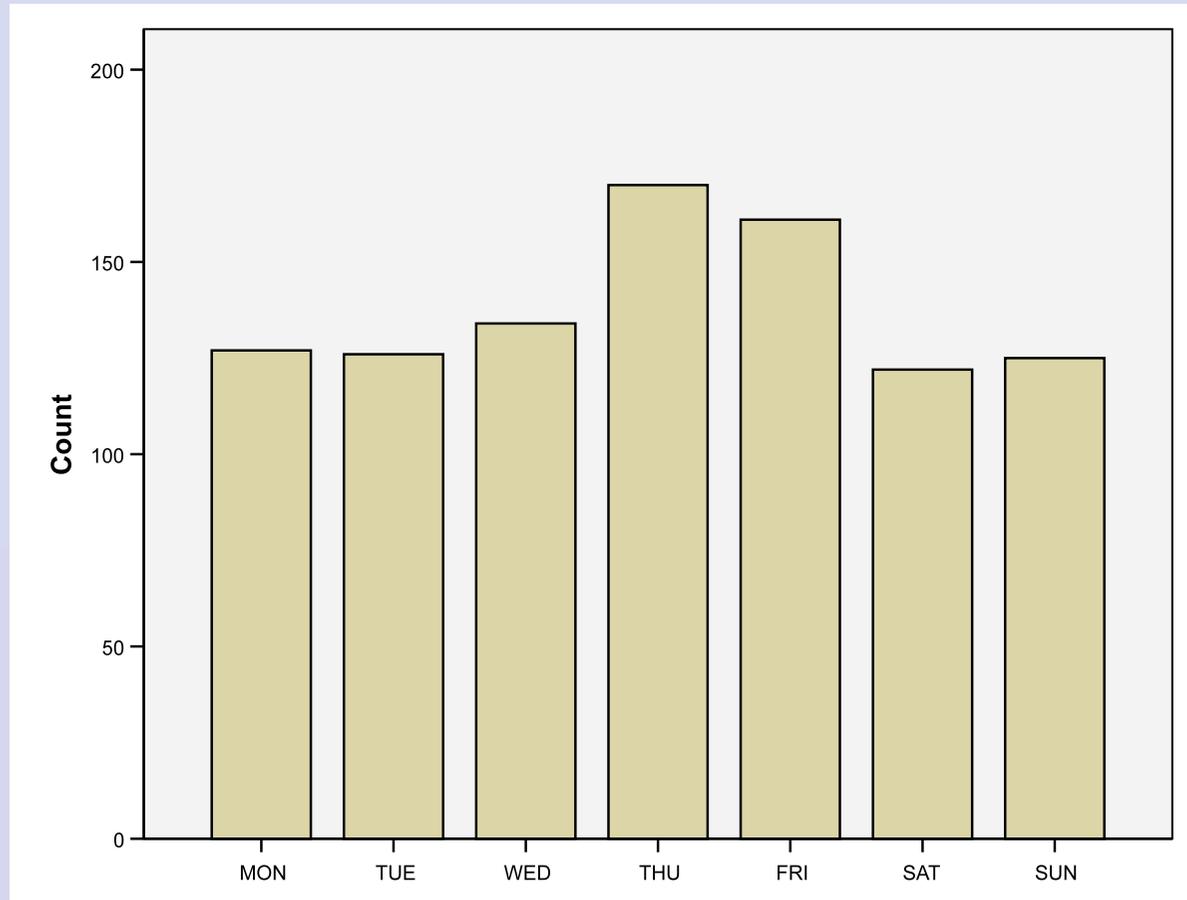
The Grippa research programme, mainly funded by AHRC, is a collaboration between the Design Against Crime Research Centre, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London, and the UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science. Papers and other materials from the programme are at [www.grippaclip.com](http://www.grippaclip.com) and wider practical and research material on preventing bag theft at [www.inthebag.org.uk](http://www.inthebag.org.uk)



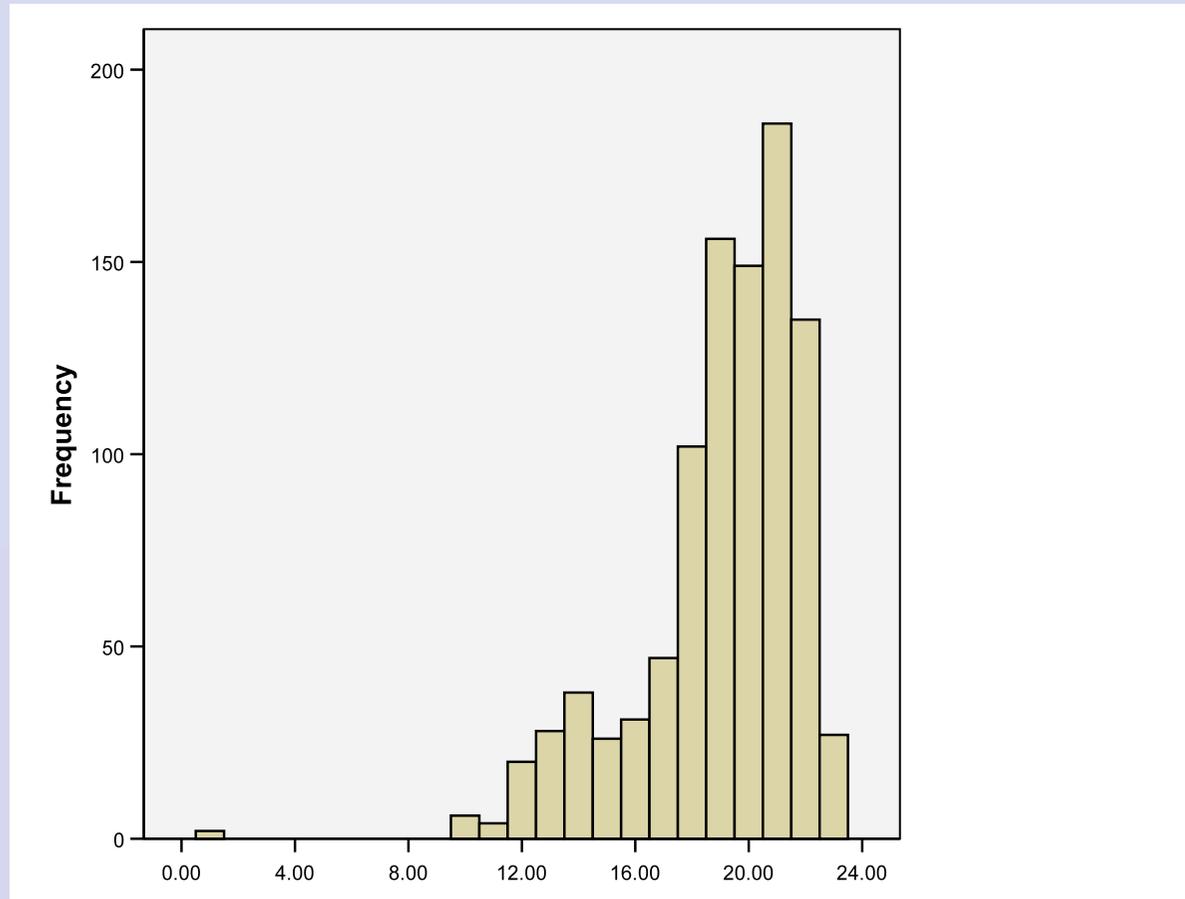
# Data and analysis

- Metropolitan Police Data was used
- Analysis conducted on 965 bag thefts **Month-year to month-year**
- All the thefts had occurred within the **27** Wetherspoons pubs
- Fields analysed included
  - Time and date fields
  - Victim characteristics
  - Property Stolen fields
  - Text based description of method of offence (MO)

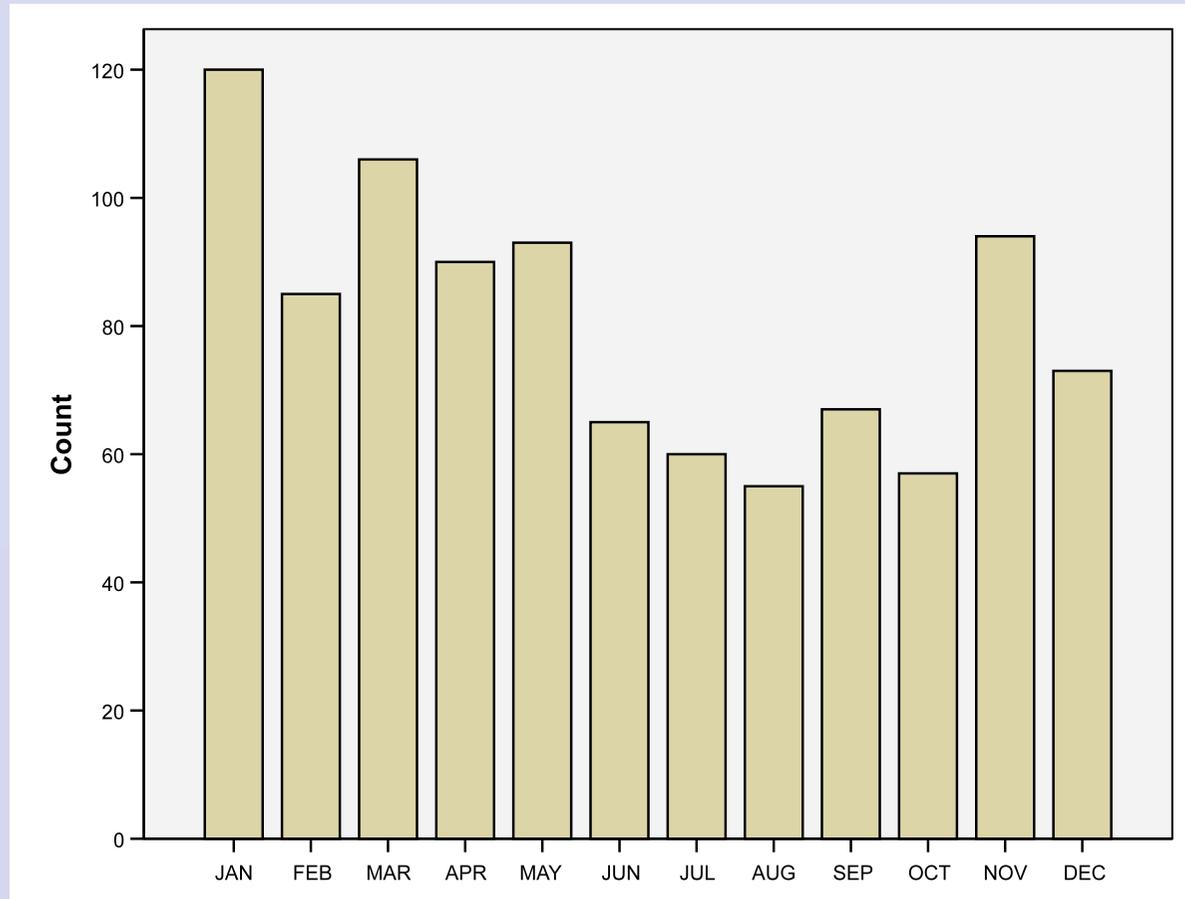
# Day of the Week



# Time of the Day



# Seasonality

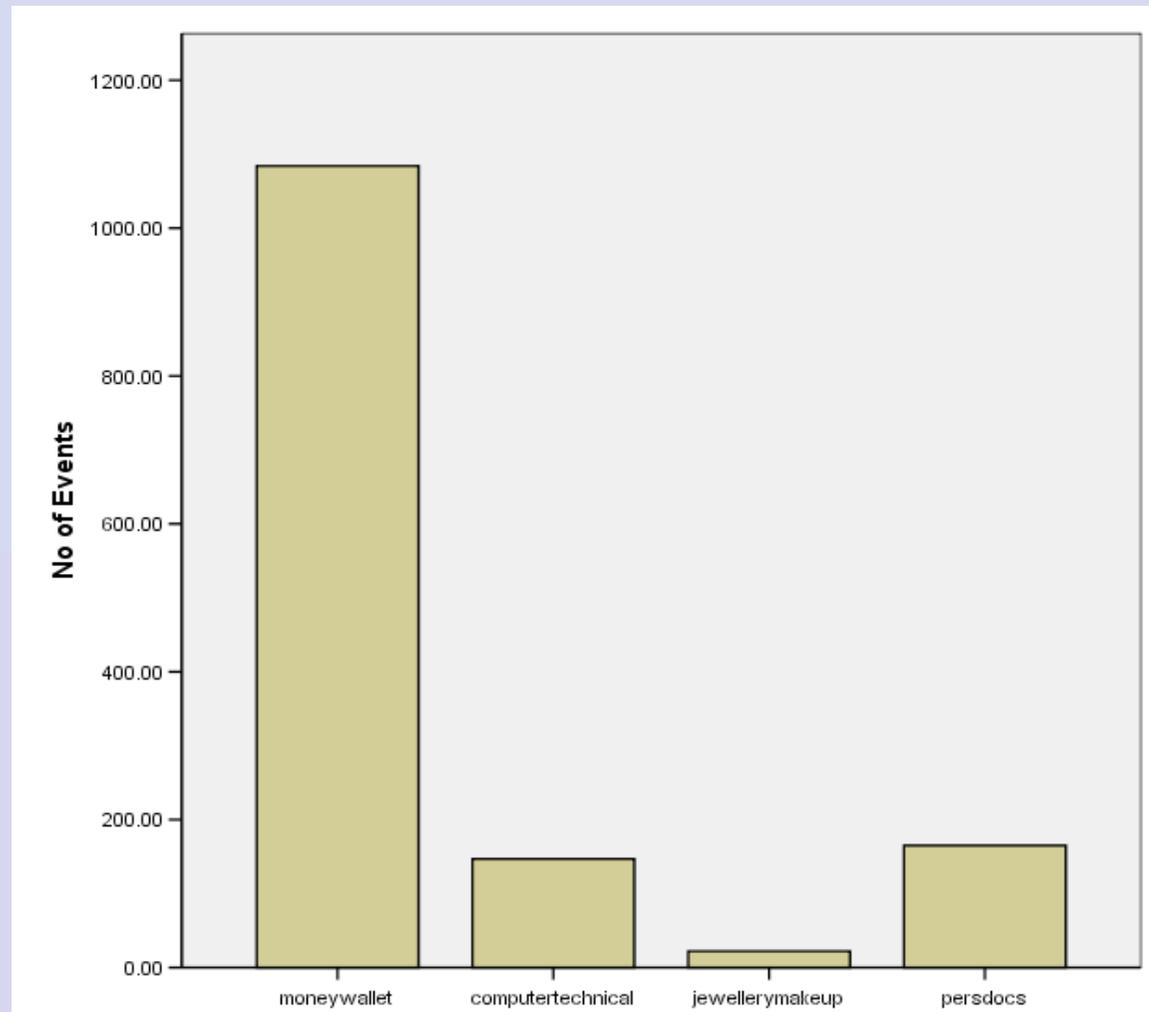


# Items stolen- Top 15

<b>Goods Stolen</b>	<b>N</b>
Handbag/Shoulder bag	577
Purse/Wallet	416
Credit/Cash/Chq Card	359
Mobile Phone(s)	290
Currency (British)	286
Key/Padlock	67
Passport/Visa	60
Driving Licence	55
Photographic equipment	52
Sport bag/holdall	51
Document-other/NK	33
PDA	33
Travel Document	31
Laptop Computer	30
Briefcase/ Attache case	23



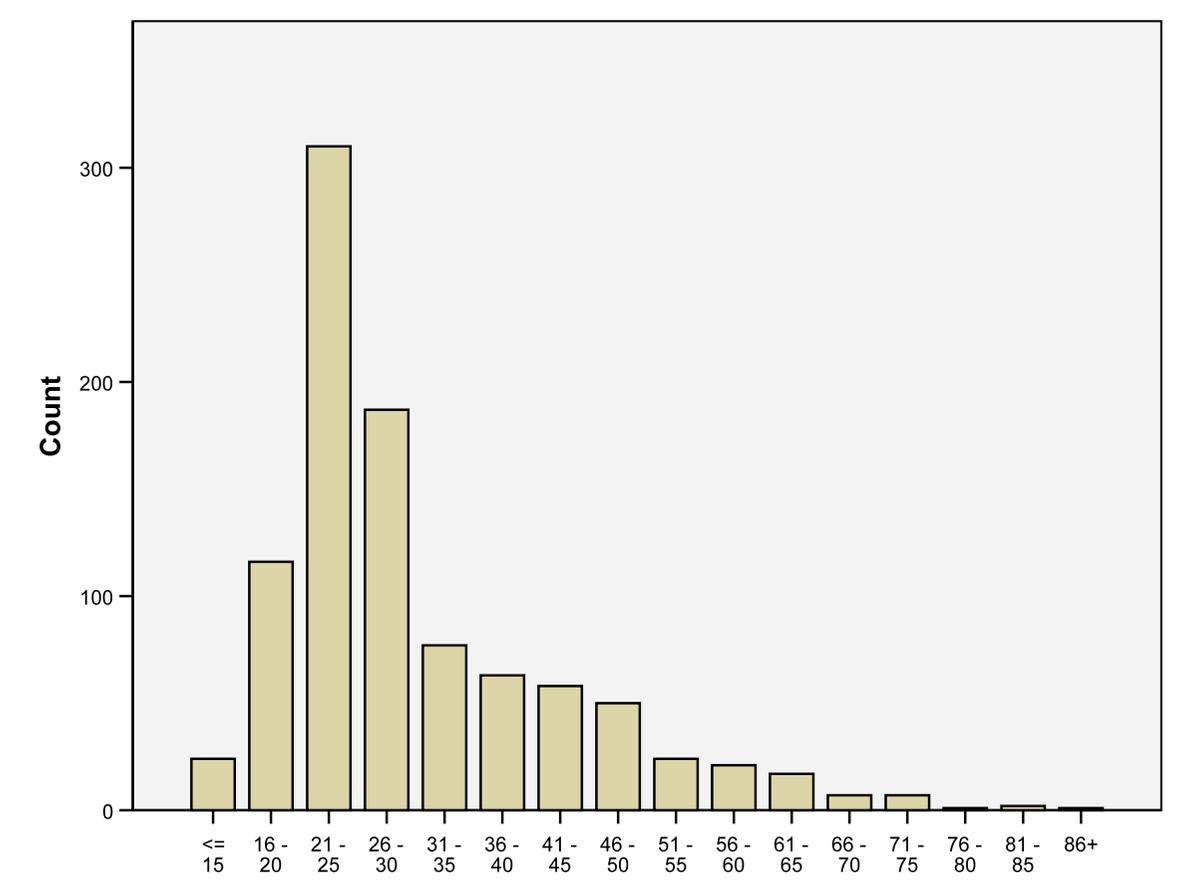
# Stolen items- categories compared



# Victim Characteristics

- In 85% of the 965 incidents of bag theft, the victim was female.
- The most commonly targeted ethnic group were white Europeans (44% of the incidents); followed by south east Asians (4%), dark Europeans (3%) and Asians (3%).
- This is likely to reflect the ethnic make-up of the clientele more than particular targeting of any specific group.

# Victim age profile



# Gender Differences

- A larger number of female victims were under twenty-five years old (49%) than 26-50 (43%)
- there were more male victims between 26 and 50 (62%) than under 25 years of age (28%).
- Women were most likely to become victims between 9 and 10pm, whereas for men this was between 7 and 8pm.
- Thursday was the most prolific day for male victims- with almost a quarter of thefts (24%) occurring on this day alone. Friday also showed fairly high numbers of male victims (19%). Few men were victimized on Saturdays or Sundays (9% and 6% respectively).
- Victimization of women appeared to be spread more evenly throughout the week- with a high of 17% on Thursdays and a low of 13% on Tuesdays.



# Gender Differences in items stolen

- Money or purses/wallets were often targeted on average, just over one item of this type was taken from female victims. However, such items were only take from male victims 44% of the time.
- Male victims were more likely to lose computers or technical equipment (47% compared to 10%).
- Jewelry and make-up was taken from female victims more often than male victims (2.4% vs 1.5%).
- Personal documents were stolen in an even ratio from both genders (17 versus 18%).
- Mobile phones were more often stolen from women (32% versus 18%).



# Bag versus dipping thefts

- Certain types of property are more likely to be taken when no bag was taken including:
  - credit cards and cash (53% versus 30%);
  - a purse or wallet (51% versus 39%);
  - currency (42% versus 39%);
  - passports and visas (8% versus 5%);
  - driving licences (8% versus 5%).
- Some items were more likely to be taken when the whole bag was stolen including
  - keys or padlocks (9% versus 3%);
  - audio equipment (3% versus 0.3%);
  - optical equipment (2.4% versus 0.3%);
  - cosmetics (2% versus 0.3%).
  - Clothes, personal organisers and jewellery.
- Mobile phones were taken with almost equal likelihood in both types of theft (32% versus 29%).



# Locational Info from Free Text Field

<b>Location of Bag</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not specified	496	51.4
On Floor	127	13.2
Back of Chair	78	8.1
At Feet	75	7.8
Under Table	62	6.4
On Chair	40	4.1
Under Chair	33	3.4
On Table	18	1.9
By Chair	18	1.9
Close by	11	1.1
On Clip	4	0.4
On Person	3	0.3

# Other MO Information

- In just under a third of thefts, the bag was left unattended. In the other two thirds, the status of the bag was not mentioned.
- A suspect was mentioned in 110 (11.4%) of cases. In 71% of cases, the suspect was classed as unknown or unseen. In the remaining 18% of cases details of the perpetrator status was not given.
- overwhelmingly bag theft is committed as a ‘sneak’ theft-offenders are not seen committing the offence.
- This means that better surveillance is likely to have a positive effect on this crime type.



# MO interactions

- The suspect is slightly more likely to have been seen if the bag was located on the table, by the chair or on a clip and unseen if the bag was on the person or at the victims feet.
- There was no difference in likelihood of the offender being seen depending upon whether the bag itself was taken or not.
- It was slightly more likely that the entire bag was taken if it was on the back of a chair, on the table or ‘close by’ at the time.
- Bags appeared to be more likely to be dipped if they were on person, on a clip or under a table.



# MO interactions

- 82.5% of events where the entire bag was taken took place between 1700 and midnight, compared to 77.1% of events where the bag was dipped.
- There were no systematic differences in the location from which bags or their contents were taken and the time of day the theft took place.
- The suspect was twice as likely to be seen (21%) between midnight and 0800am that during the day (0800 to 1700) or the evening (1700 to midnight) (both 11%).
- Friday was the most common day for bags to be taken from under the table and on the table; Monday for bags taken from by the chair or close by; Sunday for those taken from the back of the chair; Thursdays for on the floor; Wednesdays for at the feet or on a clip.

