



Between day and night: deciphering the nexus of land use and property crime in Malaysia's urban territories

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ABSTRACT

Rapid urbanization in Malaysia has shaped a complex property crime landscape, especially in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur. This study examines the relationship between urban land use and property crime (2015–2020) using spatial analysis, particularly Getis-Ord G_i^* hot spot analysis. By categorizing 12 land use types and analyzing four daily timeframes, it identifies crime-prone areas and temporal trends. Findings highlight land use influences on crime distribution, emphasizing the need for data-driven urban planning and policing strategies. Despite relying on secondary data, the study underscores the necessity of primary data collection and broader comparisons to enhance crime prevention policies.

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1. Introduction

The intricate relationship between land use and property crime in urban areas has garnered significant attention from scholars and policymakers alike, especially in rapidly developing regions such as Malaysia. Urbanization accelerates shifts in land use patterns, often influencing the spatial distribution and frequency of criminal activities, particularly property crimes (Mulok *et al.*, 2018). Understanding these dynamics is crucial for urban planning and public safety strategies. Existing criminological frameworks, such as routine activity theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979) and crime pattern theory (Brantingham & Brantingham, 2008), offer foundational insights into crime occurrence in relation to land use configurations. Routine activity theory posits that crime is more likely to occur when a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardians converge in space and time. This perspective underscores the significance of land use in shaping crime opportunities, as different urban spaces exhibit varying levels of surveillance and accessibility (Felson *et al.*, 2022). Crime pattern theory further elucidates how urban