Situational crime prevention (SCP) entails efforts to control crime by altering aspects of the immediate environment that encourage or permit it to occur. While there is a growing catalogue of successful SCP interventions, the approach has attracted its share of critics who question its ethical bases. SCP has been portrayed as a politically conservative approach that promotes Orwellian solutions to crime problems. In this seminar Wortley argues that there is nothing inherently unethical about SCP, but like any social intervention, much depends on how it is carried out. Drawing on his research on the situational dynamic of child sexual abuse, he discusses some of the ethical dilemmas surrounding the implementation of SCP.

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