

An assessment of tourist security in the city of Malaga

José Becerra, Institute of Criminology, University of Malaga.

Fátima Pérez Institute of Criminology, University of Malaga.

Though tourists' security has not been deeply studied in the scientific literature, in countries and cities where tourism is a powerful industry, the protection of certain environments or people may lead to the implementation of very well defined policies. This opens a substantial debate that connects criminal policies with the protection of private interests, the excessive focus on traditional property crimes and even a potential damage to local citizens, sometimes excluded or targeted by these policies since they are not able to offer added value to the touristic experience (the McDonaldization and Disneyization of cities).

To assess the situation in Malaga we have conducted victimization surveys to general tourists that visit the city center and cruise tourist that arrive to the city port. We have complemented them with in-depth interviews to police officers, interviews to active offenders and participant observation to learn on-site about tourist activities, the social and physical environments they use, etc.

This exploratory research aims to gather information on the current situation in Malaga and compare it with a previous stage of the city a couple of decades ago, in which the tourist industry wasn't developed as it is now