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# Safe Conduct: Women, Crime, and Self in Public Places

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## Abstract

In this essay, I paint a portrait of women in public places and their concerns with crime prevention, based on a survey of the literature and in-depth

interviews with women. I argue that there is a situationally appropriate self that crime-prevention advice literature suggests women adopt and that women attempt to adopt. This situated self, however, is sometimes constrained by the general character of public places and by the particular character of the belief system that women have and that the literature recommends with regard to crime prevention. In particular, I view normative beliefs about crime prevention as a “rhetoric” that involves negative contingencies for the woman's situated self in public, including frequent reliance on others, self-profanation, and lengthy or consuming preparations.

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