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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, and welcome to our latest edition of *Rurality, Crime and Society*. This is an exciting time to have taken over as Editor. As well as the *International Society for the Study of Rural Crime* and the *Centre for Rural Criminology*, we are now also supported by the *American Society of Criminology – Division of Rural Criminology* and the *European Society of Criminology Rural Working Group*. I look forward to having more contributions from our wider colleagues in future issues.

It is a privilege to be able to include in this issue profiles of our two inaugural winners of the Joseph F. Donnermeyer Award for Early Career Researchers. I understand that there were some wonderful entries for the prize, and of such high quality that the panel had a difficult decision to make. Congratulations to joint winners Kate Farhall and Willem Lombard. You can read about their award-winning work on pages 7-10.

In our regular feature profiling a rural criminologist, we're hearing from Kreseda Smith about her work on mental health in farming. This is an important and under researched area, and Kreseda has recently published the first academic paper on these issues. Read all about it from page 11.

Rural American jails is the focus of our research feature on pages 12-19. Arguing for greater attention to be placed on key issues of drugs, mental health, and incarceration levels, the article highlights the increasing struggles for the management of jails in rural locations.

Crossroads of Rural Crime is a forthcoming book edited by Alistair Harkness and Rob White. On pages 20-22 they explain what they mean by their 'crossroads' metaphor in rurality and introduce the key concepts that are further explored in their edited collection, due for release later this year .

In our news section from page 23 we have a range of interesting opportunities for participation and collaboration on roundtables, monographs, and meetings. We also have some recent books from members of our supporting societies representing the latest thinking in rural crime.

I'd like to thank Dr Jenny Wise for all her work editing the first year of the publication. We are keen to make the editorship a rotating role, so please reach out to me if you might be interested in the 2022 position. We now have a website for [Rurality, Crime and Society](#), where you can read past issues and find out more about how to contribute to future editions.

I hope you enjoy this latest issue of *Rurality, Crime and Society*.

Best wishes

Dr Louise Nicholas

MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE FOR RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

The Centre for Rural Criminology was launched in September 2019, and there has been much activity since. Many thanks for the ongoing support from so many in the rural criminology community.

There are now over sixty members of the Centre, linking national and international academics, practitioners and students together.

Five thematic groups have been created to accomplish the Centre's aims with the following passionate leaders to guide them:

Policing, justice and rurality

Leaders: [Dr Bridget Harris](#) and [Dr Alistair Harkness](#)

Criminological dimensions of food and agriculture

Leaders: [Dr Richard Byrne](#) and [Emmanuel Bunei](#)

Drug use, production and trafficking in the rural context

Leaders: [Dr Katinka van de Ven](#) and [Dr Natalie Thomas](#)

Violence and rurality

Leaders: [Dr Tarah Hodgkinson](#) and [Dr Ziwei Qi](#)

Environment, climate and crime

Leader: [Dr Laura Bedford](#)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank these leaders again for stepping into this role and promoting these key research areas. Details on the groups can be found on the Centre's website at <https://www.une.edu.au/about-une/faculty-of-humanities-arts-social-sciences-and-education/hass/humanities-arts-and-social-sciences-research/centre-for-rural-criminology>

Researchers within the Centre have attracted several grants, including an evaluation of [Ceres Tag](#) for the interruption and reduction of livestock theft. The Centre also had the opportunity to present the results of the New South Wales Farm Crime Survey 2020 to New South Wales Police Force Command and a public report is to be published imminently.

Additionally, the Centre has been associated with numerous journal publications from our members, as well as a number of exciting rural focused monographs on the way. If you would like your rural crime research or rural crime focused events to be listed on our webpage, please send through the details of your published research to rucrim@une.edu.au.

The Centre launched a [YouTube channel](#) and vodcast series: *Issues in Rural Crime and Society*. Be sure to check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCignCDIOjiHIUAqALMbjnlw>

In friendship

Kyle Mulrooney (Co-Director), Alistair Harkness (Co-Director) and Jenny Wise (Secretary)



**Centre for Rural
Criminology**

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR JOSEPH DONNERMEYER

President of ISSRC

President of the ASC Division of Rural Criminology

A constant challenge to all rural criminological scholars is professional isolation. Overcoming that challenge is the ultimate goal of ISSRC.

Scholars can be scattered and isolated in two different ways. First, some of us work at universities with extensive criminology/criminal justice programs, but with little or no emphasis on rural topics. Perhaps there is even a purposive ignoring of rural, displaying an urban arrogance about what is important in the field of criminology. Second, some of us are located at universities with minimal criminology/criminal justice academic programs of any kind. They may even be rural-located universities, with an emphasis on rural and agricultural development, but not many resources devoted to the social sciences more generally, and criminology more specifically. Plus, let's not forget our fellow practitioners who have joined ISSRC, but who may work for agencies whose efforts are mostly urban-oriented.

In one sense, ISSRC was not impacted by COVID-19 because its networking is based on emails, listserv announcements, zoom calls, and the like. In another sense, COVID-19 has impacted all members of ISSRC through the institutions where they work and the communities where they live. Plus, opportunities to meet in association with the annual meeting of various professional organizations, such as the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, European Society of Criminology and the American Society of Criminology, were missed once they were cancelled. It appears that we will go through a second year of cancelled in-person meetings. For example, the European Society of Criminology recently announced that its annual meeting of September 8-11, 2021 is now online. So too has ANZSOC switched to an online format for its December, 2021 get-together. Neither the British Society of Criminology (July 7-9) nor the American Society of Criminology (November 17-20) meetings have yet to make a final decision, but do not be too surprised if both do the same in advance of their conference dates.

Another consideration is that travel restrictions, such as the two-week quarantine period in a hotel room imposed on travelers by many countries, makes it prohibitively expensive for most of us who are not "billionaires", and unpleasant for those of us with a hint of claustrophobia in our personalities.

The ISSRC Executive Committee met three times, prior to this annual meeting, during 2020: on 30 April; 2 July; and 3 September. Each meeting was organized around two zoom conference calls due to the various time zones in which members live.

Three important actions were initiated in 2020. The first was the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to establish awards in recognition of excellence in scholarship and practice of ISSRC members, and related budgetary considerations associated with an award.

The second was the establishment of Roundtables, two of which were occurred in 2020. On June 26 was the "Rural Access to Justice" Roundtable, followed by the "Policing Rural Communities" Roundtable on October 20.

Finally, ISSRC was one of the co-sponsors of a very successful online zoom colloquium organized by Vania Ceccato and associates at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm) and other institutions of higher learning in Sweden. The title of the colloquium was "Safety, Resilience and Community: Challenges and Opportunities beyond the City." This colloquium was originally to take place on the campus of KTH in late April, but was postponed due to COVID-19.

It is anticipated that, with the involvement of the ISSRC membership, there will be many more initiatives advanced in 2021 and beyond. Ideas for rural-focused online roundtables are most welcome and can be submitted to any of the ISSRC officers. As well, there is now time to think about ideas for thematic panels, roundtables, and other activities for rural criminological scholars for in-person conferences in 2022 and beyond.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE ESC EUROPEAN RURAL CRIMINOLOGY WORKING GROUP

As a result of COVID-19, very little has happened with the Working Group since its creation in early 2020. We both have a long to-do list of actions to visit, but we are more than happy to receive any suggestions for later in 2021 and beyond.

Membership of the ESC Working Group

We would like to invite anyone who works in the field of rural criminology/sociology to consider becoming a member of the ESC Working Group. If you are a member of the European Society of Criminology, we can add you to our growing Working Group members list. If you are not a member of the ESC, we can still include you in our circulation list for any important and useful news, insights, and events that may be of interest.

This will also allow us to communicate directly with international rural criminologists/sociologists to shape the Working Group going forward in the post-pandemic world.

If you would be interested in joining us, please email either Kreseda or Artur with your name, email address, affiliation, whether you are an ESC member, and a little information about your area of research.

More information on the Working Group can be found at: <https://www.esc-eurocrim.org/index.php/activities/working-groups/77-working-group-on-rural-criminology>

Information on becoming a member of the ESC and associated benefits can be found at: <https://www.esc-eurocrim.org/index.php/membership>

EuroCrim2021

The 21st Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology will be held online 8-11 September 2021. The Call for Abstracts and further details will be available shortly.

We would like to invite anyone who has an interest in rural criminology, rural security, or any other aspect considering the impact of crime on rural communities, to consider submitting an abstract to be part of an ESC Panel. Details on the process will be clarified when the Call for Abstracts opens, but based on previous guidance (to be confirmed when the call opens) you don't have to be a member of ESC or the Working Group to submit an abstract.

You can find more information about the conference at: <https://www.eurocrim2021.com/> and details of the Call for Abstracts at: <https://www.eurocrim2021.com/abstract-submission>.

We hope to hold at least one Rural Criminology Panel at EuroCrim2021, and hope even more so that this will be a chance for us to get together after the last 12 months.

If you have any queries about the ESC Working Group, membership, the conference, or any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact Kreseda or Artur.

Kreseda Smith, Rural Criminologist, Lecturer, Land and Agribusiness Management Department, Harper Adams University, kresedasmith@harper-adams.ac.uk

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AWARD WINNER PROFILE: DR KATE FARHALL



I am a political scientist by training and a feminist researcher in my approach and focus. I came to rural criminology through my recent postdoctoral research, which examined the relationship between work and domestic violence outside of large cities. When I began researching in this area, I had recently completed a project looking at gendered media representations, sexuality and violence against women and was moving into a fellowship in the *Centre for People, Organisation and Work* at RMIT University, Australia. As I made this shift into work and employment studies, the first thing I noticed about existing scholarship examining the work–violence interface was that there were some striking oversights in the literature—most notably, that it was (and remains) incredibly urban-centric.

The article of mine which has been recognised with the *Joseph F. Donnermeyer New Scholar Award* is designed to open up conversations about this urban focus within the literature. In particular, it seeks to provide a roadmap for future research at the domestic violence–work–non-metropolitan nexus via the development of an integrated theoretical framework for understanding women, work and violence in non-metropolitan contexts. This groundbreaking theoretical analysis was the first to bring together work, domestic violence and non-metropolitan perspectives to develop a framework for research and analysis at this nexus. Overall, the piece argues that such an integrated framework must account for the contextual factors of space and place, as well as feminist theory on work, and existing knowledge on both violence against women and the complexities of work in non-metropolitan contexts.

Feminist criminological work has been absolutely pioneering in theorising and examining violence against rural women. Similarly, rural criminology has been vital to discussions of rural life and the ways in which this is shaped by space and place. As such, engaging with the deep well of knowledge that feminist and rural criminologists have developed in our understandings of rurality, gender and violence was absolutely crucial to the theorisation I established in the paper. Indeed, any work engaging with violence against rural women would be remiss if it did not draw on feminist and rural criminological contributions. While I came to rural criminology via my interest in feminism and questions of violence against women, my work has been significantly enriched and strengthened by the wealth of knowledge rural and feminist criminologists have generated over decades of research and scholarship.

Having developed a theory and an analytical approach to the non-metropolitan work–violence interface, my next step in rural criminology is to frame my empirical work through this analytical lens. I am currently working on publishing out of data collected during my postdoc, which seeks to understand the challenges and opportunities that rural life poses for workplace responses to domestic violence. In future, I hope to secure funding to extend this research so that we can better understand effective solutions to address domestic violence as a workplace issue in non-metropolitan contexts.

I want to thank all those rural criminologists who have guided me on my journey into the field, and for the ISSRC for being so welcoming and supportive of a relative newcomer. Becoming part of the rural criminology community has helped shape my work and reinforced for me the important contribution made by research into violence against rural women.

Bio:

Dr Kate Farhall is a researcher in the Centre for People, Organisation and Work at RMIT University. Her work focuses on using critical feminist analyses to address gender inequality in a range of contexts, with a particular focus on questions of sexuality and violence against women. Kate's primary research examines how non-metropolitan experiences and geographies impact the intersection of domestic and family violence and work. Her other major projects reflect her expertise in feminist theory, regional perspectives, better work and media analysis. Recent publications include *Sex, Feminism and Lesbian Desire in Women's Magazines* (Routledge) and 'Towards an integrated theoretical framework for understanding women, work and violence in non-metropolitan contexts' (*Journal of Rural Studies*).



AWARD WINNER PROFILE: DR WILLEM LOMBARD



After completing my schooling education at Harrismith High School, I studied B.Sc. Animal science and Agricultural Economics at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Once I obtained my degree my studies focused on agricultural economics – the field in which I obtained a PhD during 2018. Currently I am a lecturer at the department of agricultural economics.

Rural crime, especially livestock theft, has been an area of interest for me for some time now. Being raised on a farm I have been victim to stock theft on a few occasions. While I was exploring possible subjects for my Master's degree, I soon realised that limited research had been done in this field at that time. I was fortunate to receive project funding from RMRD SA to conduct livestock research in some of the provinces of South Africa. This article is based on the data collected during that project.

Could you tell us a little about the article you wrote and the key findings?

This article focussed on sheep and goat theft in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa where the factors influencing these thefts were analysed and the direct cost of sheep and goat theft was calculated.

Interesting results include that livestock guards were widely used in the province and many of the farmers reported that these guards were armed, with some of them guarding the livestock 24-hours per day and not just during the night. The use of other measures against stock theft was also on the rise due to the occurrence of sheep and goat theft in the province. The regular counting of sheep and goats can be recommended to farmers in KwaZulu-Natal, which was linked to lower levels of goat theft.

A comparison of livestock theft statistics revealed that official statistics under-represented actual sheep and goat thefts. Also, the recovery rates were much lower than shown in official statistics. This showed that the recovery actions of the South African Police Service and/or the livestock farmers were far less successful than what was indicated in the official statistics.

What motivated you to conduct research in the rural criminology space?

There were different contributing factors that led to this research being done. The limited research in South Africa that has been conducted in the field of livestock theft was concerning to me and therefore signalled a need for it. There were also industry role-players who suggested that research should be done in this field.

What do you plan to do next in rural criminology – what are you working on / planning to do?

Being an agricultural economist, I am always contemplating what the accurate value of an item should be. I think an article looking into the valuation of livestock stolen would add value to the field. For instance, how should the value of a stolen pregnant cow be calculated? Should we only consider what the slaughter value would have been or should we also consider her reproductive value?



RURAL CRIMINOLOGIST PROFILE: DR KRESEDA SMITH



Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what you are currently working on?

I grew up, and still live, in Shropshire in the UK, one of England's most rural counties. I completed my first degree in Criminology and Psychology at Keele University, which sparked my interest in pursuing research in criminology. After working at Harper Adams University for several years, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to undertake my PhD. I was awarded some funding from the Rural Services Network and the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia (the police force covering Shropshire, Herefordshire, and Worcestershire) to support my research. After completing my PhD, I have been involved with various organisations to raise the profile of the impact of crime on rural communities, where it may not have been considered in the past.

Can you please tell us why you started to research in rural criminology, and why you continue to research in this space?

As a child I spent a lot of time in the rural community where my mother grew up, including a lot of time on farms where she worked, and growing up I heard tales from rural residents and their experiences of crime. When I started working at Harper Adams, this offered me the environment to develop my interest and contacts in rural crime which led me to undertaking my PhD. This allowed me to call on various aspects of both subjects I studied as an undergraduate to try and understand farm crime specifically, and the decision-making processes of farmers when considering crime prevention. It wasn't until I was writing up my PhD that I identified issues that these farmers had talked about that didn't seem to appear in the criminological literature, and this led me to asking more questions around rural masculinity, organised crime in rural areas, and the psychological impact of farm crime. It became clear that although conversations around these issues were ongoing in a general sense, very often the rural dimension was being overlooked. This has led to my focus on rural masculinity and the psychological impact of agricultural crime for my own research, but also getting involved in projects looking at organised criminality, modern slavery and human trafficking, and decision-making in the rural crime arena, and I currently have four PhD students working within these areas.

I know you've recently published an article on the impacts of agricultural crime on the mental health of farmers. Can you tell us a little about the importance of this work?

I undertook a scoping study early last year to try and gather some data on how crime is affecting farmer mental health, and how this compares to other stressors that farmers deal with on a daily basis. The recently published paper presents the results from the first tranche of data specifically addressing the impact agricultural crime has on farmer mental health. This is the first piece of academic research that addresses these issues, and despite farmer mental health having been talked about informally in the farming press for several years, crime has only very recently been anecdotally mentioned as a stressor.

The results of this survey came as a shock, and stand as a stark warning to those involved in rural policing, farmer mental health, and policy makers involved in the criminal justice system. The key findings suggest that agricultural crime is having a significant impact on farmer mental health, with crime-related anxiety, depression, feelings of isolation, and a loss of confidence being experienced by most farmers as a direct result of crime. More worryingly are the correlations between crime-related impacts on family, physical health, and safety issues and farmer suicidal thoughts/behaviour. While this is a major issue that needs to be urgently addressed, the research did suggest that positive experiences with farmer service providers can significantly reduce crime-related psychological distress. This last finding suggests a way forward in addressing the issues identified by this research, and this is something that urgently needs looking into going forward.

What is next for you?

I currently have another paper under review based on further findings from my survey. This paper looks at how agricultural crime-related stress compares to other, more recognised farmers stressors, including finances, weather, and government regulation. I hope this will be published later this year.

Building on my survey, I hope to explore these findings further in the future. Given that my survey has been the first piece of work conducted looking at these issues, I am currently working on a grant application to delve deeper into the role that agricultural crime plays in farmer mental health by expanding on the survey findings with a much larger scale piece of research examining both quantitative and qualitative aspects of these issues. I would be very interested to collaborate with other researchers on this project and others who have an interest in this field.

Kreseda's paper "Desolation in the countryside: How agricultural crime impacts the mental health of British farmers" can be found at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2020.10.037>

RESEARCH FEATURE

RURAL AMERICAN JAILS: HAMSTRUNG BY THE PAST AND FACING AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

G. Larry Mays, Regents Professor Emeritus, New Mexico State University

William Sturgeon, Criminal Justice Consultant and Independent Researcher

Rick Ruddell, Professor, University of Regina

Author Bio

Dr. G. Larry Mays is Regents Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice at New Mexico State University. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Tennessee and he has held faculty positions at East Tennessee State University and Appalachian State University as well as at New Mexico State over his 36 year teaching career. He is author or editor of 28 books and has published over 100 articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries.

William "Bill" Sturgeon has over 50 years of experience in the criminal justice field, and has held supervisory and managerial positions in law enforcement and corrections. An author, teacher/trainer, practitioner, expert witness, and internationally recognized criminal justice consultant, he has received numerous awards and commendations for his work. In addition to co-authoring two books, *No Time To Play* and *Recess is Over*, he has published several book chapters and has contributed numerous articles to *corrections.com*. Mr. Sturgeon has been a consultant for the National Institute of Corrections, Federal Detention Trustees, and the U.S. House of Representatives in the areas of correctional management, operations, training, gangs/subversive groups, youthful offenders, security operations, counterterrorism, and supervision.

Dr. Rick Ruddell is Professor and Law Foundation of Saskatchewan Chair in Police Studies at the University of Regina. Prior to this appointment he served as Director of Operational Research with the Correctional Service of Canada and held faculty positions at Eastern Kentucky University and the California State University, Chico. Ruddell's work has been published in 13 books over 150 articles and technical reports. Most of his recent scholarship focuses on issues related to rural crime and justice.

Abstract

There are approximately 1,500 small jails in the United States and most of them are in rural counties. Since the 1970s the jail population in the smallest counties has grown almost six fold while the population in the largest urban jails doubled. Not only are these populations increasing, but we also find that a greater proportion of rural detainees have unmet medical and mental health needs than their urban counterparts. Rural jail personnel are often unable to meet those needs given a lack of funding and community-based resources. Although many of these issues were identified a century ago, a key challenge for today's jail administrators is to develop solutions to these problems to provide safe and humane treatment for these people.

Introduction

The contemporary justice systems in most developed nations were imported by settlers who brought with them the legal systems and practices established in their homelands. The U.S. is no exception and the fledgling colonies' legal systems and methods of responding to crime were based on the arrangements and practices established in England. Pugh (1968) describes how in 1166 King Henry ordered all county sheriffs to establish a *gaol* (jail) to hold arrestees awaiting trial. By the 1800s, however, most of the colonizing and colonized nations were abandoning their reliance on small locally operated jails and individuals were instead held in facilities operated and funded by regional, state/provincial, or federal authorities. In England, this change occurred after the enactment of *The Prisons Act* of 1877. This legislative change led to the closure of locally operated facilities and the financial burden for pretrial detention was borne by a greater number of taxpayers (Robinson, 1929).

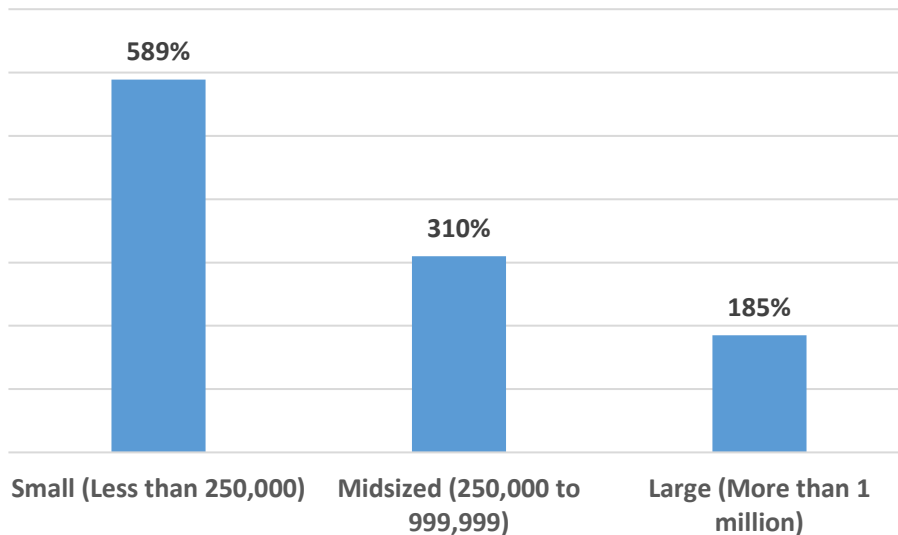
In the U.S., by contrast, delivering local corrections—primarily at the county level—has persisted and there are about 1,500 facilities of fewer than 100 beds (Zeng, 2020). These small and rural jails (we use these terms interchangeably) are often stand-alone operations funded by local governments and most are run by elected sheriffs. Although there are some exceptions—six sparsely populated or geographically small states have combined jail-prison systems—most pre-trial detainees and individuals awaiting transfers to other correctional agencies or serving sentences of less than one year are held in these facilities. One shortcoming with this arrangement is that paying for local corrections is becoming a significant burden in many counties (Ruddell & Mays, 2011). These problems have persisted for over a century and the unsafe and inhumane jail operational conditions of the past are well-documented (Abbott, 1916; Fishman, 1923; Kinsella, 1933; Robinson, 1915).

We contend that two changes have placed significant pressures on rural jail operations: rising incarceration rates and admitting an increasingly large number of special needs inmates. We define these inmates as people suffering from mental and physical health problems, including those with physical and intellectual disabilities, substance abuse problems, and co-existing disorders (those with a mental illness who are also alcohol and/or drug dependent). These two factors place inordinate demands on these diminutive agencies as they often lack the ability to provide adequate medical and mental health care. In the two following sections we identify the four drivers of rural incarceration and describe the characteristics of these special needs inmates.

Rising Rural Incarceration Rates

Although Carson (2020) reports that U.S. prison populations decreased by 17% between 2009 and 2019, there was only a 12% drop in the jail population between 2008 and 2018 (Zeng, 2020). This decrease has occurred primarily in urban and suburban jails, and the number of people held in jails of less than 100 beds remained stable between 2009 and 2018 (Minton, 2011; Zeng, 2020). However, facility size does not tell us the entire story when it comes to rural incarceration. When Subramanian, Henrichson and Kang-Brown (2015) examined jail populations, they found that between 1970 and 2014 the greatest growth occurred in counties of less than 250,000 residents (see Figure 1). Researchers from the Vera Institute of Justice (2020a) found the jail population in counties of less than 50,000 residents increased by 27% between 2013 and 2020 while urban jail populations decreased.

Figure 1. Growth in Jail Incarceration by County Size, 1970 to 2014



Source: Subramanian, Henrichson, and Kang-Brown (2015).

Why are rural jail populations increasing? The simple answer is these facilities are admitting more pretrial and sentenced inmates and holding them longer, but understanding the stock and flow of local correctional populations is a more complex undertaking and we found that four factors are associated with rural jail population increases:

1. *Rising crime rates in some rural areas.* The Federal Bureau of Investigation (2020, Table 18) reports that property crime rates in counties with fewer than 10,000 residents are higher than the U.S. average, and some violent crimes, such as sexual assault rates, are higher in the countryside than the national average. Arrest rates have an impact on jail populations, and Kang-Brown and Subramanian (2017) report that while the number of pretrial detainees for the entire nation increased by 223% between 1970 and 2013, it grew by 436% in rural counties during the same time.
2. *The impact of a rural drug crisis.* Rates of drug-related crimes in some rural areas are higher than the national average and this has contributed to a greater number of jail admissions (Weisner, Otto, Adams, & Reichert, 2020). Cipriano (2021) reports that some rural counties are experiencing the greatest rise in jail incarceration rates due to crimes associated with the opioid epidemic. One indicator of the seriousness of the rural substance abuse problem is that deaths by intoxication in rural jails is three times the average for all U.S. jails (Noonan, 2010, p. 5).
3. *Holding inmates for other jurisdictions.* Rural jails have been holding pre-trial detainees for the federal or state governments for over a century (see Fishman, 1923). Many rural sheriffs expanded the jail bed capacities to hold immigration detainees as well as state and federal prisoners (Ruddell & Mays, 2006). Kang-Brown and Subramanian (2017) found that rural jails experienced an 888% increase in the number of individuals they held for other jurisdictions (e.g., state prisoners or immigration detainees) whereas the growth in urban jails was 134% between 1978 and 2013.
4. *Lack of alternatives to incarceration.* A growing number of cities are reducing jail admissions by introducing alternatives to cash bail (Copp & Bales, 2018), creating sobering centers to reduce the admission of intoxicated persons (Jarvis, Kincaid, Weltge, Lee, & Basinger, 2019), and diverting some arrestees from the formal justice system. Some jails are supervising people who would otherwise be incarcerated using electronic monitoring and other community-based alternatives to incarceration (Zeng, 2020).

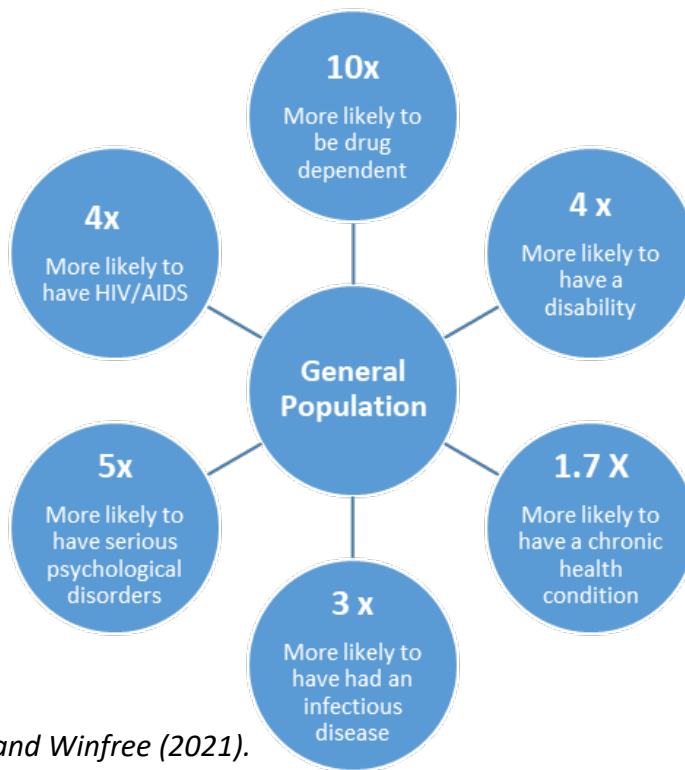
The influence of these four factors varies nationwide and contracting with other jurisdictions to hold their arrestees or prisoners is more prevalent in the Southern states while the opioid epidemic has had a greater impact in Appalachia and the Midwestern states.

Although high crime rates and a rural drug crisis are beyond the control of sheriffs or jail administrators, these officials can offer alternatives to incarceration. Introducing these alternatives, however, may not be feasible in a 25-bed jail, and Riley and colleagues (2018) found few of these interventions in counties with high poverty rates. Elected sheriffs may also be reluctant to offer these interventions if opposed by the public, and rural residents tend to be politically conservative (Oppel, 2019). Thus, an inability to take advantage of economies of scale, poor economic conditions, and political conservatism may inhibit developing solutions to jail crowding.

Special Needs Inmates: People with Unmet Medical Health Needs

People admitted into jails are often suffering from acute and chronic psychological and/or medical health problems (Lindquist & Lindquist, 1999). There is also growing awareness that many of them have disabilities and substance abuse problems. Ruddell, Mays, and Winfree (2021) summarize the national-level characteristics of jail populations compared with the public and this is shown in Figure 2. With respect to physical health, for example, jail inmates were four times more likely to have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS or have a disability than the average American. These jail residents were also almost twice as likely to suffer from a chronic health condition and three times more likely to have had an infectious disease.

Figure 2. Health and Addictions Related Conditions of Jail Inmates Compared to the General Population.



Source: Ruddell, Mays, and Winfree (2021).

Figure 2 illustrates national jail populations, and the people admitted to rural jails may be further disadvantaged given that rural Americans are more likely to suffer from poor health than their urban counterparts (Kajeepeta, Mauro, Keyes, El-Sayed, Rutherford, & Prins, 2021; Weisner et al., 2020). Carson and Cowhig (2020) report that about 500 jail inmates will die of a health-related problem every year. Mortality rates vary by facility size and people incarcerated in jails of less than 50 beds were dying at almost twice the national average between 2000 and 2007 (Noonan, 2010, p. 5). The Vera Institute of Justice (2020b) points out that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional pressures on delivering jail health care in rural facilities, and we expect an increase in pandemic-related deaths.

Special Needs Inmates: People with Mental Health Problems

A lack of community-based mental health services has led to an increase in the number of people with mental health problems involved with U. S. justice systems (Sarteschi, 2013). Figure 2 reveals that people admitted into U.S. jails are five times more likely than an average American to have a serious mental health illness (SMI). Placing that statistic into perspective Torrey and colleagues (2014) report there were three times as many people with SMI residing in local jails than living in state psychiatric

facilities. One reason why the proportion of people with mental health problems admitted to rural jails is greater than in urban jails is due to inadequate rural community-based mental health care (Carpenter-Song & Snell-Rood, 2017). The Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration (2020) reports that over one-third of the people admitted to rural Michigan jails had a SMI, compared with one-fifth of urban or suburban jail residents.

Figure 2 also shows that jail inmates are ten times more likely to have a substance abuse problem than a member of the public (Ruddell et al., 2021). That proportion may be higher in rural America, and Raggio, Hoffmann, and Kopak (2017) found that almost three-quarters (72%) of a rural jail population were assessed as having a severe substance abuse disorder. Failing to provide psychological care can result in lethal outcomes, and Carson and Cowhig (2020) found that jail suicide rates were three times higher than the rates reported by the National Institute of Mental Health (2021) for the general population. Because of the antiquated design of many small jails and inadequate staffing residents in rural jails may be at higher suicide risk than inmates in larger facilities. Tartaro and Ruddell (2006), for example, found that suicide attempts were higher in small jails, and Noonan (2010, p. 5) reports that residents in jails with fewer than 50 beds were four times more likely to commit suicide than the national average for all jails.

Because of their size and space limitations, it is not feasible to develop living units dedicated to housing persons with SMI in small jails. As a result, these individuals are placed in the general inmate population and they are disproportionately involved in disturbances and misconduct (Ruddell & Mays, 2006). Those researchers also reported that individuals suffering from SMI are vulnerable to being victimized by the other inmates. Altogether, we find these individuals place a significant strain on jail operations. Regardless of their impact, however, jails must admit these arrestees although they often lack the ability to care for them.

Discussion and Conclusions

Unlike the practice in other developed nations, most rural U.S. jails are stand-alone operations that are a throwback to the English model of county-level imprisonment founded in the 12th century. The lack of community-based health and social services has also contributed to an increasing number of people being admitted into these jails with a complex set of unmet mental and physical health needs. Like detention facilities in many other developed nations, American jails have become a default option for difficult-to-manage populations because there are no other alternatives to hold these people. This shortcoming is exacerbated in sparsely populated counties that may have no full-time community-based addictions or mental health services.

The inability or unwillingness to provide adequate health care has resulted in tragedies and lawsuits, and Schlanger (2003) found the leading source of jail litigation was the failure to deliver medical care. Rural jail administrators are further challenged by an opioid epidemic that has harmed individuals, families, and communities and contributes to rising crime rates. Lastly, the lack of universal health care requires jail personnel to respond to the unmet medical and mental health needs of their residents using funds that could otherwise be used to deliver more humane and rehabilitative interventions.

In some respects, the prospects for rural jailers are grim. According to Parker, Horowitz, Brown, Fry, Cohn and Igielnik (2018) rural populations are decreasing, and the remaining residents are aging and often unable to find employment. Rural poverty increased by 23% between 2000 and 2012-2016, and almost one-third of rural counties are experiencing concentrated poverty, where at least one-fifth of the population is poor (Parker et al., 2018, p. 26). There is little reason for optimism as numerous local, state, and federal policies inhibit rural economic development (National Association of Counties, 2018, p. 8).

Few correctional scholars are examining what happens in rural jails as these agencies are often relegated to the periphery of scholarly interest, Shulka, Stoneberg, Lockwood, Copple, Dorman and Jones (2019) call an urban-centric bias. Our findings suggest these jails are worthy of future research as they face an uncertain future: their administrators are expected to manage a set of complex problems while county tax revenues are eroding in many counties. Altogether, we find that rural sheriffs and county governments are hamstrung by a reluctance to abandon the stand-alone approach to local corrections and their inability to deliver adequate care for a growing proportion of their jail population. These are long-term entrenched problems defying simple solutions, and our hope is that drawing attention to

these issues will lead to more research, the development of effective responses to the rural jail crisis, and more promising futures for rural peoples.

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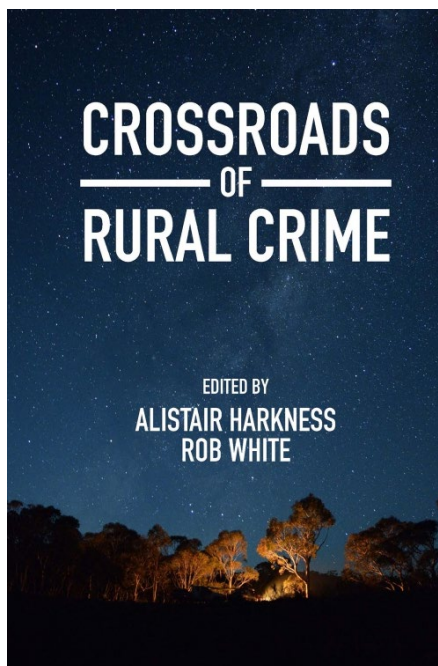
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BOOK FEATURE

RURAL CRIMINOLOGY AND THE CONCEPT OF CROSSROADS EDITED BY ALISTAIR HARKNESS AND ROB WHITE



‘Crossroads’ serves as a metaphor for networks and intersections, overlaps and trajectories, and we use it to denote how criminal transgressions and the representations of crime circulate in and out of rural spaces in the Australian countryside.

The notion of ‘crossroads’ provides a unique lens through which to examine and interpret the images and realities of rural crime. It implies a dynamic understanding and appreciation of the nature and complexities of rural life and how transgression manifests itself in the context of a presumed countryside-city divide. In using it we challenge common myths and assumptions regarding rural crime by exploring its diverse and multiple dimensions. We do this from a central conceptual focal point – the many roads that lead into and out of rural spaces, literal, virtual and figurative.

In the edited collection *Crossroads of Rural Crime: Representations and Realities of Transgression in the Australian Countryside* (Emerald, 2021), we aim to demonstrate how the notions of both static place and increased mobility can assist with our understandings of rurality, rural society and crime using the metaphor of ‘roads’ as a unifying central theme. These roads crisscross and complicate simple understandings of crime in a rural context.

Rural and regional communities are not static but, rather, are continually changing as the economy shifts, communications improve (via satellite connections) or erode (such as when train links are severed), and as populations shrink, grow and transform (due to phenomena such as ‘tree change’ and ‘sea change’ involving the drift of people away from the metropolitan centres). The creation of a boomtown brought about by rapid growth and industrialisation of a rural community (such as with the oil and gas industries) can lead to a spike in offending and victimisation rates brought about by a lack of community cohesiveness and identification with the locality. Equally negative social effects can be experienced when the population rapidly decreases and a bust-town is created.

Rural communities are also dynamic from the point of view of movements of people on a day-to-day basis. Farmers experiencing drought may work as nurses or labourers in nearby towns and cities; miners living in major cities hop on planes and buses and undertake their jobs on a fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) basis. They work remotely but live permanently in cities. And where they work may be outside of the local rural community of which they will never really be a part.

For others, transience is experienced as episodic. There is annual migration from rural areas to regional towns and metropolitan areas by young people for study and work. The same happens in reverse for seasonal harvesting and sheep shearing. There is considerable mobility and interpenetration of the rural and urban across many lived dimensions. Both communities and people are constantly changing and on the move in one respect or another.

Rurality is not only about physical place, but culturally and socially constructed spaces. Behaviour deemed appropriate and inappropriate is not only that which is subject to the law of the land. The changing composition of communities due to wider social changes can introduce uncertainty and ambiguity into formerly stable relationships and understandings. Not everyone may be quite on 'the same page' when those doing the writing are changing in number and influence.

Meanwhile, on another front, city-based vegan activists are travelling to farms outside of cities in order to protest against the harvesting of animals for food. This is facilitated by new endeavours in cyberspace, such as the mapping of farming operations across many different sectors and the posting of these on the Internet. Physical distances are collapsing under the gaze of new surveillance and communication technologies (that point you to where you want to go), and the building of road infrastructures that ensure quick passage from city to country to city again (thus allowing you to go to where you wish to go with relative ease).

There is a lot going on in rural and regional areas, just as there is in our larger cities and towns. And much of this is impacting upon what happens in local communities, neighbourhoods and suburbs regardless of location. Yet, specificity is essential as we are to capture and acknowledge the distinctiveness of the 'rural', including as this applies to the study of crime, harm, deviancy and criminal justice.

Much of the canon of rural criminological scholarship (and indeed criminology more generally) considers crime in specific, static places – such as farms, villages, forests and so on. Our interest is on the mobility of crime in, and to, and from rural spaces.

Scholarship on mobility has hitherto focused predominantly on the crossing of international borders, with a paucity of attention given to internal mobility within countries and within regions. This is notwithstanding the increasing occurrence of internal mobility brought about by faster transport connections (improved road infrastructure and public transport options) and changing lifestyle practices (such as 'seachangers' and 'treechangers' who opt for a rural lifestyle whilst deriving income from urban-based employment).

The central theme of crossroads accentuates the notion of internal criminal mobility, and the rapid circulation of images and ideas surrounding transgression. Roads can be considered literally – but, importantly, also figuratively. For example, they serve as networks of mobility, with crime occurring in and out of spaces rather than solely occurring in one place.

Crossroads present as a political issue: literally as to their necessity, funding and location; and figuratively as a metaphor for political decision-making. Roads in general serve as facilitators of crime (allowing ease of access to and egress from rural communities); as confining (roads or the lack of them prevent escape for victims of violence); and as sites of offending (road rage). Where to site roads, how to join them, and how to ensure they are safe are all ongoing public issues of concern.

The notion of crossroads denotes both static and dynamic conceptions of place and movement. For instance, a crossroad is an 'intersection', a place that points in four directions. In this sense, it is where disparate elements or spaces join up and come together in one specific location. A crossroad is also a point of and for 'choice'. It provides potential options for movement – backward and forward, or sidewise to the left and right. In this sense, it is an indicator of possible futures.

Crossroads can also exist in the real world or in the imaginary, in physical space or cyberspace. They exist as cultural representations and as materially bounded geographical markers. They are made up of both intersections and interconnections.

From a scholastic viewpoint, crossroads also provide a meeting point for disciplines, fields and topics. An illustration of this is the interdisciplinary of *Crossroads of Rural Crime*. In the pages of this book are incorporated contributions from criminology, criminal justice, sociology, politics and political science, Indigenous studies, literature and writing, and journalism. This interdisciplinary approach allows for various perspectives to coalesce around the central theme of rural crime.

Research which explores the relationship and variances in crime, place and mobility is unique and not only because of its cross-disciplinary approach, but because there is little knowledge of motivations, incidence and impact of crime within and across many spaces, particularly rural and regional areas.

It is our hope that this interdisciplinary scholarship and research will translate into work that is relevant to rural-based police, local residents and members of farming and other rural communities and industries. There is much that ought to be relevant to farmer membership and advocacy groups, specialised rural and farm crime police officers, rural crime prevention taskforces or equivalent, and agriculture sector action groups. There is something here for everyone, criminologist or not.

The world as a whole is also at a crossroads. Climate change and threats to biodiversity (including the impending extinction of over one million species) are of pressing concern – and demand concerted action now to forestall profoundly damaging harms into the future. The destruction and degradation of the environment have particularly harsh consequences for rural and regional communities in Australia, although the impacts will be felt universally. Food production, water availability, and energy sources (clean and dirty) go to the heart of human survival and planetary wellbeing. Strategic interventions are therefore urgently needed to transform existing ‘business as usual’ and ‘politics as usual’ if the very basis of life itself is not to be even further undermined. A turn toward climate justice and a radically altered politically economy is the only course that can take us in the direction of salvation and survival.

As we connect and re-connect through the forums of international rural criminology, it is imperative that we collectively respond to the problems, challenges and opportunities of the current era. There is much to ponder over and much to do. And the roads go in many different directions.

Crossroads of Rural Crime: Representations and Realities of Transgression in the Australian Countryside (Emerald, 2021). Edited by Alistair Harkness and Rob White:

<https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Crossroads-of-Rural-Crime/?k=9781800436459>

Available from 19 May 2021

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The International Society for the Study of Rural Crime



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF RURAL CRIME

The International Society for the Study of Rural Crime Inc. (ISSRC) was established in 2019 by a group of scholars with an interest in studying, researching and teaching rural crime and rural society.

The Society has seven key aims:

- (i) to unite cross-disciplinary international scholars with research interests in rural crime and rural society
- (ii) facilitate collegial alliances and collaborations;
- (iii) allow for the sharing of cutting-edge research for engagement and impact
- (iv) promote and organise events
- (v) provide opportunities for post-graduate and early career researchers to disseminate their work
- (vi) produce valuable evidence-based information that to enhance the well-being of rural communities
- (vii) heighten international scholarly, community and industry awareness of the study of rural crime.

ISSRC will serve as a very useful platform for interested scholars to share their work with a wider audience, and ideally work as a cohesive community of interest. As with any society, of course, the ISSRC will only be as strong as its membership. The Society's Executive warmly invite you to join us as together we expand understandings of rural crime and society both theoretically and empirically.

More details, including on how to join, can be found at www.issrc.net

AWARDS PROGRAM

ISSRC has established an Awards Program, and each year will be offering three annual awards:

- **The Joseph F. Donnermeyer New Scholar Award**
(Early Career Researcher Award, single applicant)
- **ISSRC Honours / Masters / PhD Student Award**
- **Policy, Practice and Engagement Award**
(agency / multiple actors)

The Joseph F. Donnermeyer New Scholar Award

(Early Career Researcher Award, single applicant)

- This award is given to an early career researcher for a publication pertaining to rural criminology. Sole or multi-authored publications can be submitted but only one applicant can receive the award.
- The nominee can be self-nominated or, nominated by other persons, with the nominee's permission.
- The nominee can be based at a university or other higher education institution or, non-government or industry role, but they do not have to be in a position of employment.
- The publication can be a journal article or book chapter accepted for publication or published (in print or online) within the last 12 months.
- The application is to be accompanied by a nomination (not exceeding one A4 page) that provides a short career overview relevant to the nominated article in rural criminology.
- Previous applicants are eligible to apply in subsequent years.
- An early career researcher is defined as someone who is less than 7 years since being awarded their PhD.
- Applicants further than 7 years out who have experienced career interruptions (as outlined below, drawing on definitions provided by the Australian Research Council) are eligible for the award and should provide a brief outline of the interruption in their application (in addition to the one-page nomination).

Kate Fairhall and Willem Lombard were the first recipients of this award, announced at the Society's AGM in December 2020.

ISSRC Honours / Masters / PhD Student Award

- This award is to be given to an Honours / Masters / PhD student for a sole authored paper (unpublished or published) in rural criminology (maximum of 10,000 words).
- The applicant can be a current student or within one year of completing their degree.
- The nominee can be self-nominated or, nominated by other persons, with the nominee's permission.
- Previous applicants are eligible to apply in subsequent years.
- Nominees / persons nominating on a student's behalf should include 250 – 500 words outlining the contribution of the paper to rural criminology as a discipline.

Policy, Practice and Engagement Award

This award is open to practitioners who have recently undertaken innovative or significant practice and engagement pertaining to rural crime / rural crime responses

- *Note: For the purpose of this award, a practitioner is an individual, group or organisation actively engaged in the innovation and/or implementation of policy aimed at addressing crime in rural communities broadly speaking*
- The nominee/s can be self-nominated, or nominated by other persons with the nominee's permission
- Nominations may focus on a specific policy initiative or aggregate efforts over-time
- Nominees/nominators should write a submission (1500 words maximum) which responds to several criteria, outlining the contribution of their initiative to rural criminology

For more information and submission guidelines, please visit <https://issrc.net/awards/>

2021 MEETINGS

Member meetings will be held in April, July, September and December. Dates and times to be advised.

FORTHCOMING ROUNDTABLES

Following the first two successful online roundtables in 2020 (see <https://issrc.net/roundtables/>) a key feature of ISSRC's activity in 2021 will be series of roundtables. Five roundtable topics with lead organisers have been identified.

Each roundtable will require a few members to assist with the planning and delivery of them. If you would like to assist by joining an organising committee for any of these proposed roundtables, please make contact with the lead organiser.

Rural policing

Jessica Peterson (and Rick Ruddell and Tarah Hodgkinson)

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Boomtowns/energy development and rural crime

Rick Ruddell

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The Future of Rural Criminology

Joe Donnermeyer and Walter DeKeseredy

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Agriculture and slavery in the 21st century

Kreseda Smith

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Livestock theft in Africa

Willie Clack

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MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

Dr Kate Tudor, from Northumbria University contributed to a BBC Radio 4 programme on the subject of rural crime. Based on research on agricultural vehicle and machinery thefts in the UK, the programme can be accessed here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000sgrs>

If you've had work featured in the media you would like to share with us in the next issue of Rurality, Crime and Society please email L.E.Nicholas@lboro.ac.uk



NEW
SERIES

Research in Rural Crime

Series Editors: **Alistair Harkness**, University of New England in New South Wales, and **Matt Bowden**, Technological University Dublin

Myths about peaceful, crime-free areas beyond the cityscape persist, but in fact rural crime is multi-faceted, raising new policy predicaments about policing and security governance.

With approximately 46 percent of the global population living in rural areas, a focus on rural crime in these diverse communities is critical.

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Truly international in nature, it leads the way for new research and writing on a wide range of rural crime topics, rural transgressions, security and justice.

Find out more at
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Call for book proposals

We welcome monograph-length titles that are jurisdictional specific or related to themes that transcend political and juridical boundaries, presenting outlooks on contemporary and pressing public policy issues.

Contributors to this series present pioneering interdisciplinary and comparative rural criminological perspectives. Titles will be theoretically and conceptually driven, empirical or adopting mixed-methods approaches, and topics will focus on regional, rural and remote parts of the globe that are often overlooked in criminological works.

Books in this series can be sole or joint authored, or edited collections, and will be between 60,000 and 80,000 words in length.

Contact us

If you would like to submit a proposal or discuss ideas, then please contact the Series Editors:

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**CALL FOR
ROUNDTABLE
PRESENTATIONS****Center for Empowering
Victims of Gender-based
Violence****THEME: YOUTH & GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN
RURAL COMMUNITIES**

The Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-based Violence is hosting a virtual (Zoom) monthly roundtable series. Each month, we feature on-going and completed scholarly works on gender-based violence in rural communities. On July 14, 2021, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. (CST), we are hosting a roundtable focused on: Youth & gender-based violence in rural communities. We welcome doctoral students and both emerging scholars and those well-versed in the topic. We also encourage all disciplines to submit.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Youth Gender-based Violence in rural communities: What do we know What do we need What can we do better
2. The impact of Gender-based Violence on youth in rural communities: A Roundtable Discussion with the Justice System and Health Care Professionals
3. Gender-based Violence for K-12 Educators: A Toolkit to Address Gender-based Violence in your Teaching
4. Gender-based Violence Against Indigenous Girls in rural communities
5. Gender-based Violence Against LGBTQIA Youth in rural Communities
6. Gender-based Violence Against immigrant Youth Populations in rural Communities

PROPOSAL CONTENT AND FORMAT:

1. Title of the research
2. name and affiliation of the presenter(s)
3. Abstract: Provide an abstract of 300 words or less

FORMAT OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

1. The format of the roundtable discussion is informal and discussion-based
2. Presenters are welcome to prepare PowerPoints as needed, but this is not required

DEADLINE:

Priority consideration is given to proposals received by May 19, 2021. Please submit your proposal summary using Microsoft Word or PDF files. All presentation proposals must be submitted electronically to the session moderator, Dr. April Terry at anterry2@fhsu.edu.

**CALL FOR
ROUNDTABLE
PRESENTATIONS****Center for Empowering
Victims of Gender-based
Violence****ABOUT THE CENTER FOR EMPOWERING VICTIMS OF
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

The Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-based Violence is a regional hub of collaborative research and service, housed in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS. For more information, please check out the Center's official webpage at

<https://www.fhsu.edu/criminaljustice/center-for-empowering-victims-of-gender-based-violence/index>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

General inquiries regarding this monthly roundtable series may be addressed to the Center's co-founder, Dr. Ziwei Qi at z_qi5@fhsu.edu.



CENTER FOR EMPOWERING VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES



AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS

April 22, 2021 12-2 PM (E.S.T.)

Woman Abuse in Rural Places by Dr. Walter DeKeseredy (West Virginia University)

Routledge Studies in Rural Criminology

WOMAN ABUSE IN RURAL PLACES

Walter S. DeKeseredy

EVENT ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://FHSU.ZOOM.US/J/96643713030](https://fhsu.zoom.us/j/96643713030)



CENTER FOR EMPOWERING VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES



REVIEWS

"Woman Abuse in Rural Places offers a timely and much-needed contribution to criminological scholarship. Professor DeKeseredy provides original and innovative insights, drawing together international and intersectional perspectives on woman abuse in rural contexts, and drives forward theory, policy and practice in this field. A must read for students and scholars alike."

Bianca Fileborn, Lecturer in Criminology, University of Melbourne

Routledge Studies in Rural Criminology

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Meet the Critics

Dr. James Ptacek (Suffolk University)

Dr. Callie Rennison (University of Colorado Denver)

Dr. Claire Renzetti (University of Kentucky)

Dr. Sandra Walklate (The University of Liverpool and Monash University)

Dr. Sarah Wendt (Flinders University)

Moderator: Dr. Ziwei Qi (Fort Hays State University)

Event Coordinator:

Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-based Violence at Fort Hays State University

Special Thanks to:

Routledge & CRC Press

Link to the book: <https://bit.ly/3jp1VMN>

EVENT ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://FHSU.ZOOM.US/J/96643713030](https://fhsu.zoom.us/j/96643713030)

VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE SERIES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND RURALITY

Dr. Ziwei Qi and Dr. April Terry

Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-based Violence
Fort Hays State University

The Center for Empowering Victims of Gender-based Violence (CEVGV) facilitates cross-disciplinary research focusing on the causes and control of gender-based violence in rural areas. The Center provides a platform for engaging in collaborative networking for researchers applying evidence-based approaches to addressing gender-based violence in rural communities. As part of their mission, in 2021 the CEVGV, located at Fort Hays State University, launched a virtual monthly roundtable series to engage in scholarship related to gender-based violence and rurality. Dr. Ziwei Qi, a co-founder of the Center, and Dr. April Terry, a research consultant of the Center, are the project leaders. Each month, CEVGV will feature (January through July) on-going and completed scholarly works on gender-based violence in rural communities. The series aims to welcome doctoral students and both emerging scholars as well as those well-versed on the topic. Scholars from any discipline are encouraged to consider submitting for one/several roundtable events.

The roundtable series aims to:

1. facilitate cross-disciplinary research focusing on the causes and control of gender-based violence;
2. provide collaborative networks for researchers to showcase evidence-based approaches addressing gender-based violence;
3. develop academic-community collaborations through experiential-learning, research, and assessment; and
4. create educational opportunities and policy recommendations that enhance the well-being of rural communities.

CEVGV has coordinated three virtual roundtable events within the current series. These events focused on scholarship in gender-based violence and activism, a workshop on employment and safe housing for survivors of domestic violence, and an author meets critics session. All roundtables involve emerging and well-known scholars working to reduce gender-based violence.

Moving forward, Dr. Terry will host a roundtable series related to gender-based violence and juvenile justice in July of 2021. For more information about the virtual roundtable series and to follow the Center, please see the “call for proposal” document. Please also check the flyers of both past and future events to learn more about gender-based violence scholarship. You may reach the Center by email at centerforempowerment@fhsu.edu. More information on the CEVGV can also be located at the Fort Hays State University web-site at <https://www.fhsu.edu/criminaljustice/center-for-empowering-victims-of-gender-based-violence> or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EmpoweringVictimsofGenderbasedViolence>

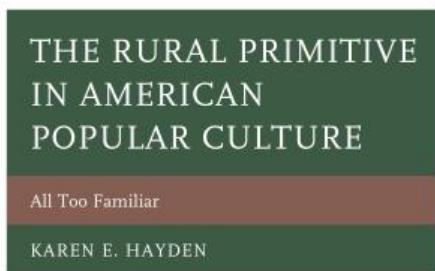
NEW BOOKS

The Rural Primitive in American Popular Culture: All Too Familiar

By Karen E. Hayden

The Rural Primitive in American Popular Culture: All Too Familiar studies how the mythology of the primitive rural other became linked to evolutionary theories, both biological and social, that emerged in the mid-nineteenth century. This mythology fit well on the imaginary continuums of primitive to civilized, rural to urbanormative, backward to forward-thinking, and regress versus progress. In each chapter of The Rural Primitive, Karen E. Hayden uses popular cultural depictions of the rural primitive to illustrate the ways in which this trope was used to set poor, rural whites apart from others. Not only were they set apart, however; they were also set further down on the imaginary continuum of progress and regress, of evolution and devolution. Hayden argues that small, rural, tight-knit communities, where “everyone knows everyone” and “everyone is related” came to be an allegory for what will happen if society resists modernization and urbanization. The message of the rural, close-knit community is clear: degeneracy, primitivism, savagery, and an overall devolution will result if groups are allowed to become too insular, too close, too familiar.

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498547604/The-Rural-Primitive-in-American-Popular-Culture-All-Too-Familiar>



Feeling the heat: International perspectives on the prevention of wildfire ignition

By Janet Stanley, Alan March, James Ogloff and Jason Thompson

This book reviews current international knowledge and presents new findings on political, spatial, psychological, socio-ecological and socio-economic risk factors. It argues that if we are to reverse the increasing occurrence and severity of wildfires, all prevention approaches must be utilised, broadening from heavy reliance on environmental modification. Such prevention measures range from the critical importance of reducing greenhouse gases to addressing the psychological and socio-economic drivers of arson. In particular, it calls for a coordinated and collaborative approach across sectors, including place-based, state and country coordination, as well as an international body. It will hold appeal for researchers and students from a range of disciplines and interests, government planners and policymakers, emergency services, counsellors and NGOs, and those in agriculture and forestry.

<https://vernonpress.com/book/890>



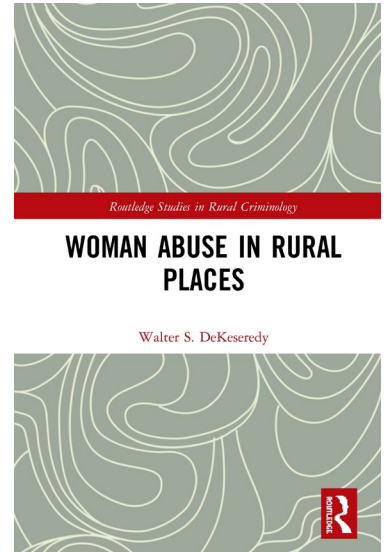
NEW BOOKS

Woman Abuse in Rural Places

By Walter S. DeKeseredy

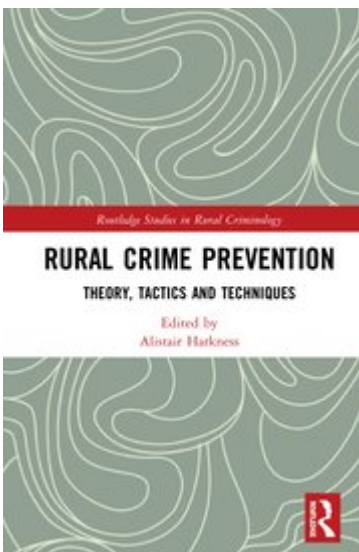
This book chronicles key contemporary developments in the social scientific study of various types of male-to-female abuse in rural places and suggests new directions in research, theory, and policy. The main objective of this book is not to simply provide a dry recitation of the extant literature on the abuse of rural women in private places. To be sure, this material is covered, but rural women's experiences of crimes of the powerful like genocidal rape and corporate violence against female employees are also examined.

<https://www.routledge.com/Woman-Abuse-in-Rural-Places/DeKeseredy/p/book/9780367443719>



Rural Crime Prevention: Theory, Tactics and Techniques

Edited by Alistair Harkness



Rural Crime Prevention: Theory, Tactics and Techniques critically analyses, challenges, considers and assesses a suite of crime prevention initiatives across an array of international contexts. This book recognises the diversity and distinct features of rural places and the ways that these elements impact on rates, experiences and responses. Crucially, *Rural Crime Prevention* also incorporates non-academic voices which are embedded throughout the book, linking theory and scholarship with practice.

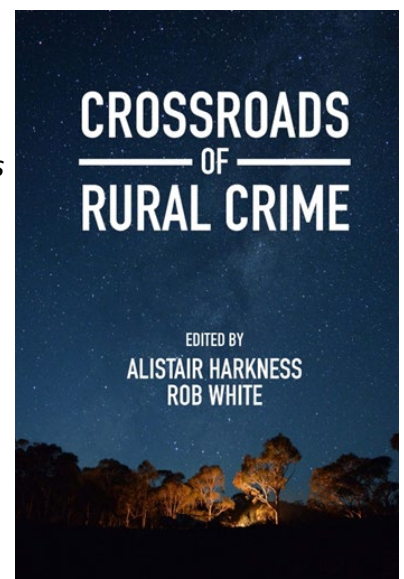
<https://www.routledge.com/Rural-Crime-Prevention-Theory-Tactics-and-Techniques/Harkness/p/book/9781138625143>

Crossroads of Rural Crime: Representations and Realities of Transgression in the Australian Countryside

Edited by Alistair Harkness and Rob White

Using the notion of 'crossroads' to provide a unique lens through which to examine realities of rural crime, *Crossroads of Rural Crime: Representations and Realities of Transgression in the Australian Countryside* provides a dynamic understanding of the nature of rural life and ways in which transgression manifests itself in the context of a presumed rural-urban divide. Common myths regarding rural crime are challenged by exploring its diverse dimensions from a central conceptual focal point; the many 'roads' that lead into and out of rural spaces, whether literal, virtual or figurative. With a focus on the Australian countryside, the authors examine issues such as drug abuse, persecution of wildlife, rural penal practices, and health in Indigenous communities.

<https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/Crossroads-of-Rural-Crime/?k=9781800436459>



Centre for Rural Criminology



If you would like to contribute a written piece or if you have any news items you would like featured in the next edition of *Rurality, Crime and Society*, please email the 2021 editor Dr. Louise Nicholas at L.E.Nicholas@lboro.ac.uk.

The International Society
for the Study of Rural Crime

