

Introduction to Volume 10, Issue 1 (General Issue)

It is always exciting for us as editors of this Journal to welcome into the editorial fold colleagues with an interest and passion in rural criminology which extends to volunteering to edit a special issue. We are very appreciative on this occasion of the hard work and significant effort of both Véronique Chadillon-Farinacci and Hesam Seyyed Esfahani who not only organised a successful international conference but have harnessed the energies from seven contributors to produce the special issue which forms the backbone of Volume 10, Issue 1.

Alongside the seven special issue articles which emanated from the *Atlantic Rural Criminology Meeting* held in November 2024 at the Université de Moncton, we are publishing a further three general issue articles, a note from the field and a book review.

The first article is from Sam Lewis, Daniel Birks, Sat Kartar Chandan and Natacha Chnevoy, a research team at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. In it they offer a critique of clinical models in England and Wales that individualise trauma. In so doing, they highlight feminist perspectives that situate women's experiences of domestic abuse within broader social and political contexts, and they argue for feminist-informed responses to rural domestic abuse.

A second article which also considers interpersonal violence is provided by Sifiso Sbangu and Melanie Moen from Stellenbosh University in South Africa. In it they examine filicide in eSwatini (the country formerly known as Swaziland) through interviews with 15 incarcerated parents, and they identify socioeconomic hardship, partner conflict, mental health challenges, sociocultural pressures and rural isolation as key factors. Importantly, they call for systemic and culturally informed prevention strategies going forward.

The third article, from Tracey Tully, Melissa Smith and Joshua Regan in the United States, provides findings from a study which examined the economic and demographic influences on rural property crime in Natrona County, Wyoming. The article shows that housing availability and population size predict crime whilst COVID-19 reduced it, demonstrating the critical roles which housing and population dynamics have in shaping rural crime patterns.

These three articles are followed by a Research Note from Melissa Smith and Rashi K. Shukla in which they examine rural crime investigations in Oklahoma with a focus on the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Special Investigations Unit. They highlight the specialised knowledge of the officers in this unit and the training provided for them to address livestock, timber and equipment theft. Smith and Shukla emphasise the need for tailored rural policing approaches in rural settings.

The last contribution in this issue is a book review provided by Ülkü Baturöğlü-Balcı. The view is of Walter S. DeKeseredy's book *A Review of Woman Abuse in Rural*



Places, and offered here is a critical examination of the book which highlights its significant contribution to the study of violence against women in rural contexts.

Future special issues

In 2026, as always, we will be publishing two issues – in March and September. The next issue in September will also be primarily a special issue guest edited by Willie Clack, with a focus on rural criminological dimensions on the African continent. If readers have topics in mind for their own special issue into the future, they can learn more about how to submit them on our website at: <https://ruralcriminology.org/index.php/IJRC/about>.

Books recently published

A very tangible indication as to the growth of the field can be ascertained from the number of books which are being published on distinctly rural criminological topics. Since the start of 2025, there have been a further five rural criminology focussed books published:

- *Rural Criminology in Global Perspective: State of the Art on the World's Continents* edited by Matt Bowden and Gorazd Meško (January 2025, Bristol University Press) – <https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/rural-criminology-in-global-perspective>
- *Crime, Peoples and Places: Perspectives on Rural Safety and Justice* edited by Vania Ceccato and Alistair Harkness (May 2025, Routledge) – <https://www.routledge.com/Crime-Peoples-and-Places-Perspectives-on-Rural-Safety-and-Justice/Ceccato-Harkness/p/book/9781032497983>
- *Farm Crime: An International Perspective* authored by Joseph F. Donnermeyer (June 2025, Routledge) – <https://www.routledge.com/Farm-Crime-An-International-Perspective/Donnermeyer/p/book/9781138215351>
- *Global Reflections on Positionality in Rural Access to Justice Research* edited by Michele Statz and Daniel Newman (November 2025, Hart Publishing) – <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/global-reflections-on-positionality-in-rural-access-to-justice-research-9781509972821/>
- *Rural Policing: Perspectives of International Police Leaders* authored by Kyle Mulrooney, Jessica Peterson, Karen Bullock and Alistair Harkness (January 2026, Bristol University Press) – <https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/rural-policing>

Lastly, readers are actively encouraged to spread the word about the IJRC to all those in their networks who are doing work in the space of rural crime and justice.

Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Alistair Harkness, Jessica René Peterson and Kyle Mulrooney
Editors of the International Journal of Rural Criminology