

Editors' Introduction to Volume 6, Issue 2

Welcome to the Volume 6, Issue 2 of the new-look International Journal of Rural Criminology. Hopefully you have been enjoying the new look and feel of the website. Since the last issue, there has been a major rebuild of the 'back end' of the website. This means that submitting and reviewing items will also look a little different, but will be much more streamlined and functional.

Just published in the 'Rurality, Crime and Society' newsletter (Volume 3, Issue 1) – <https://ruralitycrimeandsociety.org/> – is the second of three short essays which examine critical issues associated with rural criminology. It considers 'why the rural is important'. There can be no doubt: each of the articles in this issue of the IJRC underscore the importance of studying rural spaces and rural peoples.

A significant, but sadly often overlooked, aspect of agricultural crime is the significant mental health impacts it can and does have on farmers – and their families and local communities. Kreseda Smith offers an empirical assessment of various stressors and impacts on farmers in the United Kingdom when they are victimised by theft. Through another survey, of rural police in the United Kingdom, Alexander Nunns, Alison Wills and Tamara Montrose consider evidence-based crime prevention responses to farmer victimisation.

Measuring victimisation in rural areas is oftentimes problematic, not least because of much poorer reporting rates. Drawing upon the West Virginia Community Quality of Life Survey from the United States, Walter DeKeseredy argues that better understanding the extent of rural victimisation will lead to better control and prevention outcomes.

A crucial aspect of addressing rural crime is the work of non-government service providers. Kelly Knight, Colter Ellis and Emily Salois – working with the Secondary Trauma Intervention Learning Lab, Blackfeet Community Advisory Board and the Bozeman Community Advisory Board – advocate for a series of responses to secondary trauma for American Indian and rural service providers.

Rural crime is not simply limited to quintessential agricultural crime, of which many readers will be instantly familiar, but rather spreads its tentacles much far widely – and this includes in school settings. Chunghyeon Seo, Nathan Kruis and Sangjun Park assess school violence and safety policies in a US context, considering whether location matters.

In a sign of the times, there has been a recent explosion in the number of books published with a rural criminological focus. This issue of IJRC also includes seven reviews of such books – be sure to read the reviews... and read the books! Indeed, you might be interested to learn that two of the books reviewed have recently appeared in a list of the Top 100 criminology books of all time – see here: <https://bookauthority.org/books/best-criminology-books>



To respect readers of IJRC from all parts of the world, with this issue we include only volume number and issue number. We will no longer refer to the season of the year based on an orientation to the northern hemisphere.

Follow us on twitter at @IJRuralCrim and be sure to like and share – it helps with the algorithms and helps spread the output of hard working rural criminologists much more widely.

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Editors