

## Editors' Introduction: Volume 8, Issue 2

It is a new year and a new issue of the International Journal of Rural Criminology. This issue includes manuscripts on a diversity of rural topics. And, importantly, they are topics on which other contributors to IJRC have contributed in past issues, and are very likely to be topics on which other scholars will submit manuscripts for publication in future issues.

This issue begins with a research article on violence against people with disabilities by a trio of scholars from the University of Cincinnati and West Virginia University: Brittany E. Hayes, Walter S. DeKeseredy and James Nolan. Specifically, the article shows that rural residents with disabilities in West Virginia in the United States are more likely to experience a range of violent victimizations.

Next is an article from Callie D. Shaw which considers the empirical relationship of oil and natural gas activities on crime rates in the state of Texas in the United States. Since Texas in many measures of oil and natural gas production is ranked #1 in the United States, the author makes the surprising claim that the focus of recent criminological research is in regions where fracking technologies have opened new field of energy. Hence, this study returns the focus to a region where oil and natural gas production has a long history.

The next article is by Murat Madenüs from Türkiye, considering how farmers there perceive the police, or “Turkish gendarmerie”. Unlike the previous two articles, which are statistically empirical, this study is qualitatively empirical, using a technique the author calls an interpretive phenomenological analysis. Most enlightening is that farmers in Türkiye perceive the police as a “first door” in a connection to the state and the rural Turkish population.

The fourth article is actually an essay. Joseph F. Donnermeyer addresses four “latter-day myths” which seem to have arisen quite recently about rural crime and justice studies. The essay argues that it is necessary to bust these myths, and at the same time, to provide alternate statements of positive directives to make rural criminology more diverse and theoretically in-depth.

A rather interesting research note is included in a discussion of the ‘bush ballad’ known around the world and intimately associated with the national identity of Australia – Waltzing Matilda. What makes this research note from Graham McBride unique is its discussion of the link of national culture, social class, property rights, and the state.

The last item in this issue appears in the “Notes from the field” section and is an edited transcript of an online Roundtable which was hosted by the International Society for the Study of Rural Crime in December 2021. Moderated by Matt Thomas, the panel was made up of Jeffrey Jacquet, Christopher O’Connor, Thomasine Heitkamp and the late Rick



Ruddell (who organised the event). The event focussed on resources and energy development – and rural crime implications – in the United States and Canada.

### Special issues

A later issue in Volume 8 will be a special issue, themed around gender-based violence. If you or others have an idea of your own for a special issue, note that IJRC is planning to publish a special themed issue each year and we are open to any [imaginative proposals](#). Proposals should seek to incorporate a variety of ‘voices’ and perspectives, such as by including practitioners, early career researchers and higher degree students. Special issue editors will be provided with substantial support – and mentoring as required – as they bring their issue together through the various stages from conception, to peer-review, copy editing and production. Contact Joe Donnermeyer in the first instance at [donnermeyer.1@gmail.com](mailto:donnermeyer.1@gmail.com) with any ideas.

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**Editors of the International Journal of Rural Criminology**