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MESSAGE FROM DR KYLE MULROONEY
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

Dear RuCrim community,

Welcome to the first edition of ‘Rurality, Crime and Society’, a bi-annual publication produced by the Centre for Rural Criminology (UNE) in conjunction with the International Society for the Study of Rural Crime (ISSRC). It is our wish that you find this publication a useful and informative addition to the rapidly growing body of work flying under the rural criminology banner.

Speaking of rapid growth, what a few years it has been for the field. With great thanks and acknowledgment to those who have paved the way (some of whom are included in this edition), rural criminology has taken the Criminology world by storm: to name a few, these developments include the establishment of the Division of Rural Criminology (DRC) in the American Society of Criminology and the International Society for the Study of Rural Crime (ISSRC); a dedicated workshop on Rural Criminology in Gippsland VIC; not to mention the volley of academic output in this sub-field.

Here I would like to say a little bit about the Centre’s contribution in this regard. It has been a busy year for the Centre, from launching in September of 2019 and building our network to now include over 50 members to embarking on key research projects in the form of the NSW rural crime survey and exploring the application of novel technologies to farm crime prevention. The Centre has also strived to advance the teaching of rural crime and society and currently the inaugural group of UNE CRIM312: Professional Practice in Criminology students are working alongside the NSWPF Rural Crime Prevention Team to find ways to increase the reporting or rural crime to police and reduce delays.

This is but a snapshot of some of the Centre’s achievements to date. This year we are looking to build on this success by expanding our collaborations with industry and community partners and providing more opportunities for collaboration and research with the Centre and between its members. With regard to the latter, we have solidified the Centre’s primary research themes and are very fortunate to have some fantastic rural scholars leading these areas:

- **Policing, Justice and Rurality:** Dr. Bridget Harris and Dr. Alistair Harkness
- **Criminological Dimensions of Food and Agriculture:** Dr. Richard Byrne & Emmanuel Bunei
- **Drug Use, Production and Trafficking in the Rural Context:** Dr. Katinka van de Ven & Dr. Natalie Thomas
- **Violence and Rurality:** Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson & Dr. Ziwei Qi
- **Environment, Climate and Crime:** Dr. Laura Bedford

These leaders will set out to expand these respective areas in rural criminology, linking academics and stakeholders and strengthening opportunities for collaboration and research.

These leaders are also further evidence that the development of rural criminology, and indeed the Centre itself, is a joint venture. To that end, as co-director, I would like to acknowledge all those involved in this project from the outset, including those research associates and executive/advisory board members who have freely provided their energy and time to build the Centre. We would not be where we are today without your advice and efforts and so I thank you.

I would like to close by extending an invitation to all. I think Prof. Donnerymeyer puts it best in his message below when he says “the whole purpose for starting these groups was to find a home for rural scholars – not a refuge, sanctuary, or shelter – but a home without a doorbell that must be rung, followed by a request to be let in. Just walk in and make yourself at home!”.

I could not agree more. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Centre or chatting rural criminology more generally do not hesitate to reach out at rucrim@une.edu.au or personally at kmulroon@une.edu.au.

Best wishes and please take care of one another during these strange days.

KJM
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear members of the Centre for Rural Criminology,

We hope you find this first edition of the *Rurality, Crime and Society* engaging and informative. We are lucky enough to feature some of the world’s most prominent rural criminologists, as well as featuring emerging scholars within this area. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this inaugural edition, especially with the time constraints that everyone is facing in terms of shifting our workplaces into the online environment in response to COVID-19. Your time and dedication to making the Centre successful is truly appreciated.

The first feature piece for the newsletter comes from Professor Emeritus Joseph Donnermeyer, who has provided an engaging, humorous and insightful essay on ways to grow and sustain rural criminology as a field of study. As Professor Emeritus Donnermeyer highlights, this is an increasingly important area of study and it is important that we all continue to support each other’s research interests in this space.

We were lucky enough to be able to profile one of Australia’s founding rural criminologists, Professor Kerry Carrington from QUT, as well as an up-and-coming research scholar, Emmanuel Bunei, a PhD candidate at the University of New England.

Two research articles are featured from international scholars and detail innovative and important research developments. Drs Ziwei Qi and Hsin-Yen Yang report their work on examining vocational rehabilitation programs that address the needs of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the United States and at future possibilities in providing resources and training to the survivors of IPV. Dr Maluleke, reports on his doctoral research in South Africa on the use of DNA in combating stock theft. As Dr Maluleke highlights, there are many ongoing challenges in this area and his research provides a number of recommendations on implementing DNA technology to investigate stock theft in South Africa.

The Centre for Rural Criminology was established last year in 2019, and since then we have been busy in establishing and growing the Centre. One strategy to grow and promote the Centre was suggested at the launch of the Centre in September last year, and involved the creation of strategic research themes, with leaders to coordinate and facilitate research in this space. The leaders of these thematic groups are presented, and profiled, in this newsletter – a massive thank you to these scholars for stepping into these roles and providing the information for the newsletter.

The newsletter concludes with a selection of important news items and announcements. A very special thank you to Dr Alistair Harkness for sending most of these through and ensuring the effective communication of these opportunities for all members within the Centre. A brief comment here, that with COVID-19 many of these conference opportunities may be precarious this year, however, we thought it was useful to highlight these opportunities for researchers in this area moving forward.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of *Rurality, Crime and Society* and please consider sending through a piece for the next edition which will come out in October!

Best wishes,
Jenny
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FEATURE ESSAY

Joseph F. Donnermeyer
Professor Emeritus
School of Environment and Natural Resources
The Ohio State University

TWELVE WAYS TO SUSTAIN AND GROW THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY: A VERY INFORMAL ESSAY

I remember the case of a young scholar from the U.S. whose dissertation was quantitative, using both social disorganisation and routine activities approaches (two very mainline criminological theories) and whose topic was rural-focused. The data itself was from a national-level dataset frequently used by a great number of criminologists for all sorts of analyses. The dissertation was a quality product and resulted in a several peer-reviewed articles. Yet, this young scholar arrived at the university who hired him, in a region of the U.S. that is significantly rural (except for the city where the university is located), and all of the other criminology professors there expressed the opinion that a continued focus on rural crime studies would be a career-killer.

So, even in a country that likely has more doctorate degrees in criminology and criminal justice per capita than anywhere else in the world, a rural criminological scholar can indeed feel quite isolated. What is even more amazing about this true story (dressed up a bit, to keep it anonymous) is that there are few issues and topics that can be studied only within a rural context, that is, can be claimed to be exclusively rural. Perhaps one exception is agricultural crime, but even that could be argued, and a great deal of environmental crime is also rural-centric, but not completely. All other criminological topics are not. One could study cyber-crime, violence against women, drug misuse and dozens of other topics in a variety of contexts, perhaps comparatively across different kinds of places, based on variations in locality by population size and population density.

Now that rural criminology is emerging as a full-fledged subfield within criminology (as an aside -- “boy, did I enjoy writing those 12 words”), how do we make sure a rural scholar in any country on this big planet is part of a larger network of scholars who do rural work, or at least, comparative work that includes rural? Here are my suggestions:

First, join either the International Society for the Study of Rural Crime (ISSRC) or the Division of Rural Criminology (DRC) in the American Society of Criminology, or the rural crime working group in the European Society of Criminology (pending approval), or other membership-based networks. Or, join all of them, even if you have to break into an ATM or burglarize a store to afford it. Stay connected at all costs!

This first piece of advice may be self-serving, since I am the Chair of DRC and one of the founders of ISSRC, however, the whole purpose for starting these groups was to find a home for rural scholars – not a refuge, sanctuary, or shelter – but a home without a doorbell that must be rung, followed by a request to be let in. Just walk in and make yourself at home!

Second, be bullish, but not a bully, about rural criminology’s importance to criminology and criminal justice studies. Many of us have experiences like the one described above by arrogant academics who snort condescendingly at any scholarship that is not in conformance with their myopic dogmatism about the appropriateness of researchable topics (example -- “So, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah...You do rural, is that important?”) Rural is important! About 45 percent of the world’s population is rural, and more and more, crimes touch them in ways that truly do diminish their way of life and their feeling of security about the small towns, villages, hamlets, and open spaces where they live.
So, rather than shoving tunneled-vision, vainglorious bully-scholars (like the one above) who do not understand the importance of rural against a wall (with a well-placed head-butt), be bullish instead, smile broadly, and explain in glowing terms why rural criminology is now a significant contributor to the world of criminology.

**Third, respect the theory.** Very simply, rural criminological scholars should have the freedom to adopt, apply, critique, revise, and re-write any theory they desire, so long as it fits their scholarship. One should never be loyal to a theory as if it is a religious belief on which one salvation is dependent. Theories are intellectual tools to be used, and one’s toolbox should include a large variety of theories.

Wherever possible, be ecumenical when it comes to interacting and sharing ideas with others. You have your favorite theories and others have their favorite theories. Your theories are neither superior (don’t be a bully) nor inferior (be bullish). I myself like a critical approach, and greatly enjoy intellectually head-buttting social disorganisation theory and I desire to replace it with a theory of community and crime that starts with the supposition that it is always variations in social organisation that provides the variable contexts for differential expressions of rural crime. Rapid population growth (or decline) is not an expression of social disorganisation, but is an expression of one type of social organisation that profiles rural communities with certain kinds and levels of crime. I declare “there is no such thing as social disorganisation”, but now it is up to me to defend that claim.

There is only one group of scholars to look upon with great disdain. They are the intellectual urchins who still think dichotomously, that is, they seem to want to propagate old, hackneyed rural vs. urban or *gemeinschaft* vs. *gesellschaft* dichotomies, or whatever the more contemporary versions of “this” vs. “that” happens to be. It might be enjoyable to write in an oppositional style, juxtaposing one’s favorite side of the dichotomy against the other side, which is always more hegemonic so that one feels a sort of puffed up heroism taking on the establishment, but it does little to advance a rural criminology and to make rural criminological networks more cohesive.

**Fourth, respect the data.** Arguments about whether surveys, interviews, observational techniques, archival information and so on and so on, seem rather silly when the only real consideration is if the data collected can answer the research question. There is one criminologist who organised his thoughts in the following form during a session at an international conference by declaring the only valid data for conducting a study about violence against women is police data. If it ain’t police data, it ain’t official, and if it ain’t official, it is not criminological (no quotes here, because I am putting words in the mouth of this illiberal blockhead). And, then there is my own personal example of presenting the results of a statistical analysis, using linear regression, because in my judgment it was sufficient for answering the research question. However, a member of the audience asked what software package I used, and my reply was “SPSS”. Well, in a huff and puff this person retorted, “why didn’t you use STATA? Everyone in sociology today uses it.” I asked: “What would be the advantage?” “I don’t know,” the person replied, “I’ve never learned it myself.” Rather than nincompoopiness like that, how about a more collegial response – “I understand that many people consider STATA to be better, and I know a couple of people who would be happy to share their insights about this with you. I can give you their contact information after this session is over.”

**Fifth, respect the analysis.** I am continuously amazed at the level of immaturity of seemingly smart scholars who not only adopt a narrow range of approaches to the analysis of data, but believe that their type is superior to others. Quantitative is better, or qualitative is superior, and within both of those styles is a large cafeteria of specific types of analytical techniques that can be used by the dogmatic to exhibit an over-bloated arrogance and so that small-minded individuals can carry their parochialism to higher levels of dopiness. Rural criminology should be completely open to any kind of data analysis, so long as the analysis is performed competently and the analysis fits the kind of data collected, the research question that was asked, and the criminological theory that framed the study. So, again, ask what good does it do to build a network of rural criminological scholars only to interact with those scholars in an arrogant fashion?
Sixth, share information about virtually everything. When I was a graduate student at the University of Kentucky in sociology way back in the 1970s, a good friend of mine who was a graduate student in a related discipline told me about how one of the other graduate students in his department would approach a professor many weeks in advance for copies of the syllabus for courses to be offered during the upcoming semester. The student would then go to the library and check out all of the assigned books so that none of the other graduate students could access them. I guess he thought that would give him an advantage in the game of grades. Well, he was discovered, or as the “kids” say today, he was “busted.” The department chair informed him that any other shenanigans like that would constitute dismissal from the graduate program.

Can you imagine how rural criminological circles could ever grow larger if everyone took a zero-sum game mentality that someone else who publishes an article, writes a monograph or is awarded a grant diminishes one’s own stature? A modicum of jealousy can be a great motivator, but only a dollop of envy will do. Instead, celebrate the achievements of anyone whose rural scholarship is published or whose grant proposal is funded. Respond to all requests for information from others who are searching for a citation on a particular topic, or any other kind of assistance that helps a rural colleague.

Seventh, be a good and respectful colleague. Hence, it follows from the sixth way to sustain and grow rural criminology that helping other scholars, especially because rural scholars can be more isolated, is the best advice. By isolated I meant that the individual interested in rural work may be the only one at her/his institution of higher learning who is not doing urban-focused scholarship. It is easy to be assimilated when there are no alternatives for interacting with colleagues who also share similar rural interests, and they may be scattered about at colleges/universities around the world. For example, there may be only one or two scholars who examine rural policing in France, and perhaps the same number in Canada, or Sweden, or South Africa. Connecting to others electronically is what will make rural criminology grow, and it is perhaps for this reason that rural criminology did not really emerge until the age of email, the web, zoom and other technologies, when connectivity across distant places came about, and our isolation went away.

Eighth, share information. There is no better example of sharing than this first newsletter from the Centre for Rural Criminology. Newsletters are supposed to announce upcoming conferences, share insights on key issues associated with rural scholarship, and celebrate the accomplishments of others, amongst a plethora of various tidbits of information that will not only help keep rural scholars around the world connected, but also help them sustain their rural scholarship rather than drift in a different direction.

Ninth, be at the table! By now you are probably wondering if I overdosed on my medical marijuana? Well, for your information, I don’t smoke anything, preferring red wine, vodka and bourbon instead. At many criminological meetings, but especially the American Society of Criminology, many of the divisions have tables with people there to answer questions about the division’s mission and the benefits of joining. For this informal essay, the “be at the table” advice should not be taken literally, but symbolically. Be ready to help ISSRC, the Division of Rural Criminology, or any other occasion when promoting rural criminology is possible, but must be organised before it can be effective.

Tenth, draft a monograph, write an article, contribute a chapter to an edited book, scribble an essay (as informal as this one, or more formal in its prose) for a newsletter, but geez, please produce something rural that others can read. Are you writing merely for promotion and the paltry pay raises universities give its professors today, or have you also kept sight of the fact that you are writing so that others can learn?

Eleventh, organize sessions, participate in roundtables and do other “good stuff” to advance rural criminology at conferences. In a sense, this scrap of advice is the same as the second way to sustain and grow rural criminology – be bullish – rural crime studies are important and you should feel privileged to be part of a growing cadre of scholars dedicated to its development. Don’t be shy about presenting your stuff.

Twelfth, and most important of all – nothing lubricates collegiality and stimulates intellectual development more than good chats, discussions, arguments, and debates over drinks at a bar, pub, bistro, tavern, or saloon – whatever they are called in whatever country you are from – at conferences and other occasions when two or more rural scholars happen to be at the same place.
Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and what you are currently working on?

I am currently leading a world first study on how women’s police stations, a unique invention of the global south, prevent and respond to gender violence. The study is funded by the ARC as a Discovery Project and involves a multi-country and multi-lingual research team. Prof Máximo Sozzo from the Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina is the Partner Investigator and María Victoria Puyol is the PhD student funded by the project. You can read more about this exciting project through QUT’s research page. The fieldwork in Argentina was conducted in Spanish and translated into English to reach a wider audience. We have just completed two surveys – a community survey and a workforce survey in Australia about what we can learn from women’s police stations to prevent gender violence. The results will be published soon. It’s the most challenging but exciting research I’ve done exploring a solution to gender based violence.

Your work in the rural crime space is some of the first of its kind. Can you tell us about the development of the field of Rural Criminology, your pioneering role in it and how you see the field today?

This is a big question. The realisation that crime policy was urbancentric drew us into researching in a field now known as rural criminology. I began writing about spatiality, rurality and violence in 2003 with Russell Hogg. Then we wrote the book Policing the Rural Crisis (2006) based on ARC funded research in rural NSW. It was a real blind spot among those researching crime and violence. The other realisation was that Australia is racially divided by two rural. First Nations peoples were scape-goated and targeted by law and order politics in the bush – meanwhile the same uncivil politics protected a cloak of silence around domestic violence within white rural family life. We exploded the myth of the ideal rural crime free community with our study that demonstrated the highest population rates for violence were in the bush. And it was mostly white rural men responsible for much of it. This then led us into a deeper exploration of masculinity, violence and rurality and the accidental discovery of the criminological impact of mining in rural Australia. John Scott joined Russell and I in another ARC funded project to pursue this new research interest. The research was labelled ‘dodgy’ by the mining executives, but later won awards.

I know your recent attention and work has been in the growth and development of the exciting field of Southern Criminology. Can you tell us about Southern Criminology and, more importantly, how you see it informing Rural Criminology and vice versa?

Inspired by Raewyn Connell’s Southern Theory (2007), it became readily obvious to us that criminology, like the social sciences more generally, was not just urbancentric, but also northern-centric, reproducing a hegemony of thought sourced from a select few countries from the Global North, whose journals, scholars and universities have dominated the global episteme for over a century. Southern criminology aims to address this bias by decolonising and democratising knowledge. This is not just rhetoric. I have translated this into praxis by democratising the publication process through establishing Australia’s first gold standard open access journal: International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy (downloaded 530,000 times, ranked top Law journal Oceania and 14th in the world for open access); working in multi-lingual teams to translate knowledge for English speakers (ie. with Maximo Sozzo; Deigo Zyma Argentina; Julia E Monáez Fragoso, Jerjes Aguirre Ochoa and Elena Azaola Garrido, Mexico; David Fonseca and Thiago Ávila Brazil; Jianhong Liu Macau, China; David Goyes, Colombia), convening workshops on southern criminology in Latin America to bridge global divides (in 2018 in Argentina and 2019 in Colombia); establishing a biennial conference at QUT to encourage genuine international dialogue with 21 countries across 4 continents, providing scholarships for scholars from disadvantaged universities to attend, setting up an adjunct professor program across the global south; and editing the Palgrave Handbook of Criminology and the Global South, all 1198 pages, 50 chapters and 90 authors from 18 countries. In the forward Raewyn Connell wrote: “This Handbook embodies for criminology a revolutionary change that is influencing and challenging all the social sciences.” (Connell, 2018:vii)
I hope so because the origin stories of criminology were premised on a construction of the criminal as a sub-human, a monster, an evolutionary degenerate derivative of a primitive culture or species from the global south. This fiction then subsequently embedded itself in more sophisticated, structuralist discourses that linked race with the modernization thesis and the social disorganisation of large cities of the global north. From then onwards the subject matter of criminology was what happened in cities, over-looking the rural. Yet the origin stories of a criminology from the global south yield a set of different theoretical and empirical questions – one of those is about the importance of rural landscapes in the processes of colonisation and subsequent criminalisation of its Indigenous inhabitants. This is how I see rural and southern criminology over-lapping. But as our conclusion in Southern Criminology (2019) cautioned:

“Much remains to be done.

The primary challenge lies in redefining the geographic and symbolic limits of criminology to create globally connected systems of knowledge. In this sense southernizing criminology is just a step in the journey toward the development of a trans-national criminology that is inclusive of the experiences and perspectives of a plurality of voices from the Global South.” (Carrington, Hogg, Scott, Sozzo, Walters, 2019: 192-193)

What is next for you?
I have been the Head of the School of Justice in the Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology, Australia, for almost 11 years and will be transitioning into a research intensive professorship in July this year, finishing off my current ARC Discovery, presenting a keynote at the British Society of Criminology in July and applying for a Laureate in the November round. I’m very much looking forward to spending more time with family, friends, colleagues, research assistants and HDR students.
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RURAL AMERICA

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Dr Hsin-Yen Yang
Department of Communication Studies
Fort Hayes State University

Introduction
The project has been established since fall 2018 by Drs. Ziwei Qi (Criminal Justice) and Hsin-Yen Yang (Communication Studies). It was funded by the Entrepreneur Faculty Fellows Program (sponsored by the Provost's Office and the Robin College of Business and Entrepreneurship) at Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS, between 2018 and 2019. The researchers have been systematically examining various vocational rehabilitation programs in the United States, and have been working towards creating feasible career counsels and training sessions addressing the needs of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and human trafficking survivors. The project aims to reduce the constraints survivors face, to promote the freedom of economic independence, and to empower survivors to seize opportunity freely. It commits to providing sustainable support and improvement to help survivors to break the cycle of violence and to transform themselves from victims/survivors to social entrepreneurs.

The Problem
In the U.S., Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and human trafficking are significant public health epidemics and in need of more attention from the field of social sciences and public services nationally and globally (Salinsky, 2017). According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), in the U.S., on average, 20 people experience IPV per minute, which equates to more than 10 million victims annually. One of the most common consequences of IPV is the economic impact associated with medical expenditure, lack of employment opportunities, and cost of housing instability (McLean & Bocinski, 2017). Statistics show the price of IPV exceeds $8.3 billion per year (Rothman, Hathaway, Stidsen & de Vries, 2007). Financial abuse is one of the most common but least recognised tactics in IPV. Abusers seek to control and sabotage the ability of the victims to acquire the resources to sustain self-efficacy, and to leave the abusive relationship. IPV has economic impacts for survivors throughout their lifetimes. Most importantly, those living in poverty experience IPV at twice the rate of those who do not, which furthers the reciprocal relationship between abuse and economic hardship (National Domestic Violence Hotline, n.d.).

Women in small rural and isolated areas reported a higher rate of victimisation of IPV compared to women in urban areas (Peek-Asa, Wallis, Harland & Beyer et al., 2011). For instance, Hays, U.S., where the research project has taken place, is the economic and cultural center of Northwestern Kansas. Hays is centrally located between the intersection of two major Interstate Highways: I-70 and I-35, which is known for being the hub of mid-western commerce and, unfortunately, human trafficking. In 2018, over 70,000 services were provided to the victims of IPA and human trafficking in Kansas. In 2017, 881 victims per day were served by IPA service agencies. However, none of these services provide sustainable financial support to the survivors. Without a promising financial status, it is perilous for survivors to go back to their abusers. In rural Northwest Kansas (population 109,000), survivors and related non-profit organisations heavily rely on government funding, and the resources are very limited. The constant federal and state budget cuts have further threatened the abused individuals and their families.
In conclusion, IPV affects a shockingly large proportion of the population and has a profound influence on the economy, health, and well-being of victims and their families. Most importantly, the underlying causes of IPV are complex and deeply entrenched, requiring the types of creative solutions, such as social entrepreneurship, that is uniquely well suited to advance.

The Solution: A Social Entrepreneurial Approach

Survivors face many barriers when deciding on whether or not to leave an abusive relationship. One obstacle for them is the lack of financial independence (DuMonthier & Dusenbury, 2016). According to research conducted by the Family Peace Initiative (2015), abusers tend to take away all the individual autonomy from the victim. This includes, but is not limited to, making all the critical decisions, isolating both the social and financial networks of the victim, and requiring the victim to serve their material purposes by exchanging sexual favors. According to the Women's Community, INC., a non-profit organisation providing specialised services and resources to IPA survivors in central Wisconsin, it takes 7 times on average for the victims to leave their abusers due to the desperate isolation and control.

Another challenge for victims to leave their abusers is that the public services have not provided an adequate resource for the survivors (Peled & Krigel, 2016). More importantly, the challenges are much more pronounced among survivors in rural areas, where access to public services is even more restricted (Webbsdale & Johnson, 2007). The research project aims to design a social enterprise where survivors in Northwestern Kansas will have opportunities to access both employment and long-term residential care. Once they are ready, they can carry on their own life with adequate skills and savings and to start a brand new life without fear and abuse.

Social Entrepreneurship promotes innovation to find new ways to help people in need (Campbell, 2013). Our research is the initial stage of a social movement using entrepreneurial approaches to give power and freedom to human trafficking and IPV survivors. The ability of a survivor of IPV to be economically secure is fundamental to that survivor’s safety. Those who are financially stable can meet their basic needs – housing, transportation, food, childcare, healthcare, and taxes – and have the assets to cushion unexpected expenses and provide for lifelong economic stability. In cases of IPV, a survivor’s ability to provide for himself/herself and his/her children independently is one of his/her most significant needs. A survivor who has financial security is more likely to leave an abusive relationship or more likely better to negotiate his/her safety within the relationship.

Many non-profit organisations have successfully implemented the idea of combining residential services and social enterprise (see Table 1). One of the successful models - Thistle Farms (Nashville, Tennessee) - has demonstrated its high-impact practice in the field. According to its annual report, in 2018, the organisation generated $1.5 million in income for women survivors. 1,200 women artisans had been supported through their social enterprise. These generated revenues, in return, provided 9,000 plus safe housing for the survivors. Another similar program is the Women’s Bean Project, which is located in Denver, Colorado. Women’s Bean Project is a non-profit organisation with the mission to change women’s lives by providing employment and healing through social enterprise. Back in 1989, the founder of the Women’s Bean Project-Jossy Eyre, invested 500 dollars of her own money to put women to work. Now, their revenue is more than 2 million per year. Their products are sold in nearly 1,000 stores nationwide. 93% of these formerly chronically unemployed women are still employed a year later. All women who graduated from the project move on to jobs in the community.

Inspired by these social entrepreneurial projects, we will design and assess our program performance by measuring the income generated for survivors, the number of survivors who have received our support through social enterprise, and how much revenue we have created for survivors and their children.
**Model organizations** | **Population served** | **Services Provided** | **Organization Model** | **Program Highlights**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Annie's Hope Center  
[https://sites.google.com/view/annieshop/home](https://sites.google.com/view/annieshop/home) | Domestic Violence | On-site employment and housing | Social Enterprise/ non-profit | Annie's Hope Center started in 2017 and currently is under program evaluation.
Freefrom.org  
[http://www.freefrom.org/](http://www.freefrom.org/) | Gender-based Violence | On-site employment | Social Enterprise/ non-profit | The organisation provides wealth and wellness certification program to the victim advocacy organisation, host survivor wealth summit, peer to peer financial coaching, and policy advocacy.
Raise my Head Foundation  
[https://raisemyhead.org/](https://raisemyhead.org/) | Sex trafficking | On-site employment and housing | Social enterprise/ non-profit | The organisation meets its residents' physical needs by providing housing and food for the duration of the program, as well as medical and dental care. In the Fall of 2018, they launched an online cottage industry selling skincare to help the women develop job skills and build their resume to gain employment after graduation.
Rightfully Sewn  
[https://rightfullysewn.org/vision](https://rightfullysewn.org/vision) | Women who face barriers to find employment | Employment | For-Profit | Rightfully Sewn provides seamstress training for individuals so they can thrive in a specialised workforce that will reestablish Kansas City as an epicenter of garment manufacturing.
Sojourner Center  
[https://www.sojournercenter.org/about/](https://www.sojournercenter.org/about/) | Domestic violence and human trafficking | Residential Community Child Pet | Victim Advocacy Agency | With capacity for 124 shelter beds and 32 transitional housing apartments. Provide services to almost 10,000 individuals per year, including both children and adults.
Sparrow House Botanics  
[https://sparrowhousebotanicals.com/](https://sparrowhousebotanicals.com/) | Sex trafficking | On-site employment | Social Enterprise/ non-profit | Coaching women survivors to handmade bath and body product with all the revenues goes back support survivors.
The HomeStead  
[http://www.homesteadadministration.org/](http://www.homesteadadministration.org/) | Sex trafficking | On-site employment and housing | Social Enterprise/ non-profit | Professional holistic services and career training provided to the victims.
Thistle Farm  
Veronica's Voice  
[https://www.veronicasvoice.org/](https://www.veronicasvoice.org/) | Prostitution and sex trafficking | On-site job training and housing | Non-profit | Veronica's Voice provides housing, education, the offender accountability school, and outreach program.
Women's Bean Project  
[https://www.womensbeanproject.com/](https://www.womensbeanproject.com/) | Victims of Women's Shelter | On-site job training | Non-profit | Women's Bean Project provides on-site employment, housing assistance, saving program, and other referrals to the victims.
The Uniqueness of the Project

Our social entrepreneurship project prioritises the financial freedom of the IPV survivors. In particular, our project fills the gap between temporary economic support and long-term safety and financial independence. In Northwest Kansas, Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services ("Options" hereafter) is the leading organisation that provides survivors resources such as transportation, shelter, childcare, employment, healthcare, and insurance, etc. According to its annual report, in 2018, Options provided 7,484 services to survivors in Northwest Kansas, and it is a 384% increase in domestic violence services compared to 2015. However, Options does not have sufficient funding to continue to support survivors in the area of financial independence. It is imperative to create sustainable revenues for the survivors and, sometimes, their children to generate long-term financial stability and security.

Our project is empowerment and justice-based, which emphasises seven essential steps from surviving to thriving: awareness, resource, safety, free from abuse, healing, training, and financial independence (see figure 1). The project includes the following steps as initial stages: a decentralised approach to matching survivors to local businesses for skills training and development; to provide a safe home to the survivors of IPV; to create and operate a social enterprise and to launch a state-wide network for other organisations with similar missions.

Our project commits to provide resources and training to the survivors of IPV who may lack opportunities otherwise. Instead of focusing on job placements that only meet the minimum wage, our program explores innovative venues to guide the survivors to own the means of production that are sustainable and transformative. In the following, we introduce the roadmap of the project:

Future of the Project

We aim to build a consulting team to guide our future research and service plan. So far, we have the support from a diverse group of community partners, including the founders of Jana’s Campaign, the director of Options, a leading local victim advocacy agency, and business leaders in the Hays area. We have also received the endorsement from the Department of Sociology on campus, who will provide research support throughout the process. There are three more researchers who joined our advisory board recently. We also plan to reach out to local law enforcement, probation, social workers, and victim advocates to enlist a series of collaborative plans. During the research process, we will:

1. Interview and assess the needs of the survivors
2. Reach out to public health and career professionals to assist survivors' transitions
3. Reach out to potential community partners for business/ training collaborations
4. Assess the market and management opportunities
5. Complete program plans
6. Design policies of an employee handbook
7. Conduct research and assessment
8. Provide consultation services to enhance the services to the survivors
Figure 1: Path for Economic Empowerment

Awareness of the Issue → Power and Control Theory

Access to Resource
- Legal
- Medical (referral)
- Residential
- Career

Safety
- Personal
- Family
- Pets and animals

Choice-making without fear (Important step of recovery)

Healing Process
- Emotional
- Physical
- Social

Training
- Interest
- Education
- Financial
- Skills

Realization of financial independence
- Responsibility
- Performance
- Commitment
References


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

My name is Emmanuel Bunei. I come from Kenya, East Africa and I am currently a PhD Student pursuing a multi-disciplinary PhD in rural criminology at the University of New England. My research interests are majorly on farm crime, food crime, entrepreneurial crimes, impact of criminalisation of cultures and policing from rural perspectives. I have written more than ten articles on crimes in rural areas, especially on farm crime which have already been published with reputable journals and publishers. I have edited a special edition of the International Journal of Rural Criminology on farm crime. My PhD project aims at understanding the gaps, challenges, and constraints that shape or enhance non-compliance with agrifood safety laws by rural communities, specifically rural farmers. I am also interested in understanding the interrelationship between rural areas and urban centres from the business/entrepreneurial perspective through the criminological lens.

What made you decide to complete a PhD in rural criminology?

When I enrolled in Masters, like other students, finding a topic of research is always challenging. Initially, I wanted to study population studies, however, I never had enough will power and interest. One day, while I was skimming through textbooks of criminology at the university library, I accidentally stumbled upon a book written by Swanson, Charles R., Neil C. Chamelin, and Leonard Territo titled “Criminal Investigation”. The book had a chapter on “agricultural crime”, which immediately struck my nerves as it augured well with what I have wanted to know more about since my childhood.

From this chapter, I wrote a concept paper to my supervisors at my previous university, which instantly become a topic of interest due to its uniqueness and focus to farming communities. While conducting my field work on farm crime, I become more concerned with how farming communities respond to laws. As I listened to their stories, one theme kept re-occurring; the difficulty farmers have with government regulations. Based on this, I began to write a concept project on how food producers’ respond to regulations. This concept subsequently led me to do PhD in Rural criminology.

Since my undergraduate studies, I have always wanted to understand how social, economic, legal and political changes in society affect rural areas and communities. Specifically, my interest has always been to understand how rural communities experience law, policing, social changes and transformations through a criminological lens.
Who has influenced or inspired your work?
I have been influenced by a number of people since the time I started developing an interest in criminology some two decades ago. First is my late father, John Chepkiyeng, who used to avoid planting maize early to minimize green maize theft. Secondly is Associate Professor Elaine Barclay, formerly from the University of New England. Third is Professor Joseph F. Donnermeyer from Ohio State University. Fourth is Mr. Willie Clack from University of South Africa. And lastly, Dr. Joseph Rono, from Moi University in Kenya, who greatly influenced and supported me to undertake a project in farm crime during my MA studies. Barclay, Donnermeyer and Clack’s research work and approach to promotion of understanding of rural criminological scholarship are truly inspirational.

Have you had the opportunity to present at any conferences? If so, which ones, and what did you most enjoy?
I have participated in two international conferences. First as a keynote speaker at the international rural crime conference held at Pretoria, South Africa in 2017 and secondly as a presenter at the International Rural Crime conference held at Armidale, Australia in 2018. Both conferences were exceptional in the way they were organised especially the participation of farmers, and government people in the conference. Listening to farmers, police, legislators, and journalists, among others, showed that every voice is vital to understanding and responding to rural crime.

What is next for you?
Upon completion of my PhD, I intend to continue pursuing and promoting rural criminology issues in the lecture room, conference rooms, field and government corridors. Specifically, the unfinished business of ensuring that new knowledge is gained through research and then integrated into legislative and policy developments remains a key area of interest to me.
POLICING, JUSTICE AND RURALITY LEADERS:

DR ALISTAIR HARKNESS
Senior Lecturer
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Federation University

DR BRIDGET HARRIS
Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow
Senior Lecturer
School of Justice
Queensland University of Technology

What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Policing, Justice and Rurality?:
• Access to Justice: Rural access to justice systems and issues
• Justice systems: Operations and challenges of policing, court and corrections in non-urban places
• Justice responses to rural victimology: Rights of and responses to rural victims of crime
• Policy and practice: Evidence-based approaches to policy and decision making on local, national and international levels
• Responses to rural offending: crime prevention and desistance opportunities

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?: Hitherto there has been an overemphasis on constructions of rurality as ‘idyllic’ and rural spaces/places as crime-free. The emerging sub-discipline of rural criminology is gradually debunking this myth with evidence-based research - but there are numerous additional opportunities to add to scholarly understandings of rural crime and practical outcomes for rural communities.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?:
• Bolster understandings of and responses to justice systems and issues beyond the cityscape
• Advancing rural research and scholarship theoretically, conceptually and methodologically
• Engaging with academics, practitioners and advocates in the government and non-government sector to enhance information-sharing and cooperation
• Investigating and addressing access to justice and ‘postcode justice’ - spatial variances in systems operations and outcomes - in rural places
• Developing evidence-informed and capacity building strategies, policies and guidelines for effective practice
• Locating innovative justice responses and enhance access to justice in rural places, including through the use of technology
CRIMINOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LEADERS:

What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Criminological Dimensions of Food and Agriculture?:
At the heart of the issue of criminology and food and agriculture is the need to raise its profile as a distinct area of study. At present its limited presence in journals and texts leaves policymakers bereft of evidence as to the typology, extent and impact or nature of such crimes, and how it affects rural communities, businesses, and individuals and potentially into the surety of food supply.

I see the subject area falling into 3 very broad areas. Crimes that affect productivity including farm machinery and livestock theft. Business crimes such as food fraud, counterfeit pesticides and illegal movement of products, that impact businesses directly but also undermine relations with consumers and threaten biosecurity and finally societal crimes, including modern slavery and farmers as criminals. Cutting these are themes are the interdisciplinary areas relating to farmer behaviour, the impact of crime on farmers, and relationships with law enforcement.

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?:
Having worked extensively in agriculture for some 25 years I've seen how crime can directly impact production. Agricultural margins are small, consumer demand is high for both quality and value and crime can sometimes be the tipping point for a business to fold, or its efficiency to drop with impacts on farmers and families beyond the financial. The experience in the UK is generally that agricultural crime is not recognised as a distinct issue and as such has been largely unchallenged both by law enforcement and the deployment of resources. To have sustainable food production we require a stable farming community able to invest and be rewarded by productivity, farming is perilous enough to have it not retarded by crime.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?:
I would like to see more collaborative work between the global south and north and a focus on evaluating responses to crimes in this subject area. I would like to encourage researchers at all levels to get into the field and amongst communities to drill down into these issues. Most of all we now have a forum to discuss, collaborate and share our ideas and concepts and not have them lost in the wider world of criminology or rural sociology. We need to talk about our area as a distinct subject, reach out to communities, law enforcement, and policy makers and engage with them and we can do this by being relevant.

How as academics and researchers we do begin this is really up to us, but to start I would like to see online sandpits to develop links within countries and between countries, ECR seminars to give a platform for developing academics and encouraging publication not just of full research papers but research notes. Most of all, we have to be inclusive, supportive and engage with each other.

DR RICHARD BYRNE
Senior Lecturer
Harper Adams University
CRIMINOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LEADERS:

EMMANUEL BUNEI
PhD Candidate, University of New England

What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Criminological Dimensions of Food and Agriculture?:

- Non-compliance/compliance with food safety regulations
- Agriculture and social harms (violence, labour exploitation, child labour, family abuse)
- Agriculture and Environmental harms (chemical use, illegal hunting, waste disposal etc)
- Agriculture, technology and harms: green food, GMOs
- Agriculture, animal welfare and crime
- Climate change, agriculture and crime
- Food frauds
- Farm crime (property crimes)

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?:

Issues of food and agriculture are matters of concern to me. Whereas we can study these subjects from any context, perspective or approach, studying them from criminological vantage is intriguing. This is because of the mere fact that, more often scholars and policy makers and implementers often neglected rural areas and communities in their focus. They often think the rural areas are the same as urban. Another assumption is the thinking that rural areas are crime free and peaceful, and yet the opposite is true. Rural areas continue to witness an increasing spate of crime in a different magnitude and frequency.

Criminology of food and agriculture is two sides of a coin. One side focuses on crime against agriculture such as property crime, farm fraud, violence to farmers, illegal trespass among others. The other side focuses on crimes in food production such as labour exploitation, environmental degradation, food safety among others. Put it in another way, the former views farmers as victims while the later views farmers as violators.

I am passionate about criminology of food and agriculture, greatly because, rarely do we appreciate how criminological activities such as farm produce theft, fuel theft, labour exploitation, family exploitation, environmental degradation or violence can impact agriculture and food security. If it was possible to conduct a dissection of food, specifically farm produce and apply a criminological lens, we may discover some harms, unethical or illegal practices, substances or actions that the food is carrying. Some food may have a trail of environmental destruction. Yet others are products of violations of human welfare. Examples include child labour exploitation in West Africa in the production of cocoa.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?:

1. Providing specialist resources, services and updates to researchers and external stakeholders through both formal and informal channels (twitter, Facebook, center’s website among others).
2. Participating in conferences and workshops that focus on criminology of food and agriculture
3. Development of university unit in criminology of food and agriculture
What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Drug Use, Production and Trafficking in the Rural Context?: We both conduct research in the field of alcohol and illicit drugs, including work focussed on rural areas. One particular area we both work on and consider a key issue is opioid-related harm in rural communities; in particular, the increase in opioid overdose deaths, which has disproportionately affected some rural and regional communities. Importantly, the use of alcohol and some drugs, as well as harms related to use and access to treatment, is very different for people living in regional and remote areas. However, generally little is known about how rurality shapes the risk environment for drug-related harms, an area we both are passionate about. Not only is this the case for the use of substances, but there are also unique risks, for example, around exploitation of rural and regional towns for the supply of drugs. An emerging issue is how COVID-19 is impacting on rural communities and access to essential services, along with the development of other illicit markets and potential exploitation of rural communities by criminal networks.

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?: Rural communities face unique challenges when it comes to drug use, production and trafficking. These include spatial inequalities such as geographic isolation and lack of access to drug and alcohol services, and enhanced stigma in rural communities. We are passionate about this topic as evidence has increasingly shown that the demand for alcohol and illicit drug support and treatment services is high and increasing in rural communities. Nevertheless, these services are still under-resourced and government action, including sufficient funding, is needed to improve services and promote effective drug policy in rural and regional communities. We therefore hope to contribute to policy change with our research.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?: We aim to enhance the research profile of the Centre for Rural Criminology by: identifying opportunities for collaboration across academics working in the drugs theme; enhancing networking by holding a workshop and/or seminar on rural drug issues; and facilitating grant applications through searching for relevant opportunities and putting key people together to apply for grants. We will encourage community engagement with the Centre by identifying, making links with and distributing information about the Centre to rural drug and alcohol organisations, as well as through peak bodies. Given the limitations due to COVID-19, we will aim to create strong digital networks and use online platforms to facilitate networking events.
What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Violence and Rurality?: Rural areas in Australia, Canada and other countries are experiencing higher rates of reported (and unreported) violent crime. However, little research examines why this is the case in these contexts and how to respond to it.

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?: I think as researchers we need to work WITH local leadership and community safety stakeholders to identify the root causes of this violence and respond to this violence in ways which strengthen communities more broadly.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?: To expand this area, I would connect with other scholars and practitioners in these spaces to share resources and training. This would include fact sheets for the Centre’s website (one page, accessible documents detailing the current research) from prominent scholars and practitioners in this field. These are frequently used by policy makers, scholars and practitioners and help connect them with the broader research literature. Additionally, I would like to connect these researchers in planned panels or roundtables at conferences such as ANZSOC or ASC. Finally, I think short video clips on current projects done by rural violence researchers would be a great way to extend this thematic area on the website and provide material for rural criminology courses.

What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Violence and Rurality?: Rural crimes are undergoing fundamental and drastic changes across the world due to migration, the decline of the family farm, the emergence of violence, the erosion of collective efficacy, the impact of the opioid crisis, the challenges of housing development, and limited access to various social and legal resources. Considering the scarcity of literature on rural crime and rural criminology, it’s criminologists’ responsibility to reimagine the causes and consequences of crimes in rural areas.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?: As a thematic leader for Violence and Rurality, the group will be facilitating cross-disciplinary research focusing on the causes and control of violence and aggression in rural areas. We will lead and facilitate collaborative networks for researchers to apply evidence-based approaches and to investigate best practices addressing violence related to gender, substance abuse, migration, youth, culture, poverty, agriculture, and more in rural areas. Finally, the group will establish and develop academic-community collaborations through service-learning, research, assessment, and create educational opportunities and policy recommendations to enhance the wellbeing of rural communities.
ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND CRIME LEADER:

DR LAURA BEDFORD

Lecturer in Criminology
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Faculty of Arts and Educations
Deakin University

What do you see as the main themes and issues for the area of Environment, Climate and Crime?:
1. Eco-crime, which encapsulates both environmental crime (legally defined), regulatory failure or capture, and sanctioned or lawful acts of environmental harm.
   a. Land and water ‘grabbing’
   b. Land and water pollution and degradation
   c. Biodiversity loss and extinction
   d. Crimes and harms against wild ecosystems and wild animals
   e. Industrial agriculture and aquaculture, species justice and crimes against non-human animals
   f. Mining and resource extraction
2. Indigenous land custodians and environmental defenders, rights, heritage and customary law
3. Just transition, climate change and rural areas
4. Food and water security -- insecurity as a weapon of social control and war
5. Environmental victimology
6. Political ecology, political economy and justice in rural areas

Why are you passionate about this particular aspect of rural crime?: As a green criminologist, I define rural areas as non-urban areas, and include in this definition: farmland, villages, forests, jungles, bushland, deserts, coasts and oceans. While urban areas are the focus of many environmental harms and crimes, it is in rural areas around the globe that diverse and significant environmental harms and crimes are often least manifest, least understood, and least subject to justice. I am passionate about environmental justice, eco-justice and species justice, and excited by the new directions in criminology that have focussed attention beyond interpersonal crime and ‘crimes of the streets’ towards victims of environmental crime. Inherent to these new directions is a re-examination of law and justice that focusses attention on the relationship between rural environments, politics and power. In this perspective crimes against ecosystems and non-human animals are understood beyond current criminal justice considerations of these crimes and harms as property crimes.

As thematic leader, what are your plans and strategies for the next two years to facilitate and engage researchers in this field?:
Subject to current considerations related to COVID-19 in terms of capacity, funding, University support, travel, and face-to-face collaboration:
1. Build an international network of criminologists (and scholars working in complimentary disciplines outside of criminology) working in the themes and issues described above.
2. Identify relevant networking and conference opportunities and disseminate these. Plan to hold a workshop on the theme of Environment, Justice and Rurality in Australia.
3. Identify and strengthen opportunities for publication in the fields of rural criminology and victimology. Identify the opportunity for a Special Edition in a relevant journal related to Environment, Justice and Rurality.
4. Track publications relevant to the six themes identified above and highlight key findings and results through UNE Centre for Rural Criminology publications and websites.
5. Enhance research collaboration between scholars working in the fields of rural criminology, victimology, and green criminology.
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Dr Maluleke is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Limpopo (UL), South Africa. He has published and reviewed research articles in high impact local and international journals covering ‘Agricultural related themes, Policing, Prevention and Combating of stock theft related crimes, as well as Corruption, Climate change, Justice accessibility and Human trafficking. His areas of expertise are confined to rural / agricultural crimes [stock theft], community safety policing, forensic and criminal investigations. In 2010, he was awarded a Chancellor’s Medal and Certificate for outstanding academic achievement by TUT and in 2018, he was part of the top 30 most published researcher at University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN). He has lectured in various universities in South Africa; such as the Pretoria Technical College [PTC], Southern Business School, TUT, University of South Africa [UNISA] and UKZN. He also worked as the Forensic Investigator in the Department of Human Settlements [DHS], the National office, Special Investigations Directorate.

Introduction
Dean (2020) highlighted that cattle, sheep and goats worth more than R1,2 billion were stolen in South Africa during the 2018/2019 financial year, according to statistics by the National Stock Theft Prevention Forum (NSTPF). It also revealed that this figure applied to the value of animals stolen, and did not account for additional costs such as the judicial process, farmer costs, recovery costs and policing, among others. Approximately 30 000 livestock were reported stolen for this period. Moreover, the value of the cattle that were stolen was about R900 million (constituting approximately R200 million worth of sheep stolen and R100 million of goat). The biggest losses that were actually reported to the police occurred in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province, where the most cattle were stolen; followed by the Eastern Cape (EC), where the target was mostly sheep; and thereafter the Free State (FS), where thieves targeted both cattle and sheep.

Chelin (2019) provides that the most significant problem remains that only 20% of stock theft cases are reported across South Africa, meaning that the real figure of this crime is unknown. Stock theft is often not reported owing to lack of trust in the South African Police Service (SAPS). Moreover, this crime is becoming a global phenomenon. In the United States (US), approximately 85% of stock theft is not reported, and in the United Kingdom (UK), the figure is at about 87%. Most stock theft related crimes are committed resulting from greed by organised syndicates [of the almost 30 000 cases of stock theft recorded in the 2018/2019 financial year, about 87% involved some form of organised crime] as opposed to a crime of need by poverty-stricken individuals trying to survive. According to Richard Chelin [a researcher at Enact Africa, an organisation working in partnership with the Institute for Security Studies – ISS] (cited in Dean, 2020), the threat of growing transnational organised crime involving stock theft is posed by syndicates who are increasingly stealing cattle in South Africa, taking them over the border to Lesotho for a cooling-off period, and then selling them back to South Africa.
Subsequently; as initially stated; stock theft is evidently becoming a worldwide lucrative business that has become a growing challenge, with more complexities to combat. From a South African perspective, this problem is not new for livestock farmers. The available reviewed research contend it is as old as agriculture itself. For example, the Eastern Cape Frontier wars (from 1779 to 1879), which lasted nearly a century, had a lot to do with the Northwards expansion of the Trekboers and the British. In this process, cattle theft was frequent with the Boers, the Brits, the Xhosa and the Khoisan all stealing each other’s livestock, whether out of need, greed or retribution. It is unknown who started this crime; however all parties claimed innocence. What is on record is that; on one occasion, Boer farmers in one District reported a complaint of 65 327 cattle as having been stolen by Xhosa raiders. The problem was that this was an amount eight times greater than all the cattle they had declared for tax purposes (Etherington, 2013). Stock theft [cattle-raiding in particular] was one of the most prominent aspects of Pre-colonial Xhosa warfare. "One now hurries to pursue the conquered enemy close at heel," wrote Landdrost Alberti in 1806 that “mainly endeavours to seize his cattle ... A great quantity of the captured Cattle [Goats and Sheep] are immediately slaughtered and consumed.” Even during peacetime, it was regarded as perfectly legitimate for bands of raiders to cross into the territory of neighbouring chiefdoms and lift their livestock. This was called *Ukunyangazza*; and the chief’s approval of the proceedings was signified by the fact that he accepted a share of the spoil (Peires, 1994). Moreover, the recorded cases of stock theft in this country can be traced as far back as 1806 and this crime affects the livestock farmers and industries in all nine provinces of South Africa (Clack, 2013, Dall, 2020, Goldenhuys, 2012, Goldenhuys, 2010, Peires, 1994, Pitcher, 2019, Lombard, 2015, and Lombard, van Niekerk, van Rooyen & Ogundeji, 2017) and it is recorded that during the 1990s stock theft reached an unprecedented peak in the new South Africa (NSTPF, 2019).

Solving and reducing the number of crimes of stock theft is a global paramount issue. Stock theft affects economic trends and there are capital incentives to maintain sustainability, profitability and food security and the emotional effect it has on the agricultural community (NSTPF, 2019). As a recourse; Maluleke (2018) avers that different technologies can be adopted in combating stock theft, and these strategies are becoming increasingly valuable to the operationalisation of the South African Criminal Justice System (CJS). However, the value of using technology in combating stock theft is vague to most livestock farmers. Instead, they revert to conventional methods, such as brand-marking and tattooing. These conventional techniques have not really proffered an enduring solution to the menace of stock-theft in South Africa. Maluleke (2016) examined the existing literature to survey the variety of methods used in combating stock theft across South Africa and elsewhere. One of these methods, DNA technology has been designed to revolutionise modern science and to enhance conventional methods of combating stock theft.

DNA technology was introduced across South Africa in 1996 through the partnership between SAPS and the Animal Genetics Laboratory (AGL) of Animal Research Council (ARC) - Animal Production Institute (API) to combat stock theft and it was envisaged to be a powerful tool in assisting the livestock farmers (Maluleke 2017). This introduction relied on providing accurate evidence against potential stock thieves. However, the practicality associated with the use of this system remains elusive to the livestock farmers. Equally, it should be noted that limited studies have been done to explore the challenges facing the implementation of DNA technology in combating stock theft in the selected areas of KZN and other provinces of South Africa.

The NSTPF (2019) points out that notwithstanding the claim of importance, stock theft is a neglected crime in South Africa’s agricultural areas. Similarly, the importance of livestock farming and associated stock theft challenges remain neglected subjects by researchers in the field of humanities and related research areas (Maluleke, 2016). This lack of criminological attention is despite the fact that, within the livestock farming sector, this crime has the biggest economic impact of all rural crime (Manganyi, Maluleke & Shandu, 2018). Therefore, the existing knowledge on the use of this technology should be interpreted, disseminated and implemented correctly by relevant stakeholders, if the country seeks to effectively address the current challenges associated with this crime, Maluleke (2018).

Dr Witness Maluleke found that “inadequate knowledge and application of the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in South Africa” exists. For this study; the selected areas of KZN Province included Bulwer, Ladysmith and Utrecht, which were prone to stock theft, further causing long-term pain and suffering to the local livestock farmers and other responsive stakeholders to this crime (Maluleke, 2016).

Generally, available studies on stock theft have focused only on the prevention of stock theft, using the conventional methods. However, no study has been done on the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in the KZN Province and other provinces of South Africa. Similarly, this crime may seem to be a minor crime to South African citizens, further allowing this subject to be largely ignored. However, the existing literature proposes a variety of methods of combating stock theft across South Africa and globally. One of those solutions has been DNA technology (Maluleke, Mokwena & Olofinbiiyi, 2019). For the purpose of this study, DNA technology makes it possible to provide a means of irrefutable identification of livestock. It was established that all livestock have a unique DNA profile (Maluleke, Mokwena & Olofinbiiyi, 2019). In the event that livestock are stolen, illegally relocated or even slaughtered, biological samples of such livestock can simply be taken and their DNA profile compared to those of the reference samples in order to verify their identity, effectively linking criminals to crime scenes (Maluleke, Mokwena & Olofinbiiyi, 2019). Importantly, the scientific study and evaluation of evidence found at a stock theft scene have helped in solving related cases resulting in the apprehension of potential stock thieves (Maluleke, Mokwena & Olofinbiiyi, 2019). To this end; the locations to obtain DNA evidence are vast, which consist of clothing, bodily fluids (semen, saliva, sweat, blood), fingerprints, tissue, skin cells and hair roots, among other things.

Methods

In this current doctoral study, the selected sample consisted of 49 participants in order to explore strategies on the use of conventional and technological methods in combating stock theft in the selected areas of the KZN Province by various stakeholders (see Table 1).

Table 1: Selected study sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Number of Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) – The DAFF Assistant Directors: Animal Technicians and Animal Production officials – KII</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS Stock Theft Units [SAPS STUs], Ladysmith – FGDs</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS Provincial Co-ordinator, Durban Central – KII</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS STU Detective, Utrecht – KII</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAPS STU Commander, Pietermaritzburg – KII</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock farmers - Utrecht (Newcastle); Ladysmith; and Pietermaritzburg, FGDs</td>
<td>24 KII (covered in 3 FGDs, involving 8 participants each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Stock Theft Associations’ managers, KII</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Police Forums (CPF) chairs, KII</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A voice recorder and field notes were used to supplement information gathered during the adopted semi-structured interviews. The collected data was analysed according to the thematic method by reducing data into themes, sub-themes and categorising and transcribing it verbatim to facilitate the process. Triangulation with literature studies was also utilised.

The strategies of the ‘Anti-Stock Theft Association’ were explored for the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in the selected areas within KZN Province. This study was descriptive and exploratory in nature, and accomplished by means of the application of documentary study, FGDs and KIs. All study participants were drawn from KZN Province. Non-probability-purposive sampling was used as the participants of FGDs and KIs were chosen haphazardly. The criterion used for selection of the sample was based on the number of SAPS years of service, which translate to experience and knowledge on stock theft. All these participants were Africans speaking different languages; some were fluent in IsiZulu and English, other languages of understanding were also used during this process.

Findings

The basis of this study was centred on the roles and competencies of the SAPS and other relevant stakeholders in combating stock theft through the use of DNA technology, and understanding the successes and challenges of combating stock theft with the use of this modern technology in South Africa and KZN Province in particular, focusing on the indicated selected areas Supra. The premise of this study was also focused on highlighting inadequate knowledge and application of the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in South Africa, relying on the selected areas of KZN Province.

Moreover, the purpose of this study was to explore the value of DNA technology in combating stock theft in KZN Province, in line with the study objective, which was to optimise the use of this technology in the selected areas of KZN Province by:

- Determining the methods and techniques used by the SAPS to combat stock theft;
- Identifying factors that hinder effectiveness in curbing stock theft; and
- Developing a conceptual framework on how the police can better deal with stock theft.

The guiding research question of this study was: What value does DNA technology add to the police’s role in combating stock theft?

This study revealed the dire need for the use of DNA technology to combat stock theft in South Africa, and in KZN Province specifically. The selected areas in the KZN Province were chosen as learning grounds, from which shortfalls and outcomes of previous methods employed to combat stock theft were used to inform current work, and to improve future work in the use of DNA technology to combat stock theft in the province and elsewhere. DNA technology is easily accessible by means of the establishment of effective partnerships between the CJS and the relevant stakeholders, and also using communal intervention systems to break the culture of isolation and move into a collaborative approach towards stock theft-combating strategies. It is important to simultaneously establish mechanisms to transfer Knowledge Management (KM) and share strategies, including the integration of conventional methods with available technologies, sharing the results of preliminary investigations and how DNA technology was used, and to inform stakeholders of court procedures.

This study also found challenges associated with the use of DNA technology to combat stock theft in South Africa. These challenges include, but are not limited to (1) Chain of custody in terms of handling of the exhibits from the crime scene to the Forensic Laboratory [FL]. (2) Lack of general knowledge about the use of DNA technology by SAPS investigating officers and other relevant stakeholders contributes to sample degradation and contamination, which negatively influence prosecution rates. This is perpetuated by (3) A lack of awareness of, and interest in, the use of this application far exceeding its use in practice.
The adequate knowledge application of using DNA technology in combating stock theft was not clear to most study participants, thus instead of using this application they reverted to using conventional methods, such as brand-marking and tattooing, with more emphasis placed on the current legislative framework of the Stock Theft Act (No. 57 of 1959) and Animal Identification Act (No. 6 of 2002) respectively, while invalidating the use of the new the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act (No. 37 of 2013) (the ‘DNA Act’) and other related international Acts (World Organisation for Animal Health standards – OIE standards). This study further found that the effective use of DNA technology in combating stock theft can provide a positive and significant contribution to ensuring the safety and protection of livestock, as well as the economies of South Africa communities.

Six challenges and themes were identified in this study, namely (1) Common usage of conventional methods to combat stock theft, (2) Delay in obtaining DNA evidence feedback from the responsible laboratories, (3) Inadequate knowledge and application of the use of DNA technology, (4) Lack of capacity and resources to combat stock theft, (5) Insufficient methods and techniques to combat stock theft and (6) Limited prioritisation of the stock theft scourge.

Based on the findings of this study, and the analysis of the data available in the literature and the selected study participants, it was possible to design a conceptual framework depicting the integration of conventional methods for combating stock theft with the use of the initial outlined RFID, Wi-Fi, WSN, ZigBee, DNA technology and the involvement of the relevant stakeholders. In essence, the developed conceptual framework consisted of five components, namely: (1) KM, (2) Available devices, (3) Preliminary investigation phases, (4) DNA technology analysis, and (5) Court procedures and conviction rates in combating stock theft in South Africa.

**Discussions**

Maluleke (2016) submits that DNA technology should be effectively used in the fight against stock theft. The livestock farmers should be heavily advised to use different technologies, along with conventional methods, in the fight against this crime. The integration of conventional and technological methods in branding and identifying [small/big] livestock is essential in combating stock theft. Unfortunately, the use of DNA technology is not as widespread as it could be in KZN Province. Thus, different technologies, coupled with DNA technology are becoming “an increasingly important component of the CJS, and that unfortunately, the value of using this technology in combating this crime is not clear to most livestock farmers in the selected areas, who preferred conventional methods, such as branding and tattooing, while eschewing Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Wireless Sensor Node / Network (WSN), Wireless-Fidelity (Wi-Fi) and ZigBee.

Importantly, Maluleke (2016) shares that the effective use of technologies (DNA in particular) in combating stock theft can provide a positive and significant contribution to ensuring the safety and protection of livestock, as well as the [livelihoods] of South Africa’s livestock farming communities. Collecting DNA evidence from individual animals and storing the samples so that ownership of the animals could be later confirmed was crucial for investigation and subsequent conviction. During the study fieldwork, livestock farmers indicated a need for the establishment of a stock theft forensic laboratory in the KZN Province, in order to decrease the time taken to submit DNA samples to laboratories in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth or Pretoria. Increasing the ease of access could improve the likelihood of adoption of this technology. To extend the use of DNA technology in the investigation of stock theft, this study recommended that more SAPS STUs members be trained in the use of this technology, and that each STU in selected areas in KZN Province should have designated technology experts working closely with local livestock farmers and forensic laboratories for effective DNA evidence analysis.

It is envisaged that the findings of this study will be used to (a) Understand the diverse experiences in conducting future research studies on the use of DNA technology against stock theft, (b) To create educational materials, or design future improvements and interventions systems, (c) To assist the SAPS and other relevant stakeholders in providing services related to combating stock theft, and (d) To inform further policies relating to the use of DNA technology.
Notably, inadequate knowledge and application of the use of DNA technology to adequately respond to stock theft cases where there is no *prima facie* evidence before the STUs members in the initiation of investigations to further carry out an arrest should be reconsidered as the DNA technology can be positively used to link the potential suspects with the crime in question. In light of this finding, DNA technology is widely used internationally and locally to solve stock theft cases to combat stock theft in the specified areas plagued by this scourge in KZN Province can be very problematic. At the same time, it is acknowledged that there are no plans to establish Stock Theft Forensic Laboratory (STFL) in the province. The participants also stated that it is difficult to deal with the high prevalence of stock theft in the selected areas of KZN Province. They indicated that the available stock theft statistics in this study do not lie. They questioned the analysis performed by the SAPS after recording the-said statistics. They mentioned that it is a waste of time to release those statistics because they do not complement the available strategies to combat stock theft in the selected areas. As a result, the operations of the Division of Crime Intelligence (DCI) are compromised. The DCI manages crime intelligence and analyses crime information, and provides technical support for investigations and crime prevention operations. This division contributes to the neutralisation of crime by gathering, collating and analysing intelligence information that leads to an actionable policing activity.

**Recommendations**

In identifying the strategies for improving the inadequate knowledge and application of the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in South Africa; it was clear that knowledge of the application of DNA technology in combating stock theft was limited from the participants’ perspectives. The researcher recommends that more SAPS STUs members be trained specifically in the use of DNA technology. It would be best if each SAPS STU in the selected areas of KZN Province could have designated DNA technology experts working along with the respective forensic laboratories across the country. This will assist the SAPS STUs tremendously with their investigation of stock theft, for example in instances when livestock is stolen, illegally relocated or even slaughtered, by being able to use biological samples to link a potential suspect to the crime in question, or to exonerate an innocent person. It is also recommended that for the effective policing of stock theft by the SAPS STUs in selected areas of KZN Province (Newcastle – Bulwer, Ladysmith and Pietermaritzburg) the application of criminalistics (DNA) evidence should be incorporated. This procedure could produce the desired results with regard to an increase in high-quality maintenance of the chain of custody during the investigation of these cases (Maluleke, Mokwena & Olofinbiyi, 2019).

Maluleke (2016) also argued that DNA technology has proved to be a solution to the stock theft epidemic by providing rapid means of identification; therefore DNA technology should be used as a confirmaory forensic tool in animal identification. The value of this application is gaining momentum daily as an effective tool to be used in most forms of combating, investigations and prevention, irrespective of either criminal or civil nature. Furthermore, the researcher recommends that a specific National Instruction be added to the Crime Scene Policy (CSP), which specifically contains a full description of how to use DNA technology for combating stock theft, as well as for which stock theft cases an expert is required. Other relevant stakeholders should also be trained in this application to enable the mobilisation against stock theft in the selected areas. Combating of stock theft in the selected areas of KZN requires the relevant stakeholders to maintain and strengthen their deliberations on special law enforcement operations and to ensure that ‘hot spots’ are stabilised and criminal elements are addressed.

The consulted literature indicates that the *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act* (No. 37 of 2013) (the ‘DNA Act’) came into effect on 31 January 2015. This Act ensures that the creation of the National Forensic DNA Database of South Africa will function effectively, not only as a tool for gathering incriminating evidence, but also for gathering evidence to eliminate suspects and to safeguard against wrongful convictions / arrests as stated previously or other miscarriages of justice. On 27 January 2015, the Minister of Police appointed the Forensic Oversight and Ethical Board. This Board will monitor the implementation of the *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act* (No. 37 of 2013) (the ‘DNA Act’) with regard to the attendance and processing of crime scenes, the collection and storage of exhibit material and DNA samples, as well as the performance of the FSL and the National Forensic DNA Database of South Africa. These amendments will facilitate the use of DNA technology in combating stock theft in South Africa, selected areas in the KZN Province included.
Deductions:

- To my mother (Annah Mkateko Maluleke), for carrying the burden after our father’s unexpected death, and instilling in me and my siblings a strong belief in the possibility of attaining our dreams.
- To my late daughter (Hlayani Mkateko Maluleke - 2013-10-16 -2014-01-08): daddy loves you, my angel; you are gone but not forgotten, and your memory pushes me to the limit.
- To my late father (Risimati Phineas Maluleke - 1962-01-13 - 1992-08-08): for all his attempts to serve the nation, only to then lose the battle to police killings. I am here to carry on with your unfinished journey and your dream will not go unnoticed.
- To my siblings: Wiseman “Madlaya / Magic”; Chachulani “Maseve”; Tivumbeni “Nduza”; and Perfect “Nhenga”. I cherish all the time that we have. You are the embodiment of true love, and I cannot ask for more.
- To my wife “Nkosimphile Makhubele”: You are the best that I have. I love the fact that you made me a dad to “Hlayani Mkateko Maluleke”, and I apologize for my bad times.

References


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
CALL FOR CHAPTERS - EDITED COLLECTION

Access to Justice in Rural Communities: Global Perspectives

Editors: Dr. Daniel Newman, Cardiff University and Dr. Faith Gordon, Monash University

The proposed edited collection examines access to justice in rural areas in international comparable contexts. It will explore criminal, civil and family law contexts to highlight rural access to justice in the round. In so doing, it fills a gap in the socio-legal literature and highlights the diversity of experiences within, and across rural areas internationally. The collection will highlight a range of social, geographic and cultural issues that affect how people and communities experience the justice system, which are sometimes overlooked in work around access to justice. By bringing in the voices and experiences of those who are often ignored or side-lined by justice systems, this book will set out an agenda for ensuring social justice in legal systems with a focus on protecting marginalised groups. Further, by including the perspectives and experiences of lawyers, the judiciary and representatives of other branches of the legal system, the collection draws on the experiences of those working and experiencing the lived realities of access to justice in rural communities.

The book will appeal across a variety of global jurisdictions as it will bring together a range of expert contributions that offer new contemporary insight into significant access to justice issues facing marginalised groups and practitioners in rural communities, internationally.

Themes include (but are not limited to):
- Rural Communities and the Justice System
- Global Perspectives on Rural Justice
- Experiences of Marginalised Groups
- Legal Education, Training and Practice: The Realities of Serving Rural Communities
- Reforms, Cuts and Justice Investment (e.g. technology pilots; court closures)

Call for Abstracts

If your research and/or practice expertise aligns with this and you would be interested in submitting an abstract for a chapter contribution, please send 300-500 words, along with a biography to: newmandc@cardiff.ac.uk by 01/05/2020. Chapters are 5,000 words in length.

Target Publisher: Hart Publishing  Proposal Submission date: 01/08/2020
RURAL CRIME HAS LONG BEEN OVERLOOKED IN THE FIELD OF CRIME PREVENTION. SUSTAINED ACADEMIC INTERROGATION IS NEEDED, THEREFORE, TO REDUCE THE EXTENSIVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS OF RURAL CRIME AS WELL AS TO CHALLENGE SOME OF THE MYTHS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF RURAL CRIME.

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.

Proactive responses to rural offending based on sound evidence can serve to facilitate feelings of safety and security throughout communities, enhance individual wellbeing and alleviate pressure on the overburdened and typically under-resourced formal elements of the criminal justice system. This book provides an opportunity to focus on the prevention of crime in regional, rural and remote parts of the globe.

An accessible and compelling read, this book will appeal to students and scholars of criminology, policing, sociology and practitioners interested in learning about the best-practice international approaches to rural crime prevention in the twenty-first century.


NEW BOOK SERIES

The Research in Rural Crime series focuses on rural crime – and importantly responses to rural crime – providing an outlet for original, cutting-edge monograph-length research in the criminological subfield of rural criminology. Truly international in nature, it welcomes and produces titles that are jurisdictional specific or related to themes that transcend political and juridical boundaries, and presents outlooks on contemporary and pressing public policy issues.

Myths about peaceful, crime-free areas beyond the cityscapes 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. The series provides a space for new research and writing on a wide range of rural crime topics, rural transgressions, security and justice.

Contributors to this series provide cutting-edge 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.

Contact regarding proposals

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.

To discuss a proposal, please contact the series editors:
Alistair Harkness – alistair.harkness@federation.edu.au
Matt Bowden – matt.bowden@TUDublin.ie
2020 CONFERENCES AND RURAL CRIME PANELS AND PAPERS

2020 presents a number of exciting opportunities where rural criminologists and like minded scholars, students and practitioners can showcase their work, learn more from others and to network professionally and socially. Following are details of three conferences.

European Society of Criminology
Where: Bucharest, Romania
When: 9-12 September 2020

Abstracts need to be received by 15 April 2020. 
Early bird registration by 1 June 2020.

Rural crime panels:
Kreseda Smith and Artur Pytlarz are organising a themed panel on rural crime/rural security for this conference. If you would like to propose a paper presentation with this theme, please send abstracts of up to 250 words to Kreseda Smith and Artur Pytlarz by Friday 27 March 2020. More details here: Rural Crime Panel Brief

Joe Donnermeyer is taking a co-ordinating role for anyone else wanting to present a paper at EuroCrime2020 and wish to join a general rural crime themed panel. At this stage, one or more panels on ‘International perspectives of rural crime and criminology’ are being considered. Please contact Joe by email to advise of your intention to attend and present and he will help put you in touch with and to join with others.

Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe – 13th biennial conference
Where: Ljubljana, Slovenia
When: 14-16 September 2020
Registration:

The 13th Biennial International Conference of Criminal Justice and Security in Central and Eastern Europe will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia between 14 and 16 September 2020. Of interest to members and friends of ISSRC will be the theme for 2020 – “Perspectives of Rural Safety, Security and Rural Criminology”. What a great opportunity for those with an interest in the study of rural crime and criminology to share research, ideas and much more.

More details – including on keynote speakers, important dates and registration information – can be found on the Conference website. Refer to this Word attachment, too, should you wish to pass on to colleagues: Conference Perspectives of Rural Safety Security and Rural Criminology.

American Society of Criminology
Where: Washington DC, United States
When: 18-21 November 2020
Registration: Visit the ASC website for further information.

Rural crime panels:
In 2019 for the ASC conference which took place in San Francisco, our ISSRC President Joe Donnermeyer took a co-ordinating role for people wanting to present a paper and to join a panel. There is much merit in locating our individual papers within a themed panel rather than have them spread across a very large program and thus difficult to find. And, so, Joe is keen to hear from you if you are planning on visiting Washington this year.

Because of the sheer size of ASC, abstracts must be submitted early in the year. The deadline to submit abstracts for a Thematic Panel, Individual Paper, or Author Meets Critic Session is **Friday March 20, 2020.** Abstracts for Lightning Talks, Poster and Roundtable Submissions are due by **Friday May 15, 2020.** No late submissions will be accepted. Please contact Joe by email to advise of your intention to attend and present, and he will help put you in touch with others.
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 us at rucrim@une.edu.au.