

# THE RURAL CRIMINOLOGIST

*The latest on rural criminology around the world*



## THE CONTEXT OF PLACE

The photos featured in this issue were taken by editor Danielle Stoneberg during field visits with law enforcement in rural Oklahoma. It's not uncommon to see dilapidated structures that will remain in place in economically depressed communities. Prior to her acceptance at West Virginia University's Sociology Ph. D. program, Danielle worked with Dr. Rashi Shukla at the University of Central Oklahoma, where they conducted interviews in an effort to understand the challenges in responding to drugs and crime in a rural context.

## RURAL CRIMINOLOGY: A BRIEF HISTORY

There is general consensus on the historic lack of rural research in criminology. Despite the world's population only recently becoming a majority urban population (The World Bank, 2016), the study of rural criminology has historically lagged well behind its examination in urban contexts. However, scholarship over the past quarter century has advanced the field from being largely unknown to now informing the general field of criminology and both critiquing and revising various criminological theories, not only in the U.S., but also abroad.

The field of rural criminology "came of age" with a number of paramount events during the 1990s and into the 21st century. In 1996, Weisheit and colleagues published *Crime and Policing in Rural and Small-Town America*, the first comprehensive compilation of rural crime literature. Social disorganization theory and the concept of collective efficacy were critiqued and reinterpreted with the emergence of two rural criminology theories, civic community theory (see Lee, 2008) and male-peer support theory of violence against women (see DeKeseredy and Schwartz, 2009). Additionally, feminist scholarship has been embraced by rural criminology with many feminist scholars conducting research focused on topics related to rural peoples and communities (see Dragiewicz, 2015, Rennison et al., 2013, Wendt, 2016). Today is a notable time for rural criminology with a listserv, an on-line international journal, conferences, a Routledge monograph series, and a number of published books.



## EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to what will become the first of many installments of this newsletter. We aim to use this platform to share with you the latest in rural crime research around the world. Each issue will highlight a scholar and/or research topic, new publications, and upcoming conferences. If you would like to nominate a scholar, topic, or conference to be featured in an issue, please feel free to contact us.

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## RURAL CRIME AND THE LAW CONFERENCE

The University of New England, School of Law in collaboration with the Criminology discipline is hosting a Rural Crime and the Law conference November 29-30, 2018 in Armidale, NSW, Australia. The conference encompasses four themes: rural crime, policing rural crime, law and rural crime, and crime in rural communities. Abstracts (100 to 250 words in length) should be submitted by October 1, 2018 to the conference convenor Dr. Elaine Barclay at [ebarclay@une.edu.au](mailto:ebarclay@une.edu.au). Outcomes will be determined on or around October 29, 2018.

## RURAL CRIMINOLOGY: A BRIEF HISTORY, CONT.

Although rural crime topics may look similar to the array of issues that can be examined in urban areas, it is distinctive. The rural context of communities with smaller sizes and lower population densities affect all crime and criminal justice issues. These rural issues are as complex and diverse as they are in an urban context, and therefore we must treat them seriously. Spatial distance from urban centers can exaggerate a variety of inequalities (e.g., political, cultural, and social), structural injustices that exist throughout all of a society. As well, the history of these locales can provide specific contexts without which an understanding of various of criminological issues is possible. Neither our understanding of crime nor scholarship is advanced when we continue to myopically think and treat rural areas as homogenous and without variation.

The emergence of rural criminology can shed a new light on how we think about crime and place more generally. It can also assist in the revision and creation of criminological theories. Rural can be thought of as more than the long-held myths and stereotypes. The world may be changing, but a great deal of its land area is not urban and issues associated with crime beyond large cities will affect the welfare of billions of people living in millions of small towns and village across this planet for many decades to come.

## THE DIVISION OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

While the Division of Rural Criminology (DRC) was created for ASC, our vision for this Division goes much further. We aim to have an international focus and serve as a network of scholars diligently striving to bring rural research to the forefront. The Editors welcome creative suggestions for how DRC can link up with scholars around the world who have rural interests but will never be ASC members

## CALL FOR PAPERS: INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RURAL LAW AND POLICY

The International Journal of Rural Law and Policy invites papers (5000-8000 words) from diverse disciplines and addressing rural crime from various perspectives (legal, socio-legal, criminology, comparative, ethical, socio-economic etc.). The following four aspects may be of particular relevance to the theme: rural crime, policy and law enforcement, geographical patterns, and wider sociological and anthropological approaches in the context of rural change.

Authors are asked to submit an abstract of 1500 words by November 15, 2018 to Dr. Ciprian N Radavoi at [cradavoi@une.edu.au](mailto:cradavoi@une.edu.au). Full manuscripts should be submitted via the journal website, by 15th January 2019.

For more information and guidelines for authors, please go to the IJRLP website <https://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/ijrlp>



# THE DIVISION OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY, CONT.

In the meantime, the rural crime listserv will serve as one type of worldwide outreach for rural criminologists everywhere. By holding hands, electronically speaking, we can bridge the isolation of rural scholars scattered about in universities around the world who neither have the time nor wherewithal to regularly attend the annual meetings of ASC.

## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Inaugural year dues are \$5 for students and \$15 for faculty. To join the Division, please do the following:

- Go to the Member Portal on the ASC website here: <https://account.asc41.com/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3274>. (This can also be accessed by going to the ASC homepage ([www.asc41.com](http://www.asc41.com)) and click on the Member Login button in the upper right corner.)
- Log in using your Username (You will be able to reset your password if you forgot or do not know what it is. You can also change your username if you wish after you log in.)
- After logging in, you will be on your member profile page. You will see links to the Division Add-On Forms under the heading: Forms
- Click on the appropriate form (Active or Student). Your ASC membership dictates which of these forms are accessible to you. You may also use the Printer-Friendly version if you prefer to pay by check.

## KICKSTARTER FUND

In addition, there is a Kickstarter Fund for those who wish to contribute more. Recommended amounts are in multiples of the dues structure. For example, faculty who wish to contribute more than \$15 should consider \$30, \$45, \$60, and so on and so on. Likewise, students can contribute in five dollar multiples, such as \$10, \$15, \$20 etc. Modest amounts! But they do add up!

All contributions are tax deductible and individuals who give at a higher rate than standard dues amounts will be recognized as members of the Division of Rural Criminology's Kickstarter Fund. All funds will be used in early years for operational expenses, with future considerations given to interest bearing accounts for travel scholarships etc. The Kickstarter Fund is off to a great start, with an initial contribution of \$600.

To donate, please go to:

<https://account.asc41.com/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3352>

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY

A new issue of the International Journal of Rural Criminology (IJRC) is now published. The content of Volume 4, Issue 1 includes:

**Policing peers and selves between law and morality: A socio-legal perspective on managing misconduct in hunting** by Erica von Essen and Hans Peter Hanson, Swedish University of Agriculture

**Violent girls in the United States: Suburban, urban, and rural differences** by Callie Rennison, University of Colorado, Denver and Walter S. DeKeseredy, West Virginia University

**Social disorganization and rural/urban crime rates: A county level comparison of contributing factors** by Kyle Ward, University of Northern Colorado, EmmaLeigh Kirchener, Mercyhurst University, and Andrew Thompson, University Northern Colorado

**Reimagining rural crime in England: A historical perspective** by Kreseda Smith and Richard Byrne, Harper Adams University

**The financial impact of registered sex offenders on home sale prices: A case study of McClean County, Illinois** by John Navarro, University of Wisconsin, Parkside and Cara Rabe-Hemp, Illinois State University

**Rural officer habitus and attitudes toward proposed changes to law enforcement** by Jason Contessa, Roanoke Police Department and Jess Wozniak, West Virginia University

The latest issue can be found at <https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/51122>



## DIVISION EVENTS FOR ASC 2018, ATLANTA, GA

Three important events will occur at the American Society of Criminology conference in Atlanta, GA for the inaugural year of the Division of Rural Criminology.

First, the inaugural meeting of the Division of Rural Criminology will be held on Wednesday, November 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. in the Marriott, International A, International Level. Following the meeting will be an informal get-together at a convenient locality for beer and pizza.

Second, a roundtable on the “The Future of Rural Criminology” will be held on November 15, 5:00 p.m. -6:20 p.m. in the Marriott, Area 4, Skyline Level. This roundtable session will discuss ideas for future activities of rural criminology at annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology and beyond.

Third, on Friday, November 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the West Virginia University reception will be co-sponsored by the Division of Rural Criminology. Locality in the Marriott to be announced later.

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This newsletter is to be published quarterly. We invite submissions of two kinds.

- First, are there newsworthy events about which an audience of rural criminologists would be interested.
- Second, all are welcome to submit brief essays/articles about a rural criminological or criminal justice issue.

We suggest a maximum word length of 2,000. If citations are used, please follow APA formatting. For more information on APA, go to [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html).

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