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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Contemporary Insights on Crime Trends & Patterns :
The Impact of Criminology



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Spatio-temporal Coupling between Crime and Clearance Rate: Mechanisms of Clearance Rate Differentiation—A Case Study of NH City, China

Wenshan Liu¹, Hequn Wu¹, Zuo Xu² and Ziwan Zheng³

¹Basic Courses Department, Zhejiang Police College, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

²Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, UK

³School of Big-Data and Network Security, Zhejiang Police College, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China

Corresponding author: Ziwan Zheng (zhengziwan@zjpcxy.cn)

Abstract

Against the backdrop of the unbalanced spatio-temporal distribution of urban crime and the urgent need to optimize policing efficiency, this study examines the spatio-temporal coupling between crime and clearance rates, with a focus on exploring their differentiation mechanism. Taking NH City as a case study, we integrate spatial statistical analysis, STL time-series decomposition, K-Means clustering, and univariate between-group difference analysis to systematically process 94,487 criminal records and multi-source geographic data. The results show that crime and clearance rates exhibit significant spatio-temporal mismatches. Temporally, crime counts and clearance rates fluctuate inversely; peak crime periods are associated with lower clearance efficiency, forming a phased “high-volume, low-efficiency” mismatch. Spatially, clearance rates show significant positive spatial agglomeration, but their hotspots are highly separate from high-crime areas, resulting in an unbalanced spatial pattern that highlights the spatial adaptation imbalance between clearance pressure and police workload. Further mechanism analysis reveals that three factors jointly drive the spatial differentiation of clearance rates: police workload (reflected by crime volume), environmental complexity (characterized by POI density), and technical support (from video surveillance coverage). Population density also indirectly restricts clearance rates through social anonymity and mobility. This study clarifies the underlying logic of clearance rate disparities, providing a basis for optimizing the spatial allocation of police resources and formulating data-driven strategies to enhance clearance rates.

Keywords: clearance rate; crime; spatial distribution; police workload

Comparison of Crime Location Choices Between Co-Offenders and Single Offenders

Kazuki Hirama, Kaeko Yokota, Kengo Furuhashi, Eriko Kuhara, Eiichi Nagayama, Takaya Ikeda and Kazumi Watanabe

National Research Institute of Police Science, Japan

Corresponding author: Kazuki Hirama (hirama@nriips.go.jp)

Abstract

The process of choosing a crime location may differ between offenses committed by co-offenders and those by single offenders because decision-making in co-offending may be influenced by group dynamics and other characteristics. To examine differences in crime location choice processes between co-offenders and single offenders, this study investigated whether the environmental characteristics of crime locations differed between co-offenders and single offenders by analyzing data on convenience store robbery cases in Japan between 2009 and 2017. When the dataset included multiple offenses committed by the same offender, only the first offense during the study period was included in the analysis. The final sample consisted of 223 cases committed by co-offenders and 2,520 cases committed by single offenders. Fourteen sociodemographic characteristics of the neighborhoods surrounding each robbery site were calculated using data from the 2015 Census. The calculated environmental characteristics included proportions of detached houses, apartments, long-term residents, workers employed in primary and secondary industries, and residents who commuted outside their municipality in the neighborhood surrounding each robbery site. The analytical procedure was as follows. First, environmental variables describing the neighborhoods around robbery sites were summarized using principal component analysis (PCA), and principal component scores were assigned to each case. Second, statistical tests were conducted to examine whether neighborhood characteristics differed between co-offending and single-offending cases based on the PCA scores. The PCA results indicated that approximately 50% of the total variance was explained by the first two principal components. The first component reflected “residential mobility” and was characterized by housing type (detached house versus apartment), residential stability, which was measured as the proportion of residents who had not moved for more than 9 years, and the proportion of workers in primary and secondary industries. The second component reflected “daytime mobility” and was indicated by the proportion of residents commuting outside their municipality and elderly residents living alone. The results suggest that convenience store robberies committed by co-offenders are more likely to occur in neighborhoods with higher

proportions of detached houses and long-term residents than those committed by single offenders. Furthermore, these robberies are more likely to occur in areas where residents frequently commute outside their municipality and the proportion of elderly residents living alone is relatively low. These findings suggest that the environmental characteristics of selected robbery locations differ between co-offending and single-offending cases, indicating the potential influence of group decision-making on crime location choice.

Public Awareness of Anti-Fraud Campaigns and Scam Detection Ability in Taiwan

*Chien, I-Lin and Chyou, Ya-Tien
Central Police University, China*

Corresponding author: Chien, I-Lin (university2008@gmail.com)

Abstract

As cyber fraud escalates globally, governments have intensified public anti-fraud campaigns to strengthen citizens' scam detection skills, yet empirical evaluations of their reach and impact remain limited. This study investigates public exposure to government-led anti-fraud campaigns in Taiwan, perceived scam detection ability, and evaluations of these initiatives. Data come from a nationally representative dual-frame telephone survey of adults aged 18 and above (N = 16,775) across Taiwan's 22 cities and counties, weighted to align with the population. Results indicate extensive penetration of anti-fraud messaging (90.9% exposure), with 75.9% of respondents confident in identifying suspicious online messages and 84.1% of those exposed expressing positive evaluations of the campaigns. However, chi-square tests reveal marked demographic disparities in perceived scam detection ability: only 42.0% of adults aged 70 and above and 28.1% of those with elementary education or below reported confidence in detecting scams. These findings indicate that although anti-fraud campaigns attain broad societal reach, effectiveness remains uneven across different segments of the population. This study contributes to the literature by providing large-scale empirical evidence from an under-studied Asian context and highlights the need for targeted, inclusive communication strategies to improve fraud prevention outcomes.

Keywords: Fraud prevention; anti-fraud awareness campaigns; scam detection ability; fraud exposure; Taiwan

Deconstructing Social Engineering Tactics in Telecom Fraud: A Case Study of the "PlusPay" Mass Account Takeover in Taiwan

*Cheng, Ming-Jung, Jiang, Shang-Min and Chen Ming-Cheng
Central Police University, China*

Corresponding author: Cheng, Ming-Jung (w7438jacket@gmail.com)

Abstract

This study investigates a significant series of unauthorized payment incidents involving "PlusPay" in Taiwan, which the authorities initially attributed to user negligence. However, from a frontline criminal investigation perspective, this research deconstructs the sophisticated "perfect scam" orchestrated through a combination of physical and virtual high-tech tools.

The paper identifies two core "weapons" used by fraud syndicates: (1) Domestic SIMBOX Deployment: To bypass interception mechanisms and "+886" caller ID alerts, perpetrators utilized "SIMBOX" (GSM gateways) and Digital Mobile Trunks (DMT) stationed within Taiwan, controlled remotely from overseas via VoIP. This created a "local disguise" that exploited users' trust inertia toward official SMS notifications, (2) Adversary-in-the-Middle (AiTM) Attacks: By deploying homograph domains and reverse proxy technology, attackers intercepted One-Time Passwords (OTP) in real-time, effectively hijacking the "Tokenization" process and bypassing traditional SMS-based Two-Factor Authentication (2FA).

The research further analyzes the structural vulnerabilities of SMS-based MFA, referencing NIST SP 800-63B and 800-63-4 standards, and proposes a systematic transition toward FIDO/WebAuthn standards to ensure "Origin Binding". Finally, this paper suggests a multi-layered defense strategy, including AI-driven anomaly detection for telecommunication carriers and "Zero Trust" awareness for the public, providing a comprehensive blueprint for modernizing financial security and criminal investigation tactics against evolving cyber-telecom fraud.

Keywords: SIMBOX; Adversary-in-the-Middle (AiTM); social engineering; FIDO standards; Telecom Fraud Investigation

Debrising Empire: How Displaced Cryptocurrency Industries Becomes Financial Infrastructure of Illicit Economy

Jingjia Xiao¹ and Hua Zhong Hua²

¹University of California San Diego, USA

²The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Corresponding author: Zhong Hua (sarazhong@cuhk.edu.hk)

Abstract

This study examines a long-overlooked financial infrastructure—online financial guarantee platforms—that underpins emerging criminal industries. Drawing on historical materials and digital ethnography, it situates these platforms within the historical process through which China's cryptocurrency industry was expelled and reconfigured, revealing how displaced crypto actors and technologies are reassembled within criminal markets. By tracing the structural conditions that gave rise to this distinctive infrastructure and analyzing its contemporary modes of operation, the study uncovers a dynamic process of financial infrastructure being 'excluded and re-embedded.' In doing so, it highlights challenges to social security posed by unregulated financial infrastructures that operate beyond formal governance frameworks; it also interrogates the limits of normative awareness in digital ecosystems where legal and ethical boundaries are fluid; and finally, it proposes a deterritorialised model of 'imperial' governance, offering a conceptual lens for governance innovation in an era of decentralized and transnational digital economies.

Keywords: Fraud; online financial guarantee platform; Cryptocurrency, deterritorialised 'imperial' governance

Can AI Really Predict Crime?

*Shamir Rajadurai
Prevent Crime Now, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: Shamir Rajadurai (Shamir.lah@gmail.com)

Abstract

The application of artificial intelligence (AI) in crime prevention represents a significant development in contemporary law enforcement strategies. Many AI tools are developed with the promise of detecting and having the ability to prevent crime. This paper examines the current state of AI technologies, focusing on various algorithms and their roles in predicting and identifying criminal activities. By analyzing a range of AI models, including machine learning algorithms, the study provides a review of their functionalities, strengths, and limitations. This paper also addresses the critical challenges and ethical considerations inherent in the deployment of AI in crime prevention and its adaptation to criminological theories. Based on the existing theories on criminology and crime prevention, to what extent does AI adopt these theories and how effective can AI predictions be?

Keywords: AI; crime; AI adoption; crime prevention

Beyond Imprisonment: Judicial Whipping and the Comparative Study of Punishment in Southeast Asia

¹Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid and ²Nasrul Ismail

¹Universiti Malaya, Malaysia

²University of Bristol, UK

Corresponding Author: Nasrul Ismail (Nasrul.Ismail@bristol.ac.uk)

Abstract

While imprisonment dominates contemporary criminological scholarship, several legal systems continue to employ corporal punishment as a formal judicial sanction. Judicial whipping remains an established penal practice in parts of Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei, yet it has received limited sustained attention within comparative criminology. This paper develops a research agenda for the systematic comparative study of judicial corporal punishment in the region.

We argue that whipping represents a distinct penal technology whose persistence challenges prevailing assumptions about the global trajectory of punishment and penal modernity. While much criminological research has focused on incarceration, comparatively little is known about how corporal punishment operates within modern criminal justice systems, how it is justified politically and culturally, and how it interacts with broader penal strategies.

To address this gap, we outline a comparative framework organized around four key dimensions. First, we examine the legal and institutional frameworks governing corporal punishment and procedural safeguards in Southeast Asian jurisdictions. Second, we consider the governance of punishment, including the role of medical professionals and the ethical dilemmas associated with their involvement in administering judicial whipping. Third, we explore the economic and social consequences of corporal punishment, including its potential impacts on bodily integrity, rehabilitation, and long-term social reintegration. Finally, we consider potential pathways for reform by situating regional practices within evolving human rights standards and drawing lessons from jurisdictions that have abolished corporal punishment.

By situating judicial whipping within broader debates on punishment and penal governance and human rights, we seek to chart a new comparative research agenda on corporal punishment in contemporary criminal justice systems. The analysis contributes to emerging debates on the governance of punishment in the Global South and highlights the need to broaden criminological scholarship beyond imprisonment.

Keywords: corporal punishment; whipping; comparative punishment; Southeast Asia; human rights

Examining the Relationship between Ex-Offenders and Volunteers, and its Influence on Desistance

*William Soh Tee Peng
Singapore University of Social Science, Singapore*

Corresponding author: William Soh Tee Peng (williamssoh002@suss.edu.sg)

Abstract

Background: Community volunteers function as vital ‘bridging social capital’ (Putnam, 2000), facilitating ex-offenders’ access to essential resources and social opportunities. Despite this, the mechanisms underpinning the formation of these relationships remain under-examined, particularly regarding the distinctions between volunteers with and without criminal records. Donati’s (2011) Relational Theory of Reflexivity provides a useful framework to illuminate this complex relationship-building process.

Objective: This study seeks to enhance the understanding of how relationships are established between volunteers and ex-offenders, and to examine the subsequent impact of these bonds on the desistance process.

Methods: The research utilises Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) (Smith, 1996; Smith et al., 2009) to investigate the lived experiences of twelve dyads engaged in pro-social support relationships. This presentation highlights findings from two volunteer–ex-offender pairs: one comprising a volunteer with a criminal history and another without.

Findings: Preliminary results indicate that ex-offenders encounter obstacles and temptations within the community that impede their ability to reintegrate and desist from drug use or other criminal behaviours. Initial doubts regarding the volunteers’ ability to help gradually dissipated as participants experienced their acceptance, care, and consistent presence. The volunteers’ solidarity with the ex-offenders’ personal goals, coupled with an intrinsic desire for change, acted as a catalyst for the relationship. Strengthening bonds, demonstrated by reciprocal displays of appreciation and care, contributed to the ex-offenders’ agency and accountability. Over time, these factors facilitated the desistance process.

Discussion and Conclusion: This study reaffirms the significant value of community volunteers in supporting ex-offenders’ reintegration and desistance from drug use and other criminal behaviours. The volunteer–ex-offender relationship is foundational, anchoring individuals in their efforts to sustain change. A strong relationship is characterised by solidarity, subsidiarity, and reciprocity, aligning with Donati’s (2011) relational theory of reflexivity.

The study further distinguishes volunteer–ex-offender dynamics from professional–ex-offender relationships, suggesting that volunteer training should move beyond replicating professional codes of conduct and competencies. Both volunteer types offer unique expertise rooted in lived experience and personal networks. Notably, volunteers with criminal backgrounds appear more adept at identifying the nuances of potential relapse and re-offending. Ultimately, fostering a supportive environment for desistance necessitates a balance of agency, mutual care, and respect. This qualitative inquiry aims to promote theoretical generalisability and inform evidence-based policies regarding volunteer selection, training, and deployment, as well as the development of rehabilitation programmes. A key implication is the potential adoption of a ‘paired-volunteer’ model, where volunteers with and without criminal histories work in tandem to support an ex-offender. These findings are preliminary, drawing on the analysis of only two dyads.

Keywords: drug recovery; desistance; befriending; mentoring; peer support; corrections; volunteer

Selective State Capacity and the Governance of Prison Crises in Southeast Asia

*Nasrul Ismail
University of Bristol, UK*

Corresponding author: Nasrul Ismail (Nasrul.Ismail@bristol.ac.uk)

Abstract

Prison systems across Southeast Asia face chronic overcrowding, strained institutional capacity, and persistent governance challenges. These pressures raise important questions about how criminal justice institutions manage crises while maintaining legitimacy and operational stability. Yet during crises, governments often demonstrate the ability to mobilise substantial administrative resources to stabilize carceral institutions. This paper develops the concept of selective state capacity to explain how governments strategically deploy institutional resources to manage prison crises while avoiding politically costly structural reforms.

The analysis draws on an original comparative dataset covering prison governance across Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study combines documentary analysis of 154 policy documents, econometric analysis of prison expenditure trends between 2010 and 2023, and 37 elite interviews with senior policymakers, prison monitoring organisations, and civil society stakeholders across the three countries.

The findings show that political calculations concerning legitimacy, risk management, and public accountability played a central role in shaping prison governance during the pandemic. While governments rapidly mobilized crisis management structures, implementation infection control measures, and coordinated across agencies, structural interventions such as large-scale decarceration or sustained investment in prison infrastructure were implemented only selectively.

These findings suggest that governments deploy state capacity strategically to stabilise prison crises, often without addressing deeper structural problems. By introducing the concept of selective state capacity, the paper contributes to comparative criminology and punishment studies by explaining how prison systems can remain structurally fragile despite periodic displays of effective state intervention. The findings also provide insights for strengthening correctional institutions and improving crisis preparedness within prison systems.

Keywords: prison governance; state capacity; comparative criminology; Southeast Asia; prison reform

Relational Pathways into Crime Among Women Prisoners in Malaysia

*Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid
Universiti Malaya, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: Haezreena Begum Abdul Hamid (haezreena@um.edu.my)

Abstract

Criminological scholarship increasingly recognises that women's pathways into crime often differ significantly from those of men, frequently emerging within relational contexts shaped by emotional attachment, economic dependency, and unequal power dynamics. Feminist criminology has highlighted how women's involvement in criminalised activities may occur through intimate partnerships characterised by loyalty, coercion, or abuse. Despite these insights, empirical research examining such relational dynamics within prison contexts in Southeast Asia remains limited. This paper examines how intimate relationships and experiences of domestic violence shape women's pathways into crime in Malaysia.

The analysis draws on qualitative fieldwork conducted across six women's prison institutions in Malaysia, involving in-depth interviews with seventy incarcerated women. The research combines interview narratives, observational insights from prison visits, and analysis of institutional and legal frameworks governing imprisonment. The dataset provides insight into participants' offence histories, sentencing patterns, and relational circumstances surrounding their criminalisation.

A recurring theme emerging from the interviews concerns the role of intimate partners in shaping women's involvement in criminalised activities. Many participants described becoming involved in offences alongside husbands, boyfriends, or male partners who played a dominant role in the underlying criminal conduct. In several cases, women reported assisting with peripheral tasks such as transporting items, providing logistical support, or complying with instructions from their partners. These accounts suggest that emotional attachment, loyalty, and relational dependence frequently influenced women's decisions, sometimes leading them to prioritise their partners' requests even when doing so exposed them to significant legal risk.

The narratives also reveal that some of these relationships were characterised by domestic violence, coercion, or manipulation. Several participants described remaining loyal to partners despite experiences of abuse, reflecting how emotional dependency and unequal power relations within intimate relationships may increase women's vulnerability to criminalisation. Such experiences demonstrate how relational contexts intersect with broader gendered inequalities, shaping women's involvement in crime in ways that differ from conventional models of autonomous offending.

By foregrounding relational dynamics and the influence of domestic violence in women's criminalisation, this paper contributes to emerging criminological scholarship on gender, punishment, and incarceration in Southeast Asia. The findings highlight the importance of recognising relational vulnerability within criminal justice processes and underscore the need for gender-responsive approaches that account for the complex interpersonal contexts shaping women's pathways into prison.

Keywords: Women's pathways into crime; Relational dynamics; Women prisoners; Malaysia

Feasibility of popularization of "Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device"

Kuo Chia Hao
Central Police University, China

Corresponding author: Kuo Chia Hao (mongjohn@hotmail.com)

Abstract

Drink driving incidents and cases remain prevalent in our country. Despite continuously increasing penalties and amending the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act as well as the Criminal Code, it has not been possible to completely prevent drink driving. Initially, the legal thresholds were set at a breath alcohol concentration exceeding 0.25 mg/L for drink driving and 0.55 mg/L for referral on charges of public endangerment. However, even after lowering these thresholds to 0.15 mg/L for drink driving and 0.25 mg/L for public endangerment, some individuals still take chances and drive under the influence.

The Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act was first promulgated on February 5, 1968, and has since been amended 44 times, with 11 of those amendments specifically targeting drink driving provisions. The number of drink driving enforcement cases and legal referrals has gradually declined since 2012 and 2014, respectively. Meanwhile, the number of fatalities and injuries resulting from drink driving has significantly decreased since 2011. This suggests that amendments to drink driving laws and strengthened police enforcement have had a measurable impact in preventing accidents and reducing casualties. Nevertheless, drink driving incidents and related injuries and deaths still occur.

On April 17, 2019, the Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act was amended to include Article 35-1, which introduced regulations for ignition interlock devices. Therefore, this paper seeks to evaluate the feasibility of widespread adoption of ignition interlock devices to achieve the national goal of "zero drink driving casualties."

This study finds that the implementation of the ignition interlock device policy in our country has been ineffective, and the cost of such devices remains relatively high. Some studies support the mandatory installation of ignition interlock devices in all vehicles. It is recommended that the government encourage manufacturers to develop reasonably priced ignition interlock devices and gradually implement policies to promote their widespread adoption.

Keywords: drink driving; Road Traffic Management and Penalty Act; breath alcohol ignition interlock device (BAIID)

Investing the Effectiveness of Anti-Scam TikTok Videos on Public Awareness and Prevention Behaviors

*Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson, Tan Soon Aun, Khor Kheng Kia, Santhidran Sinnappan, Nor Azlili Hassan and Afi Roshezry Abu Bakar
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson (sharon@utar.edu.my)

Abstract

In today's digital age, scam has evolved into a significant social issue due to the extensive application of technology and digital platforms. Scammers are constantly finding new ways to trick people, from phishing and identity theft to fake investment offers and even using deepfake technology. These tactics take advantage of both technological advances and human weaknesses, putting individuals and communities at serious risk (Baid & Prakash, 2024). With over 3 billion downloads, TikTok has become a primary source of information for younger demographics, offering a unique medium for awareness campaigns through its short-video format and algorithm-driven discovery. However, the actual effectiveness of these videos in changing user behavior remains under-explored. This experimental study evaluates the effectiveness of anti-scam TikTok videos in raising public awareness and promoting preventive behaviors among Malaysian adults aged 18 to 45. Utilizing a multi-phase research design, the study examines changes in Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) related to digital scams. The research employed a multi-phase design. A pre-experimental phase involved shortlisting 20 popular Malaysian anti-scam videos, which were then rated by a panel ($n=31$) and assessed for framing strategies by stakeholders. The main experimental phase utilized a pre-post study with a one-month follow-up involving 331 multiethnic Malaysian adults randomly assigned to four experimental groups or a control group. Finally, qualitative in-depth interviews ($n=9$) were conducted to identify thematic success factors.

Results indicate that while TikTok videos may lead to an immediate decrease in knowledge due to cognitive overload, they significantly improve anti-scam practices and marginally improve attitudes, both of which were maintained after a one-month follow-up. The findings suggest that videos featuring authoritative figures, clear calls-to-action (CTA), and relatable presentation styles are most effective in driving behavioral change. Quantitative findings revealed that while anti-scam knowledge significantly decreased immediately post-intervention, likely due to cognitive overload from complex instructions, it stabilized after one month. Conversely, anti-scam practices showed significant improvement ($p < .01$) that persisted through the follow-up period. Attitudes improved marginally and remained stable. Qualitative data highlighted that videos featuring authoritative police officer with a clear, simple call-to-action (CTA), was the most effective. The study demonstrates that TikTok is an effective platform for fostering preventive behaviors when content utilizes authoritative figures, simple language, and easily achievable CTAs. While short-form videos may temporarily overwhelm working memory, they successfully drive long-term behavioral adaptation. Future campaigns should prioritize relatability and professional production to maximize public protection against digital fraud.

Keywords: TikTok; anti scam; campaign; prevention; community



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**The Lifeworld of Leaders in Remote Villages against Victimization in
Zamboanga Peninsula**

*Elaine Yunting Bandigan
Jose Rizal Memorial State University, Philippines*

Correspondence author: Elaine Yunting Bandigan (elainebandigan@gmail.com)



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Strategies at Curtailing Drug Use at the Grassroots: Perspectives of Village Chiefs

*Paulino V. Pioquinto, Merlyn A. Rosal and Yolanda C. Sayson
University of Cebu Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Paulino V. Pioquinto (ppioquinto@uc.edu.ph)



Healing Hands, Protective Eyes: Exploring Caregiver and Authorities Perspectives on Post-Rescue Support for Sex Trafficking Survivors

*Janaanie Rajendra Kumar and Tharshini Sivabalan
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: Janaanie Rajendra Kumar (janyshad101115@gmail.com)

Abstract

Sex trafficking survivors often require high impact, integrated post-rescue support that extends beyond emergency shelter and judicial proceedings. Although existing literature is more survivor-centric, there has been very limited focus on the perspectives of those directly involved in handling and protecting sex trafficking victims. Addressing these gaps, this qualitative research explores the experiences, challenges, and perspectives of authorities and caregivers involved in post-rescue support for sex trafficking victims in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Employing a qualitative research design, in-depth interviews were conducted with relevant authorities and shelter caregivers who have been directly involved in post-rescue support and interventions. Thematic analysis was used to identify recurring patterns related to caregiving support, emotional labour, bureaucracy, and interagency coordination. The findings reveal the complex and demanding nature of post-rescue work, highlighting tensions between care, control, protection, and survivors' autonomy. Participants described challenges arising from funding limitations, institutional constraints, conflicting interpretations of consent and coercion, and collaboration between different agencies. Authorities discussed legal and standard procedures that hinder post-rescue support and decision-making, while caregivers highlighted the emotional and financial burdens, as well as the challenge of balancing trauma-informed care with bureaucratic expectations. This research enhances understanding of post-rescue support by emphasising the voices of exhausted and overburdened anti-trafficking workers. The findings underscore the need for a robust working framework, improved interagency communication and collaboration, and effective trauma-informed practices to enhance post-rescue support. By identifying a research niche within the current post-rescue framework, this study provides practical and evidence-based recommendations for policy, focusing on promoting more survivor-centred and coordinated care.

Keywords: sex trafficking; post-rescue support; interventions; framework

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The Role of the Family in Adolescents' Well-Being

*Masahiro Tsushima
Ryukoku University, Japan*

Corresponding author: Masahiro Tsushima (mtsushim@soc.ryukoku.ac.jp)



Victim–Offender Relationship, Modus Operandi, and Offense Outcomes in Child Molestation: Evidence from China

*Yiwei Xia, Yanyu Xin, Tianji Cai and Yihan Wu
Southwest University of Finance and Economics, China*

Corresponding author: Yiwei Xia (xiayiweinemo@gmail.com)

Abstract

Child molestation varies substantially in how abuse is carried out, yet less is known about how this variation relates to victim-offender relationship (VOR). This study examined whether VOR predicts variation in modus operandi (MO), whether VOR is associated with offense outcomes and partially mediated by MO, and whether distinct offense configurations emerge across relational contexts. Data were drawn from 2,776 first-trial criminal sentencing documents on child molestation between 2014 and 2020. Analyses combined regression, mediation, and cluster analysis to examine associations among VOR, MO, offense outcomes, and offense configurations. Three main findings emerged. First, closer relationships were associated with lower reliance on overt coercion and fewer tactics overall, with the clearest contrasts appearing in violence and overall tactical intensity. Second, closer relationships were most consistently associated with longer duration and higher frequency of abuse, and these associations were partially mediated through selected MO pathways. Violence was associated with physical harm and shorter duration, whereas inducement was associated with longer duration and greater frequency. Third, four offense configurations were identified: Low M.O., Violence, Deception, and Chronicity. Stranger cases were more strongly associated with the Violence and Deception configurations, whereas family relationships were more strongly associated with the Chronicity configuration. Overall, the findings support a relational framework of child molestation in which VOR shapes offender strategy, offense outcomes, and offense configurations, underscoring the importance of relationship-sensitive prevention and intervention.

Keywords: child molestation; victim-offender relationship; modus operandi; offense outcomes; China

Family Environment and Delinquent Behavior: An Examination Based on ISRD4 Japan Data

*Takeshi Okabe
Kyoto University, Japan*

Corresponding author: Takeshi Okabe (okabe.takeshi.6w@kyoto-u.ac.jp)

Abstract

This report investigates the relationship between family environment and delinquency in contemporary Japan based on survey data collected from junior high school students. The data were sourced from the Japanese survey of ISRD4, conducted between December 2024 and January 2025 in two major cities in western Japan. The survey yielded 1,820 valid respondents, comprising 927 boys, 869 girls, and 24 individuals with unspecified gender. The ISRD4 survey includes 14 items addressing experiences related to delinquency, with each question inquiring whether the respondent has encountered such experiences and, if so, the frequency within the "past 12 months." In this study, the variety score, which represents the number of delinquency types experienced in the past year, was employed as the dependent variable. Variables relating to the family environment that elucidate delinquency include certain adverse childhood experiences, such as "problems in either parent relating to alcohol or drugs," "violent fights between parents," and "divorce or separation of parents." Among all respondents, 4.8% engaged in some form of delinquency in the past year. A comparison between students who had experienced parental violence and those who had not revealed that the former group had a higher incidence of delinquency, with a statistically significant difference between the two groups. Further analysis, which incorporated the variable of "household economic status," revealed the following: (a) regardless of household economic status, students who had experienced parental violence demonstrated higher rates of delinquency compared to those who had not; and (b) delinquency was most prevalent among students from economically disadvantaged households who had experienced parental violence, whereas it was least prevalent among students from financially comfortable households who had not experienced parental violence.

Keywords: juvenile delinquency; adverse childhood experiences; socioeconomic status

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Situational Teaching in Taiwan Polic College Education

*Tung, Yu-Po
Central Police University, China*

Corresponding author: Tung, Yu-Po (tunglaw555@yahoo.com.tw)



The Journeys of Police Reform in Bangladesh: An Explorative Study

*Md. Shakhawat Hossain and Aziz Rahman
University of Chittagong, Bangladesh*

Corresponding author: Md. Shakhawat Hossain (shakhawat.cps@cu.ac.bd)

Abstract

Police reform is an ongoing process. In keeping with the times and based on public demand, the government continues the reform process. The research is used to identify the problems that hampers for effective police reform. The study has been conducted by using qualitative and quantitative methods. Generally, two vehicles are allocated to each thana for the purpose of operating the thana and performing other tasks. One vehicle is used full-time by the Officer-in-Charge of the thana, and the other vehicle is used for investigation work. Each thana has a minimum of 10 to 11 unions, So how is it possible to oversee the entire thana with a single vehicle? As a result, deficiencies in investigation are seen due to transportation problems. Negative perceptions about the police are created among people. Moreover, the amount of fuel supplied for the two vehicles allocated to the thana is insufficient.

The number of police is insufficient in proportion to the population; normally, a total of 50 to 60 police personnel perform duties in a thana. The population of the concerned thana is 1.0 to 1.2 million, so it is not fully possible to provide security to the public with the police. For patrol duty, at least 8 to 10 CNGs or auto-vehicles are required every night. These vehicles are picked up from the road, and later, including fuel and driver costs, at least BDT 1,000 is spent on each. This money is not provided by the thana. In a highway thana, a responsible police officer must perform at least 22 to 23 duties per month. Thus, a police member incurs monthly expenses of BDT 22,000 to 23,000 during duty. To arrange this money, the police have to resort to corruption.

When an investigating officer goes to a spot for investigation, the officer has to bear the travel expenses for the investigation. When an arrested criminal is kept in thana custody, the investigating officer has to bear all matters of the accused during detention. Food, medicine, and all other expenses must be borne by the investigating officer. Moreover, when the accused is sent to court, the cost of the vehicle for transfer must also be borne by the investigating officer. There are no specific working hours in the police. No incentive is provided for overtime duty.. Leave in the police is comparatively less. There is a need for recreational leave along with recreational allowance at regular intervals. Police members cannot be posted in their own home districts. For that reason, those serving in junior posts do not get to meet their families regularly. So the government must address the above problems properly and incorporate sufficient steps to establish reform process.

Keywords: police reform; budget; stress; authority; political will

Assessment of the Implementation of Pulis sa Barangay (PSB) in Malolos City

*Alrien Francisco Dausan and Jacqueline Puopo
De la Salle University-Dasmariñas, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Alrien Francisco Dausan (afdausan@dlsud.edu.ph)

Abstract

This study used descriptive correlational research design to assess the implementation of Pulis Sa Barangay in Malolos City. Specifically, it aimed to assess how Pulis Sa Barangay is implemented and the hindrances in its implementation. Likewise, it tried to test the significant difference in the response between the two groups of respondents in terms of the implementation of the PSB in Malolos City and the hindrances in its implementation. The respondents of this study were grouped into two - police officers (51) and community (333). Complete enumeration was used to identify and select the police officer respondents while simple random sampling technique was used to identify and select the community respondents. Data collection was done through face-to-face distribution of the self-made survey questionnaire to the respondents. The Frequency, percentage, mean, and t-test were used to treat the data.

It was revealed that the police officers and the community are very satisfied in the implemented Pulis Sa Barangay in Malolos City. The police and the community are very satisfied in the distribution of fliers regarding crime prevention, which increases awareness of the community; posting of posters and tarpaulin, which increases awareness of the community; conduct of symposium, which increases community awareness in crime prevention; and seminars conducted to barangays, which increases engagement of pulis sa barangay personnel with the members of the community.

Furthermore, it was also revealed that the police and community often experience hindrances in the implementation of Pulis Sa Barangay in Malolos City. However, there are items that are always experienced by the police and community as hindrances. These are: the community has trust issue and confidence to the police sa barangay, multi-tasking done by the police personnel, and insufficient number of police personnel in Malolos Municipal Police Station (MPS).

Moreover, it was revealed that the responses of the police officers and the community respondents have no significant difference in terms of the implementation of Pulis Sa Barangay in Malolos City and the hindrances in the implementation of Pulis sa Barangay in Malolos City.

The study concludes that as to the implementation of the Pulis sa Barangay, the police officers and community respondents are very satisfied. Likewise, the police and the community often experience hindrances in the implementation of Pulis sa Barangay in Malolos City.

Keywords: implementation; Pulis Sa Barangay assessment

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Educational Readiness and Service Characteristics of Philippine National Police Personnel in Tuguegarao City Police Station, Philippines

*Shirley Seangoy Domingo and Jenelyn E. Pagalilauan
Cagayan State University, Philippines*

**Corresponding author: Shirley Seangoy Domingo
(domingoshirley0805@gmail.com)**



Clearance Rate and Crime Rate in Asia

*Moulin Xiong
Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China*

Correspondence author: Moulin Xiong (xiongoulin@swufe.edu.cn)

Abstract

Abstract: Crime rates in Asia have been discussed in some countries or independent jurisdictions for many years, nevertheless a few countries and recent trends in most jurisdictions are still unknown. Utilizing multiple official data sources from Asian governments across levels, this project explores crime rate, clearance rate, and the relationship between crime rate and clearance rate in Asia. Although crime trends displayed more differences than commonalities, but the decreasing clearance rate in each jurisdiction shared the same and similar phenomena. Longitudinal time series analysis indicates that changes of crime rate significantly correlate with clearance rate, lower clearance rate imply higher crime rate, and vice versa. Crime trend is an outcome of multiple reasons, but the issue of low clearance rate cannot be ignored for the purpose of crime control. This paper restates the theoretical implications of deterrent theory on crime control, and call for concerns on the low clearance rate in Asia.

Keywords: Crime Rate, Crime Detection, Clearance Rate, Uncertainty of Policing, Deterrence

From Arts to Hearts: A Typology of Arts-Based Research Approaches in Criminology

*Virosca Dan Gan
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Corresponding author: Virosca Dan Gan (viroscacrim@link.cuhk.edu.hk)

Abstract

In this paper, the methodological potential of arts-based therapeutic approaches as a research method in criminology has been examined and interpreted. Traditionally, criminological research on highly sensitive and deeply personal issues such as trauma and structural violence has focused on their relationship to crime rates and victim-offender transitions. While some studies have begun to examine victims' lived experiences, they still rely primarily on conventional qualitative methods such as in-depth interviews, with little attention being paid to trauma-informed principles and expressive or experiential processes. With the introduction of arts-based research (ABR) into the social sciences over the past few years, new methodological possibilities have been opened for exploring experiences that are difficult to articulate or capture using conventional methods.

Using selective research and practice case studies from Asia, this paper proposes a population-based typology of arts-based healing/therapy. The study identifies two primary contexts for its target users and their close social networks, including those experiencing secondary trauma: justice-involved populations (i.e., incarcerated persons or those enrolled in correctional programs) and victim-survivors. Art-based approaches can be effective in providing safer spaces for expression while generating multi-layered research materials across these contexts. Through these selected cases, this paper illustrates these applications and discusses the methodological implications of arts-based therapeutic approaches for victimology research and restorative justice practice.

Keywords: arts-based research; trauma-informed principle; restorative justice; victimology

Pluralizing Digital Colonialism: Penal Technology Transfers Beyond a North-South Framework

*Anna Gurinskya and Mahesh K Nalla
Michigan State University, USA*

Corresponding author: Anna Gurinskya (gurinska@msu.edu)

Abstract

Punishment around the world is increasingly administered by machines. Facial recognition cameras, biometric identity databases, predictive policing software, prison management platforms, and other similar technologies now sit at the center of criminal justice in many countries across all continents. These technologies are often not designed and built in the countries that import and use them. Once installed, they quietly decide what counts as suspicious, who gets flagged, and which evidence becomes impossible to contest. The analysis of contemporary criminal justice systems and penal power is incomplete without the understanding of these technologies' origins.

Digital colonialism literature (Kwet 2019; Couldry and Mejias 2019) assumes a single-center story: Global North exporting to the Global South. The paper argues that the actual map is more polycentric and proposes a typology of three flow directions: North-South, South-South, and South-North. Drawing on science and technology studies and legal theory (Winner 1980; Lessig 2006; Hildebrandt 2015), it treats these machines as carrying their suppliers' political assumptions about crime and security inside their architecture, and not as neutral tools that receiving states freely reinterpret and adapt to cultural realities. The paper synthesizes existing open-source documentation, investigative journalism, and published academic case work to populate the typology with illustrative cases.

The paper complements policy transfer scholarship by arguing that infrastructure increasingly conditions what policy adoption can mean. It pluralizes the Southern subject in Southern criminology: Southern states are not only recipients but also producers, hubs, and intermediaries. And it offers comparative criminal justice a way to compare systems by their digital infrastructural characteristics, not only by their incarceration rates and regulations.

Keywords: digital colonialism, policy transfer, surveillance, Southern criminology, digital infrastructure

Truth Verification Using Polygraph Examination Technique: Basis For Polygraph Examination Reliability And Validation Design

*Clint Michael G. Raymundo and Gerry J. Caño
PHINMA Cagayan de Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Clint Michael G. Raymundo (cgraymundo.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This study determined the relationships among examinees' socio-demographic profiles, physiological responses, polygraph examination results, and post-test interview outcomes to formulate an evidence-based Polygraph Examination Reliability and Validation Design for educational disciplinary settings. It was hypothesized that no significant relationship existed between subjects' physiological responses and their final polygraph results or post-interview outcomes. Utilizing a descriptive-correlational research design, the study involved 200 Criminology students at PHINMA Cagayan de Oro College during the 2024-2025 academic year. Data were gathered through Directed Lie Screening Tests (DLST) using the Stoelting Computerized Polygraph System, with results analyzed via the Empirical Scoring System (ESS). Findings revealed a strong positive correlation between physiological response variables and final polygraph results, specifically for respiratory, electrodermal, and cardiovascular indicators. Conversely, the overall physiological response demonstrated a weak, non-significant correlation with post-interview outcomes, suggesting physiological reactions during testing did not necessarily predict subsequent verbal admissions. These results imply that while physiological markers are primary indicators for truth verification, behavioral outcomes serve only as secondary validation measures. This research contributes to the advancement of evidence-based disciplinary practices by providing a scientifically grounded framework that enhances objectivity and fairness in institutional investigations.

Keywords: Truth Verification, Polygraph Examination Technique, Reliability and Validation Design.

Effects of Social Exclusion on Neural Responses in Domestic Violence Offenders depend on Addiction

¹Lun-Wing Lok, ¹Chiao-Yun Chen and ²Neil G. Muggleton

¹National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan

²National Central University, Taiwan

Corresponding author: Neil G. Muggleton (neil.muggleton@gmail.com)

Abstract

Social exclusion is a negative external stimulus that may evoke adverse states in the excluded individual, such as negative emotions, aggressive behavior, and decreased social connectedness. The victims of domestic violence are family members whose interpersonal interactions are more intimate than those involved in general violent offenses and social exclusion may be an important factor that influences domestic violence crimes. In addition, domestic violence offenders often have substance use problems; thus, there may also be effects of substance use on domestic violence.

The present study employed questionnaires, the cyberball task, and event-related potentials (ERPs) to examine the cognitive responses of domestic violence offenders when processing exclusion-related stimuli under social exclusion and non-exclusion conditions. Participants were convicted male domestic violence offenders with the one experimental group being domestic violence offenders with substance use (DV+SU group) and the second being domestic violence offenders with no substance use (DV group). Additionally, there was a control group of healthy adult males with no history of domestic violence or substance use.

Questionnaire results indicated that the DV+SU group scored significantly higher than the other two groups on both reactive and proactive aggression, whereas no significant difference was found between the DV group and the control group. This suggests that the DV+SU group possessed higher levels of both reactive and proactive aggressive traits. Furthermore, relative to the DV and control groups, the DV+SU group scored significantly lower on the Negative Mood Regulation Scale, while no significant difference was observed between the DV and control groups, indicating poorer negative emotion regulation ability in the DV+SU group.

Regarding ERP findings, under the social exclusion condition, a significantly larger feedback-related negativity (FRN) amplitude was observed at the frontocentral site (FCz) in the DV group compared to the DV+SU group. The FRN amplitude in the DV group was also marginally larger than that in the control group, whereas no significant difference was found between the DV+SU group and the control group. These results may reflect heightened sensitivity to exclusion-related stimuli in the DV group. Overall, the findings suggest that the DV+SU and DV groups may differ in their underlying traits and mechanisms of aggression. The questionnaire results indicate that the DV+SU group has higher levels of reactive and proactive aggression as well as poorer negative emotion regulation ability, suggesting that their aggressive behavior may be driven by trait aggression and difficulties in emotional regulation. In contrast, the ERP results indicate that the DV group shows greater sensitivity to social exclusion cues, suggesting that their aggressive behavior may be more easily triggered by exclusion-related stimuli. These differences may provide valuable implications for future clinical interventions and the development of tailored treatment strategies.

Keywords: domestic violence; event-related potential; social exclusion; substance use, FRN

Prevailing Risk Factors among Reoffending Drug Surrenderers

*Nicole Marie Tan Posadas, Gerry J. Caño and Franchette Monique I. Abalde
PHINMA Cagayan de Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Nicole Marie Tan Posadas (ntposadas.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This study explored the risk factors influencing subsequent drug use among drug surrenderers undergoing community-based rehabilitation in Cagayan de Oro City. Despite increased participation in rehabilitation programs, instances of substance use remain evident, highlighting the need to better understand the factors affecting recovery. Guided by Life-Course Theory, the study examined participants' experiences during rehabilitation, identified factors contributing to subsequent substance use, and generated insights for improving intervention strategies. A qualitative case study design was employed involving twelve (12) drug surrenderers who experienced substance use during their participation in the Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program at the Oro Wellness and Development Center. Participants were selected through purposive sampling. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that rehabilitation programs supported positive behavioral change through counseling, structured activities, and ongoing guidance, thereby enhancing participants' self-awareness, emotional regulation, and coping strategies. Participants also experienced emotional support, family reconnection, and engagement in productive activities, which contributed to their recovery. However, substance use was influenced by several interrelated factors, including peer influence and continued exposure to drug-using environments, emotional distress and family conflict, occupational stress and economic pressures, and situational exposure and accessibility of substances. Participants further emphasized the importance of preventive life choices, community awareness, program improvement, and sustained social and spiritual support in maintaining recovery. These insights highlight the need for proactive community interventions and stronger support systems. The study concludes that substance use is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by personal, social, and environmental conditions. Strengthening community-based rehabilitation programs through improved monitoring, accessible livelihood opportunities, emotional support, family involvement, and structured activities is essential in supporting sustained recovery and reintegration.

Keywords: risk factors; reoffending; drug lapse; community-based rehabilitation; drug surrenderers.

How do amphetamines and cigarettes affect users' inhibitory control and error monitoring?

¹Yu-Hua Liu, ²Neil G. Muggleton and ¹Chiao-Yun Chen

¹National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan

²National Central University, Taiwan

Corresponding author: Chiao-Yun Chen (chiaoyun.chen@gmail.com)

Abstract

Methamphetamine is widely used world-wide and is the predominant drug of abuse in Taiwan. While many studies have looked at differences in cognition associated with amphetamine use, whether these effects are specifically due to amphetamine use alone have been less considered, meaning it is difficult to know whether any reported differences in cognition are due to methamphetamine use specifically or addiction more generally. Here, differences in inhibitory control and error monitoring were investigated, in conjunction with EEG recording, using a drug-cued stop-signal task in amphetamine users with no cigarette smoking (NSA), amphetamine users with cigarette smoking (SA), and controls (non-amphetamine users) with no cigarette smoking (NSC). Data showed differences between non-drug users and both amphetamine user groups but these differences were not the same for the two addict groups. The NSA group showed the worst inhibitory control performance. Correlation analyses revealed a negative relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked per day and both N2 amplitude and stop signal reaction time (SSRT), supporting a link between smoking behavior and improved inhibitory performance. For error-related effects, the SA group showed enhanced Pe responses with drug-related cues, indicative of greater error awareness in high-risk contexts. The SA group also showed better inhibitory control and error monitoring than the NSA group, suggesting that smoking may moderate some cognitive deficits associated with amphetamine use. These unexpected findings highlight the importance of the overall pattern of substance use when investigating the effects of amphetamine use specifically, and drug use more generally.

Keywords: smoking; amphetamine; stop signal task; inhibitory control; error monitoring.

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**The Causal Relationship Between Socio-Economic Status and Recidivism Rates:
Basis for Project Restart**

*Donald B. Narra, Queen Heneylour S. Relatorres, Aljoriz M. Dublin and Shina Rose C.
Pacana
University of the Visayas, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Donald B. Narra (dbnarra18@gmail.com)



Stress and Craving Monitoring Among Drug-Deferred Prosecution Offenders 2025: An Experiment with Wearable Detection Devices and Real-Time Counseling

*¹Shu-Lung Yang, ¹Chiao-Yun Chen, ³Shih-Chi Hsu and ¹Lun-Wing Lok
¹National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan
Central Police University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Shu-Lung Yang (crmsly2016@gmail.com)

Abstract

This study aimed to enhance deferred prosecution treatment programs in Taiwan to reduce relapse among Schedule 1 and 2 drug offenders. Wearable devices were used to monitor daily heart rate variability, integrating physiological data with event logs to predict stress and craving levels. Participants received 24-hour real-time addiction counseling based on detected physiological changes. From June to October 2024, 40 drug offenders (20 experimental, 20 control) undergoing treatment in Taichung and Changhua District Prosecutors' Offices were included. Results showed reduced negative emotions, with significant improvement in depression scores after the intervention.

Building on these findings, the second-year study (July–October 2025) adopted a quasi-experimental design to examine different intervention combinations. Sixty participants were divided into a watch-wearing group (30) and a watch-free group (30). The watch group included: Experimental Group 1 (watch + proactive counseling + counseling video) and Experimental Group 2 (watch + proactive counseling). The non-watch group included: Control Group 1 (proactive counseling only) and Control Group 2 (no intervention). Psychological indicators (depression, anxiety, stress, family support) and physiological indicators (HR) were assessed at baseline, mid-term, and late-term.

Findings indicated that Experimental Group 1 demonstrated the greatest reduction in anxiety and a significant mid-term increase in family support, suggesting that combining physiological monitoring, counseling, and digital audio-visual support enhances psychological adjustment and social support restoration. The analysis revealed a pattern of improved family support in the mid-term and reduced anxiety in the later stage. Physiological data further showed that average HR during craving states was significantly higher than during non-craving states among device wearers, indicating improved physiological awareness and self-monitoring capacity.

In conclusion, this study shows that a multi-faceted intervention model combining wearable device physiological monitoring with proactive care (counselling intervention) and digital education (video viewing) is feasible in the context of deferred prosecution addiction treatment. It can, to some extent, promote anxiety regulation and increase family support for addicts undergoing addiction treatment, while simultaneously strengthening an individual's self-awareness of craving states through physiological feedback mechanisms. The research findings support the potential for such technology-assisted interventions as a supplementary, low-threshold recidivism prevention measure under the current deferred prosecution system.

Keywords: Deferred prosecution, stress, craving, smart wearable devices, real time counselling

Governance in the Era of Industrialized AI Fraud: Evaluating Public Information Tools as Digital Guardians

*Huang Nien-Sheng and Huang Kuang Fu
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Huang Nien-Sheng (huangneson@gmail.com)

Abstract

Digital fraud is undergoing rapid industrialization, propelled by low-cost digital infrastructure, generative AI, and deepfake-enabled social engineering. As a transnational enterprise intersecting with organized crime, cybercrime, and human trafficking, scam operations have scaled beyond regional boundaries, posing unprecedented governance challenges. In response, governments have deployed public-facing anti-fraud information tools—including dashboards, case repositories, verification services, and AI-driven advisory systems—to bolster public risk awareness and protective behaviors. However, the criminological mechanisms through which these tools function as “capable guardians,” and their alignment with evidence-based crime prevention principles, remain insufficiently theorized and empirically scrutinized.

This study develops a theory-driven evaluation framework by integrating Routine Activity Theory (RAT) and Situational Crime Prevention (SCP). It constructs an analytic matrix that maps key design components of anti-scam tools onto guardianship mechanisms and opportunity-reduction functions. Empirically, the study conducts a theory-guided content analysis of Taiwan’s anti-fraud information ecosystem and implements an online experiment (N = 150–250) comparing three information conditions: (A) generic messaging, (B) data visualization with scenario-based exemplars, and (C) Condition B augmented with interactive verification and AI-enabled advisory. Key outcome measures include risk identification accuracy, self-efficacy, intended protective actions, and perceived credibility, with trust hypothesized as a mediating factor. The study contributes a transferable “digital guardianship” framework, identifies critical design gaps, and provides actionable recommendations for aligning emerging fraud trends with evidence-based prevention strategies.

Keywords: AI-driven fraud; anti-fraud governance; digital guardianship; routine activity

Influence of Sexual Assault Victim and Perpetrator Characteristics on Sentencing Outcome

*Liu Jun Chien, Chih-Jen Wang, Chih-Chieh Chang, Te-Chang Changchien and Hui-Ching Wu
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Liu Jun Chien (jimliu@kimo.com)

Abstract

Objective: The psychological trauma resulting from sexual assault can affect the victim's mental and emotional well-being, with the most severe cases potentially leading to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In this study, we intended to study the influence of PTSD on sentencing the outcomes for perpetrators in sexual assault cases.

Methods: We included 22 judgments from the Kaohsiung District Court and the Ciaotou District Court in this study. The analysis included data collection on various perpetrators' characteristics, including gender, age, and their relationship with the victim. We gathered and analyzed the information on the type of coercion, crime patterns, damages sustained, judge-related details and sentencing severity, as well as the perpetrators' data on psychiatric history, substance use, and forensic evaluation reports, and PTSD diagnoses.

Results: We found that PTSD, substance use, and the number of assaults did not significantly predict sentencing severity.

Conclusion: In this preliminary study, PTSD, the number of assaults, and substance use were not significantly predicting sentencing severity in the crime of sexual assaults. Further research on this topic is needed.

Keywords: forensic evaluation; posttraumatic stress disorder; psychiatry; sentencing decision

Factors Associated with Criminal Responsibility Determinations in Forensic Psychiatric Evaluations: A Retrospective Data Analysis in Taiwan

^{1,2}Pei-Lin Chen, ²Tzu-Hsing Chen and ³Jiun-Yi Wang

¹Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan

²National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan

³Asia University, Taiwan

Corresponding author: Pei-Lin Chen (isabe7595@gmail.com)

Abstract

Introduction: Criminal responsibility is a central issue in forensic psychiatric evaluations. Under Taiwanese criminal law, psychiatric diagnosis alone is insufficient to determine criminal responsibility; the key question is whether a mental disorder substantially impaired the defendant's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the act or to act accordingly at the time of the offense. Empirical evidence on factors associated with criminal responsibility determinations in Taiwan remains limited. This study examined correlates of criminal responsibility opinions in a retrospective sample from a public psychiatric institution in central Taiwan.

Methods: This retrospective record review included 1,187 criminal forensic psychiatric evaluation cases conducted between 2006 and 2022. Cases were analyzed at the case level. Demographic characteristics, offense-related factors, psychiatric history and diagnoses were extracted from forensic reports and court judgments. Descriptive statistics and chi-square tests were used to examine case characteristics and univariate associations. Logistic regression was then performed to identify independent factors associated with a determination of full criminal responsibility versus diminished or no criminal responsibility.

Results: Among all cases, 58.1% were determined to have full criminal responsibility, 39.5% diminished responsibility, and 2.3% no criminal responsibility. Concordance between forensic opinions and court judgments was 97.6%. In univariate analyses, court level, victim type, substance use at the time of the offense, same-type recidivism, employment, psychiatric history, substance misuse history, criminal record, intelligence level, and several diagnostic categories were significantly associated with responsibility outcomes. In multivariable logistic regression, younger age, female sex, current employment, and a criminal record were associated with higher odds of full criminal responsibility. Schizophrenia spectrum disorders and intellectual disability were associated with lower odds, whereas substance use disorders, depressive and adjustment disorders, and no major psychiatric diagnosis were associated with higher odds of full responsibility.

Conclusion: Criminal responsibility determinations were not based on diagnosis alone, but reflected an integrated judgment shaped by diagnosis, functional status, and offense context. Although diagnosis remained a key prerequisite, it was insufficient by itself to determine the legal conclusion. These findings highlight the importance of linking psychopathology to functional impairment at the time of the offense and systematically considering criminological and social factors in forensic assessments.

Keywords: offenders with mental disorders; forensic psychiatric evaluations; criminal responsibility; psychiatric diagnosis

The Study of Financial Fraud in Taiwan: An Empirical Analysis of Judicial Rulings

*Guang-Zong Huo
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Guang-Zong Huo (tokc.huo@gmail.com)

Abstract

This research investigates the proliferation of financial crimes within Taiwan's wealth management sector, specifically focusing on the misappropriation of client assets by financial advisors. By integrating Petter Gottschalk's "Convenience Theory" with Cohen and Felson's "Routine Activity Theory," this study seeks to elucidate why elite financial professionals choose illicit paths. The empirical core of this research consists of a qualitative analysis of 20 representative criminal judgments involving financial advisors, retrieved from the Taiwan Judicial Yuan's database for the period spanning 2016 to 2025.

The findings reveal that these crimes are synthesized through three intersecting dimensions of convenience. First, regarding economic motives, the analysis identifies that offenders are often driven by "Dark Triad" personality traits—narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy. These traits manifest as an insatiable desire for rapid wealth expansion or, conversely, a profound "fear of falling" from their high-status social positions due to personal investment losses or debt. In the context of convenience, illegal misappropriation provides a faster, more "convenient" solution to financial crises than traditional recovery methods.

Second, in terms of organizational opportunity, the study observes that advisors exploit their structural authority and gendered occupational expectations to bypass internal safeguards. Many cases illustrate how advisors utilize "Routine Activity Theory" components: the advisor serves as the "motivated offender," the client's high-value assets represent the "suitable target," and the systematic failure of bank oversight constitutes the "absence of a capable guardian." Within Taiwan's unique financial culture, advisors often leverage Renqing (interpersonal trust and social reciprocity) to gain unauthorized access to client seals, passwords, and blank withdrawal slips, effectively creating "illicit spaces" within highly regulated environments.

Third, concerning behavioral willingness, the research highlights the consistent application of "techniques of neutralization." Offenders rationalize their embezzlement by claiming they were "merely borrowing" funds to cover temporary losses or by dehumanizing corporate victims, viewing the bank's assets as inexhaustible. This psychological maneuvering lowers the moral threshold for crime, making the decision to offend cognitively "convenient."

Furthermore, the results indicate that financial advisor fraud in Taiwan is characterized by extreme concealment and distinct "criminal career" patterns, where initial minor infractions escalate into systemic fraud over decades. Societal and judicial evaluations often underestimate the long-term harm of these crimes, as the offenders' professional identity and "white-collar" status often mask the predatory nature of their actions.

The study concludes by suggesting that effective prevention must shift from reactive punishment to proactive situational crime prevention. This involves reducing "criminal convenience" by intensifying the depth of internal technological audits, enforcing strict "two-factor" verification for all transactions, and enhancing investor education to dismantle the culture of over-reliance on individual advisors. By increasing the effort and risk required to commit fraud, financial institutions can effectively mitigate the situational allure of white-collar crime.

Keywords: financial advisor; white-collar crime; convenience theory; routine activity theory; judicial analysis

So called, Criminal Justice Reform in Korea between 2025 and 2026

Yong Chul Park
Sogang University, Republic of Korea

Corresponding author: Yongchul Park (ycpark@sogang.ac.kr)

Abstract

Recent criminal justice reform in South Korea represents a paradigmatic shift in the allocation of state prosecutorial authority and the institutional design of criminal procedure. Historically, the Korean system vested prosecutors with both investigative and indictment powers, a structure long criticized for enabling excessive concentration of authority, weak external oversight, and susceptibility to political instrumentalization. In response, a series of legislative reforms culminating in 2025–2026 seeks to dismantle this unitary model by functionally separating investigation from prosecution.

The core reform introduces a dual-institution framework in which investigative functions are transferred to independent agencies, while prosecutors are confined to charging decisions and trial advocacy. This restructuring reflects a normative commitment to the principle of checks and balances within the criminal process, as well as an effort to align Korean practice with comparative models that emphasize institutional differentiation between investigators and prosecutors. The reforms further incorporate accountability-enhancing mechanisms, including the proposed criminalization of “perversion of justice,” targeting abuses of legal authority by judicial and prosecutorial actors.

These developments must be situated within a broader constitutional and political context marked by heightened contestation over prosecutorial neutrality and democratic governance. High-profile political investigations and institutional conflicts have amplified concerns regarding the potential for prosecutorial discretion to be deployed as an instrument of political control. Accordingly, the reform agenda is driven not only by efficiency considerations but also by a deeper constitutional imperative to recalibrate the relationship between state power and individual rights. Notwithstanding their transformative ambition, the reforms generate substantial doctrinal and practical uncertainties. The fragmentation of authority raises concerns regarding inter-agency coordination, evidentiary continuity, and procedural efficiency. Moreover, questions persist as to whether the redistribution of powers may inadvertently expose newly created institutions to alternative forms of political influence, thereby undermining the very neutrality the reforms seek to secure. From a comparative perspective, the Korean experience highlights the tension between centralization and dispersion of prosecutorial power, and the difficulty of designing institutions that simultaneously ensure accountability, independence, and effectiveness.

This article argues that while the recent reforms constitute a significant step toward constraining prosecutorial dominance, their ultimate success will depend on the development of robust oversight mechanisms, clear jurisdictional boundaries, and a normative commitment to the rule of law. The Korean case thus offers a critical lens through which to evaluate contemporary efforts at prosecutorial reform in democratic systems and contributes to broader debates on the constitutionalization of criminal procedure.

Keywords: criminal justice reform in Korea; politics; prosecutorial challenge

The Trial of Assassinations Against National Leaders: 1900-2024

*Moulin Xiong and Yuehan Shu
Southern University of Finance and Economics, China*

Corresponding author: Moulin Xiong (xiong moulin@swufe.edu.cn)

Abstract

Background/purpose: Recent years, most research has focused on the causes and consequences of assassinations, while paying limited attention on the trial of assassins. Scholarly work on the trial of assassinations against national leaders is particularly scarce. Based on a dataset of 327 cases worldwide from 1900 to 2024, this study systematic research on the trial of assassinations against national leaders.

Methods: This study employs a case-based approach and descriptive statistics to examine why perpetrators of such assassinations are rarely convicted. It highlights the distinctive features of trial procedures, sentencing practices, and the execution of penalties in these cases, and explains how and why these legal processes differ from those applied in ordinary homicide cases.

Findings: Through the analysis of case statistics, the following findings are revealed: 1) Extremely low conviction rate: among 327 cases of assassinations targeting leaders, only 153 were brought to trial (46.79%). In many instances, perpetrators died or disappeared prior to trial, remained unidentified or unapprehended, or could not be prosecuted due to political constraints. 2) Special trial procedure: A number of cases were conducted in closed sessions or in absentia, while others were concluded at first instance without further appeal. Military or special courts were frequently used, and some proceedings were marked by unusually long or short durations, evidentiary deficiencies, allegations of coercion, or even execution without formal trial. 3) Polarized sentencing: Among convicted cases, nearly half resulted in the death penalty, while a significant proportion led to life imprisonment. Fixed-term sentences varied widely, ranging from short terms to exceptionally long periods. 4) Special execution procedure: In many cases, methods of punishment deviated from those used in ordinary criminal cases, and a notable number of perpetrators were ultimately granted pardons.

Conclusions: Political assassinations have profound societal and political impacts, and the adjudication of such cases across countries reveals numerous challenges. While safeguarding national leaders remains essential, equal emphasis must be placed on judicial fairness and the protection of human rights. Strengthening international cooperation may help improve case resolution rates. In addition, greater attention should be given to ensuring the safety of offenders and witnesses to prevent disruptions during trial and execution processes. This study is of great significance in both the protection of national security and the improvement of judicial procedures.

Keywords: assassination; national leader; trial procedure; sentencing; execution procedure

Life on the Line: State Compensation for Wrongful Capital Cases in the United States

*Moulin Xiong, Aoqi Zheng and Ziqi Yang
Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, China*

Corresponding author: Moulin Xiong (xiong moulin@swufe.edu.cn)

Abstract

Background: The prevalence of wrongful convictions around the world revealed the retentionists inevitably confront the issue of wrongful capital cases, whatever admitted or not. While the innocents wait for execution on death row, some of them have already executed. Compensation for wrongful capital convictions should, in principle, be the highest among all forms of state indemnity. Accordingly, cases involving wrongful death sentences represent the most salient and illustrative type of state compensation claims. However, the previous literatures explore the complexity of state legislation, nevertheless empirical research about the state compensation for the capital offender is rare.

Methods: This study utilized the data from 202 exonerees of wrongful capital cases from 1973 to 2025 to explore the impact factors that whether and how state compensation was awarded to these exonerees in different states. The data included information on whether to compensate or not, compensation awards, the timing and duration of applications, methods, and procedures of compensation. Descriptive statistics and regression analysis were employed to identify patterns and factors influencing whether and how compensation was awarded. Comparative analyses across states and by case characteristics were conducted to explore disparities in compensation practices.

Findings: Our analysis reveals several key findings: First, most exonerees who applied for compensation eventually received it; non-compensation cases were frequently due to applications being filed after the statutory deadline. Second, significant disparities in compensation amounts could be found, ranging from exceptionally high awards to zero. While legal difference among states is identified, there is no stable positive correlation between compensation amounts and the duration of imprisonment. Third, monetary payments were overwhelmingly the primary form of compensation, with minimal provision of alternative supports such as housing or job training. Fourth, there were significant delays between release and receipt of compensation, leaving many exonerees—especially those incarcerated for extended periods—socially and economically vulnerable upon reentry. Finally, the underlying causes of wrongful convictions largely involved insufficient or unreliable evidence and inadequate legal defense, with many cases overturned only after favorable DNA evidence emerged.

Conclusions: State compensation for wrongfully convicted capital offenders in the United States is inconsistent and often insufficient to address the broader social and economic consequences of wrongful imprisonment. Legal differences among states contribute to disparities in compensation, and the amount awarded does not reliably correspond to the length of imprisonment. These findings underscore the need for reforms that not only provide financial restitution but also support exonerees' reintegration into society, ensuring compensation mechanisms fulfill both legal and social justice objectives.

Keywords: capital punishment; exoneree; state compensation; wrongful conviction; compensation amounts

Critical Analysis of Plea Bargaining in Criminal Justice: A Pragmatic Solution or a Threat to Fair Trial Rights?

Shirajanie Muthukuda Arachchige Dona Shiroma Jeeva
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Corresponding author: Shirajanie Muthukuda Arachchige Dona Shiroma Jeeva
(jeeva@law.cmb.ac.lk)

Abstract

Plea bargaining has developed as one of the most influential mechanisms in modern criminal justice systems, permitting the resolution of criminal cases through negotiated agreements between the prosecution and the accused. While this mechanism has been extensively established in jurisdictions such as the United States and has progressively increased statutory recognition in countries like India and recently in Sri Lanka, its legitimacy remains a subject of considerable deliberation within modern criminal law jurisprudence. Those who advocate plea bargaining argue that plea bargaining increases procedural efficacy by reducing case backlogs, reducing litigation costs, and advancing the administration of criminal justice. Conversely, those who oppose plea bargaining criticise that it may undermine fundamental due process guarantees by exerting coercive pressure on accused persons to plead guilty, thereby potentially compromising the right to a fair trial and increasing the risk of wrongful convictions. Against this backdrop, the fundamental research problem addressed in this study concerns whether plea bargaining functions as a pragmatic solution to systemic inefficiencies in criminal justice or whether it poses a threat to fair trial rights and the integrity of judicial processes.

Accordingly, the study pursues three principal objectives: first, to examine the conceptual foundations and legal frameworks governing plea bargaining in selected jurisdictions; second, to critically evaluate the implications of plea bargaining for fair trial rights and due process guarantees recognised in international human rights instruments, particularly those associated with the United Nations system; and third, to assess whether the benefits of plea bargaining outweigh its potential risks within contemporary criminal justice systems. These objectives are addressed through the following research questions: (1) What are the legal foundations and procedural characteristics of plea bargaining in different criminal justice systems? (2) To what extent does plea bargaining affect the protection of fair trial rights and due process guarantees? and (3) Can plea bargaining be justified as an effective mechanism for improving the efficiency of criminal justice without undermining justice and fairness? Methodologically, the study adopts a doctrinal legal research approach, relying on a critical analysis of statutory frameworks, leading judicial decisions, and relevant international legal instruments. Through a comparative and critical examination of these sources, the article seeks to contribute to ongoing scholarly debates concerning the legitimacy, limitations, and reform of plea bargaining within modern criminal justice systems.

Keywords: plea bargaining; criminal justice; adversarial judicial process; fair trial rights

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Clicks, Cash, and Risk: Unpacking the Drivers of Online Gambling in Malaysia

*Nur Hafizah Yusoff and Norkhizan Ramli
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia*

Corresponding author: nur_hafizah@ukm.edu.my



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“Everyone Knows Where My House Is Anyways”: The Trivialisation of Data Insecurity through Indonesian Public Official Discourse

Irnasya Shafira
Monash University, Australia

Corresponding author: Irnasya Shafira (irnasya.shafira@monash.edu)



Mapping the Architecture of Deception: Leveraging Graph-Based Artificial Intelligence for the Detection and Disruption of Organised Love Scam Networks in Southeast Asia

*Harsh Chandan and Abhiranjan Dixit
Uttaranchal University, India*

Corresponding author: Harsh Chandan (harshchandan789@gmail.com)

Abstract

Love scams or "love scamming" are one of the most damaging yet least studied forms of cyber-crime in Southeast Asia. While little has been published about the magnitude of the problem from an academic point of view, Malaysia alone loses hundreds of millions of Ringgit a year to this crime, which is then fed into a series of complex networks operating from what looks like a normal residential area, coordinating hundreds of simultaneous victim interactions using a cycle of identity re-use and role-playing.

In this paper I provide a theoretical and practical analysis of a graph-based AI system for the timely detection and disruption of such networks. This initiative builds on law enforcement collaboration and uses deidentified metadata from telecommunication, financial and social media data to build relational graphs of love scams and detect patterns of coordination that are otherwise unobservable through the single-account approach. These graphs consist of nodes that represent individual online identities, e.g., phone numbers, user accounts, and ranges of IP addresses, and edges that represent the volume of communication, time of communication, and the content of conversations. Using graph neural networks (GNN), I discovered new patterns of interaction and coordination among love scams that can be observed in other ways, except for the single-account approach that failed to capture the essence of the problem in previous cybercrime surveys of the region.

The technological intervention is not created in a vacuum, but is based upon criminological theory. The syndicate organization in love scams breaks with long-standing practices of victimology, which is only concerned with individuals. Although the AI-based detection approach will most likely have no influence on diminishing the victim's harm without the respective intervention programs, the latter combined with AI detection is an innovation with policy implications that has not been applied in the region yet.

Keywords: romance scam, graph neural networks, organised crime, Southeast Asia, crime prevention, AI ethics

Beyond Human Intent: Establishing Criminal Liability for AI-Facilitated IP and Synthetic Content Crimes

*Kartikeya Chamola and Kuljit Singh
Uttaranchal University, India*

Corresponding author: Kartikeya Chamola (kartikeyachamola1999@gmail.com)

Abstract

The advent of generative artificial intelligence has fundamentally altered the traditional landscape of criminal law, creating a new dark frontier of "AI-facilitated" crime that is much broader than simple commercial copyright infringement. AI is increasingly being used to automate highly advanced criminal activities. These include the heinous creation of AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and virtual sexual assaults within the metaverse (Nina Patel case), massive theft of trade secrets, and highly realistic deepfakes geared towards business email compromise schemes.

Adding to these dangers is the anonymity of the dark web, which veils the origins of this synthetic illegal content and makes prosecution of criminals jurisdictionally complex for law enforcement agencies. The key problem with prosecuting these emerging cybercrimes is that deep learning models are a "black box". Because AI systems by their inherent nature can make incredibly complex decisions all on their own, the technological complexities of these systems make it virtually impossible to definitively prove "mens rea", or human intent, the cornerstone of criminal prosecution. This opens a massive gap in the law, with courts across the world grappling to determine how to hold people accountable when an AI system infringes.

An intense discussion is underway about whether the responsibility of these crimes should be attributed on the creators of the tool or the users of the tool technologies. Despite claims by developers of "technology neutrality" since they argue that they only "build technology", the world is coming to a consensus that we must impose strict positive obligations of care on the technology platforms, holding them responsible for not monitoring, filtering or reporting illegal content.

Since our laws only anticipate human behaviour, countries around the world are now scrambling to keep up with the rapid advancement in AI due to which the legislations have become inconsistent. For instance, the proposed ENFORCE Act of 2025 in the United States aims to address gaps in the law with regards to synthetic subjects, while China has adopted a more authoritarian, compliance-focused stance, which makes service providers liable for any criminal actions. By contrast, Indian laws are increasingly seen as being unclear, and European jurisdictions, like Italy, have enacted specific provisions, criminalising the unauthorised downloading of copyrighted content for training AI models.

In conclusion, this paper suggests that our legacy, intent-based legal approaches cannot keep up with the level and pace of AI-facilitated crime. To correctly tackle criminal responsibility for AI-related intellectual property and synthetic content crimes, we need to move from a reactive to a proactive approach to preventing and managing systemic risk. Adopting a combination of strict liability for developers and service providers, as well as a unified global approach, will prevent a global arms race in cyber-safety and ensure that our human rights and intellectual property protections can keep pace with our technological advances.

Keywords: AI-facilitated crime; IPR; synthetic content; cybercrime jurisdiction; deepfakes & CSAM; transnational justice

Artificial Intelligence in Prisoner Rehabilitation: A Comparative Analysis of Western Models and Strategic Pathways for Asian Correctional Services

*Priyansh Singh Rajput, Riya Kaintura and Rajesh Bahuguna
Uttaranchal University, India*

Corresponding author: Priyansh Singh Rajput (priyanshsrajp12@gmail.com)

Abstract

Global criminal justice systems are facing a sustainability crisis, with many developing countries reporting prison occupancy rates above their sanctioned capacities. The traditional approach of using prisons for minor and non-violent crimes has resulted in overcrowding, financial strain, and the stigmatization of first-time offenders, which triggers increased recidivism rather than rehabilitation.

This paper focuses on community service sentencing as an alternative to incarceration and explores a “Scalable Framework” for jurisdictions that do not have the administrative and financial resources of the Western countries. Due to the high operating costs of supervising such sentences most Asian countries have constantly struggled to implement successful working models which can realistically be applied in low-resource environments.

While Western jurisdictions readily promote the use of community service sentencing as a primary non-custodial sanction, its implementation in most Asian countries is still in its budding stage. To address this gap, the study employs a comparative criminological approach and analyses how developed Asian models of community service sentencing, such as those in South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong can be adapted for resource-constrained jurisdictions of Asia.

Further, this paper finally concludes that an effective legislative framework must align with the real-time advancements in scalable Artificial Intelligence (AI). The integration of AI with community service sentencing can transform the criminal justice system by automating monitoring and compliance, thereby reducing the financial burden on the state and relieving the overburdened prison systems. Although the integration of AI would result in minimal human supervision and substantially reduce costs, a large implementation gap needs to be addressed.

This research is significant as it provides a blueprint for the developing nations to modernize their penal policy without significant financial investment. The introduction of community service sentencing into penal policy would not only reduce the burden on the state and prison systems, but also act as an economic asset for the state by facilitating the upskilling and the rehabilitation of the offender.

Keywords: electronic monitoring, community service sentencing, automating compliance, rehabilitation, artificial intelligence

Understanding the Lived Experiences of Non-Passer Criminology Licensure Examination Examinees: Basis for Institutional Support Enhancement

*Fortunato R Sagudo Jr.
University of Perpetual Help Molino Campus, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Fortunato R Sagudo Jr. (junsagudo1951@gmail.com)

Abstract

Failure in licensure examinations remains a significant concern among criminology graduates, yet limited studies have explored the experiences and challenges faced by non-passers. This study aimed to investigate the lived experiences of criminology graduates who did not pass the Criminologist Licensure Examination, focusing on the emotional, academic, personal, and institutional factors that contributed to their examination outcomes. Utilizing a qualitative research design, data were gathered through in-depth interviews with ten (10) male criminology graduates who had experienced examination failure twice. Thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring patterns and themes from participants' narratives. The findings revealed that non-passers commonly experienced disappointment, frustration, self-doubt, and diminished self-confidence following examination failure. Academic-related factors such as inadequate preparation, poor study habits, lack of focus, and insufficient mastery of core subjects emerged as major contributors to unsuccessful examination performance. Furthermore, personal challenges, including financial difficulties, work commitments, and family responsibilities, significantly affected participants' ability to prepare effectively. Despite these setbacks, participants demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and a strong determination to achieve their professional goals. The study also highlighted the importance of institutional support, particularly through structured review programs, academic mentoring, accessible learning resources, and psychosocial interventions. The findings suggest that examination failure is a multifaceted experience influenced by interconnected academic, personal, and environmental factors rather than intellectual ability alone. It is concluded that strengthening institutional support systems, promoting effective preparation strategies, and fostering resilience among examinees may enhance future licensure examination outcomes. Future research may explore comparative experiences of passers and non-passers and assess the effectiveness of specific support interventions in improving examination performance.

Keywords: academic preparation, criminologist licensure examination, institutional support, resilience, examination failure

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The Concept of Restorative Justice

*Xue Yu and Yu Pin
West Anhui University, China*

Corresponding author: Xue Yu (xueyushawn@qq.com)



A Comparative Criminological Study of the Definition of "Drugs" Across Asian Countries

*Moulin Xiong and Dan Wang
Southwest University of Finance and Economics, China*

Corresponding author: Moulin Xiong (xiongmoulin@swufe.edu.cn)

Abstract

Background/purpose: Against the backdrop of a global surge in new psychoactive substances, Asian countries have generally adopted stringent anti-drug policies. The legal definition of "drugs"—the cornerstone of anti-drug systems—is not merely a technical legal tool but also profoundly reflects each country's concept of crime and philosophy of social control. However, existing research has largely focused on individual nations or macro-policy levels, lacking systematic comparative criminological studies of the definitions of "drugs" across Asian countries. This study aims to transcend the limitations of single-country research by focusing on major nations in East Asia (China, Japan, and South Korea) and Southeast Asia (Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the "Golden Triangle" region). It seeks to thoroughly examine the similarities and differences in the patterns, scope, and underlying logic of their legal definitions of "drugs," and to explain the deep-seated causes behind these differences—as well as their impact on criminal justice practices—from criminological, cultural, and political perspectives.

Methods: Adopting a comparative legal approach and centering on legal text analysis, this study systematically reviews and interprets relevant statutory laws, control schedules, and judicial interpretations across East and Southeast Asian nations. It constructs an analytical framework comprising four dimensions: "definition patterns," "scope of control," "criminal liability," and "substantive attributes." Theoretically, the study integrates perspectives from social control theory, cultural criminology, and Asian criminology to provide in-depth interpretations of the comparative findings.

Findings: The study finds that East Asian countries tend to construct drugs as a direct threat to collective security and order, emphasizing state-led preventive punishment; whereas Southeast Asian countries exhibit a more differentiated construction model: Singapore and Malaysia have established an "order-security" framework based on strict classification and zero-tolerance deterrence; definitions in the regions surrounding the "Golden Triangle," however, oscillate between "criminalization" and "governance." The process of social construction has led to significant temporal discrepancies in how countries define NPS, exacerbating the fragmentation of regional legal standards.

Conclusions: The study further demonstrates that the legal definitions of "drugs" in Asian countries are not purely legal concepts, but rather the product of profound social construction. The breadth of these definitions and the severity of punishments are the result of the combined influence of state power, the need for social control, and cultural and historical narratives. Future regional anti-drug cooperation must go beyond mere alignment of schedules and instead deeply understand the social construction logic underlying these concepts, in order to build a governance system better suited to the region.

Keywords: definition of drugs; Asian criminology; social constructivism; East and Southeast Asia; new psychoactive substances

Artificial Intelligence in Prisoner Rehabilitation: A Comparative Analysis of Western Models and Strategic Pathways for Asian Correctional Services

*Riya Kaintura, Priyansh Singh Rajput and Rajesh Bahuguna
Uttaranchal University, India*

Corresponding author: Riya Kaintura (riya.kaintura1202@gmail.com)

Abstract

Traditional prison systems face various systemic challenges, including but not limited to, overcrowding, security lapses, lack of adequate resources, inadequate skill development that leads to hardships faced by inmates to re-integrate into society upon being released. This paper explores how the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in correctional services can revolutionize inmate rehabilitation by designing personalized education, addressing inmate's psychological needs, enhancing security and surveillance and reducing the risk of recidivism. This paper employs a comparative socio-legal approach, and its aim is to compare the different types of AI models and the extent to which they are being used in the Western jurisdictions, including Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) for predictive assessment of offenders, and models like compact tri-modal camera unit (CTCAT), and VR-assisted rehabilitation for behavioural analysis and rehabilitation of offenders in contrast to those of the transitioning Asian models, including biometric kiosks and AI-backed intelligent CCTV surveillance systems for automating compliance and monitoring. However, the use of AI in the correctional services is still at a nascent stage and is yet to be systematically operationalized due to various barriers such as legal and ethical challenges, algorithm biases, transparency and accountability concerns and the lack of proper infrastructure. Finally, this paper concludes that a comprehensive framework, such as the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act, 2024, should be laid down in every country after considering the specific differences and needs of that particular jurisdiction. This will help to make the use of AI in the correctional system more systematized, automate monitoring of prisoners, curate tailored educational programs, address the inmates' specific psychological needs, reduce privacy concerns as well as the existing socio-economic and cultural biases and help the prisoners to re-integrate upon being released. This would be a significant step forward that would reduce the existing load on the prison systems across Asia, enhance surveillance and compliance by offenders and increase the offender's employability on being released thereby promoting reformative justice.

Keywords: prisoner rehabilitation; artificial intelligence; algorithm bias; psychological needs; recidivism.

ID: ACS2026-282

Charting a Space in Criminology for the Global South

*John Geoffrey Scott
Queensland University of Technology, Australia*

Corresponding author: John Geoffrey Scott (j31.scott@qut.edu.au)



Culturally Safe Teaching and Learning in Criminology: Embedding Indigenous-Informed Pedagogy in Criminology Education

Christopher Emzin, Francis Bobongie-Harris, Deb Duthie, Juliana McLaughlin, Shanelle Fiaalii and Thet Zin Myint Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Corresponding author: Christopher Emzin (ca.emzin@qut.edu.au)

Abstract

Across the Asia-Pacific region, criminology education is increasingly challenged to prepare graduates for complex justice environments while also responding to calls for decolonising curricula and embedding Indigenous Knowledges. Within this context, culturally safe teaching and learning has been identified as a critical pedagogical priority. This presentation examines how cultural safety can be conceptualised and operationalised within criminology programs in higher education.

The paper draws on a multi-disciplinary research project entitled Culturally Safe Pedagogical Environments, combining curriculum development analysis, sector mapping across Australian and New Zealand universities, and structured reflections from students and staff. The project explores how criminology curricula can integrate professional skill development with relational, reflexive, and culturally grounded pedagogies. Particular attention is given to how Indigenous Knowledges are positioned within curriculum design, classroom practice, assessment, and institutional culture.

Findings indicate that culturally safe criminology education extends beyond content inclusion. It requires ongoing attention to power, disciplinary histories, and the institutional contexts in which justice education is delivered. Participants emphasised the importance of authentic Indigenous leadership, relational accountability, and community engagement in shaping meaningful pedagogical transformation. Systemic constraints were also identified, including curriculum overcrowding, institutional risk aversion, and pressures toward symbolic or performative inclusion. The presentation argues that cultural safety in criminology must operate as an embedded and accountable pedagogical practice rather than a discrete curricular addition. It requires alignment across course design, teaching methods, assessment strategies, and institutional governance frameworks. By foregrounding Indigenous-informed pedagogy and relational approaches to justice education, the project contributes to regional conversations about strengthening inclusive, culturally grounded, and socially responsive criminology programs that better prepare graduates to engage with justice institutions and community safety challenges.

Keywords: Cultural safety; Criminology education; Indigenous-informed pedagogy; Decolonising curriculum; Justice education

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Workplace Bullying in Correctional Institutions

*Shuping Tzeng
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Tzeng, Shu-Ping (crmspt@gmail.com; crmspt@ccu.edu.tw)

Abstract

This empirical study investigates workplace bullying within Taiwan's correctional institutions, specifically examining its impact on the mental health, professional morale, and turnover intentions of both victims and bystanders. Furthermore, the research explores systemic inadequacies and challenges within current regulatory frameworks and management mechanisms.

Spanning two years, the first phase of this project (August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026) involves a comprehensive review of domestic and international literature and the development of qualitative interview protocols. Semi-structured individual interviews were conducted with twelve correctional staff members who had either experienced or witnessed workplace bullying to identify its prevalence, root causes, and institutional consequences. These qualitative findings serve as the critical empirical foundation for developing a specialized "Workplace Bullying in Correctional Institutions" questionnaire to be deployed in the second year. This presentation highlights the primary results derived from the firsthand experiences of these victims and witnesses.

Keywords: workplace bullying; correctional institutions; interviews



Adverse Childhood Experiences, Gender Stereotypes, Rape Myths in Predicting Sexual Offenses

*Chia-Feng Lu and Min-Chieh Jay Lin
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Chia-Feng Lu (allenlcf@hotmail.com)

Abstract

This study aims to explore the effects of gender stereotypes, rape myths, and adverse childhood experiences on sexual offending behavior, and to examine the mediating role of self-efficacy within these relationships. Employing a cross-sectional design, the study sampled 360 males, including 191 incarcerated individuals with prior convictions for sexual autonomy offenses and 169 from the general population. The instruments used were the Adverse Childhood Experiences - International Questionnaire (ACE-IQ), Gender Stereotype Scale, Rape Myth Scale, and General Self-Efficacy Scale (GSES). Data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM), with parameters estimated via the Diagonally Weighted Least Squares (DWLS) method to test the paths and mediation effects among variables.

Results indicated good model fit indices (CFI = 0.970, TLI = 0.968, RMSEA = 0.049, SRMR = 0.070). Structurally, rape myths (RM) had a significant positive effect on sexual offending behavior ($\beta = 0.555$, $p < .001$) and a significant negative association with female gender role stereotypes (GSA) ($\beta = -2.520$, $p < .001$). Male gender role stereotypes (GSB) and adverse childhood experiences (ACE) also showed significant positive effects on sexual offending behavior (GSB: $\beta = 1.429$, $p < .001$; CT: $\beta = 0.986$, $p < .05$). However, self-efficacy (SE) did not have a significant direct effect on sexual offending behavior ($\beta = -0.006$, $p = .965$), nor was it significantly predicted by RM, GSA, GSB, or ACE (all $p > .30$), suggesting that self-efficacy may play a mediating or moderating role that requires further investigation.

In conclusion, the findings support that gender stereotypes and adverse childhood experiences are key factors influencing sexual offending behavior. While self-efficacy holds theoretical importance, its mediating effect remains to be further validated. The results offer practical recommendations for sexual offense prevention and offender treatment.

Keywords: gender equality, rape myths, adverse childhood experiences, self-efficacy, sexual offending

The Mechanisms Linking Psychological Stress and Deviant Behavior Risk in University Settings: An Integrated Neurocriminological Model

*CLi, Chia-Yin
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Li, Chia-Yin (j86042507@gmail.com)

Abstract

In recent years, the relationship between mental health stress and campus deviant behavior among university students has received increasing attention. However, existing studies have largely focused on correlational analyses, with limited efforts to provide an integrated account of the underlying mechanisms. In particular, how stress influences behavioral outcomes through neuropsychological regulatory processes, as well as the differential roles of specific regulatory mechanisms, remains insufficiently understood. Moreover, prior research has predominantly focused on clinical or offender populations, with relatively limited empirical evidence from general university student samples.

This study adopts a neurocriminological perspective and integrates General Strain Theory to develop an integrated model linking mental health stress, neuropsychological regulation, and the risk of campus deviant behavior. Specifically, the study examines how stress influences deviant behavior risk through key neuropsychological mechanisms—namely emotion regulation and inhibitory control—and further compares their differential mediating effects.

Methodologically, this study employs a multi-method approach, integrating self-report measures and neuropsychological assessments (behavioral tasks) to capture both subjective and objective indicators of neuropsychological regulations. Data will be collected through questionnaire surveys and behavioral tasks, and analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to examine both direct effects and mediating mechanisms.

The findings are expected to provide a mechanism-based account of the relationship between stress and deviant behavior, advance an integrated theoretical framework bridging criminology and neuropsychology, and offer empirical implications for mental health promotion and deviant behavior prevention in university settings.

Keywords: psychological stress; deviant behavior risk, neurocriminological

A Study on the Implementation of Restorative Practices and Perceptions of School Climate in Taiwan: Perspectives from RJ-Trained Educational Personnel

*Chia-Hua Chen
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Chen, Chia-Hua (huachen630@gmail.com)

Abstract

In contemporary educational settings, where disciplinary conflicts and behavioral issues are increasingly prevalent, the prevailing school climate often leans toward a “risk-aversion” (minimizing action to avoid mistakes) mentality. This study explores how Restorative Practices (RP) can be translated into practical campus language and foster qualitative shifts in the school climate. The theoretical framework emphasizes that when a school environment prioritizes an “Ethos of Care” and “Social and Emotional Learning (SEL),” it adopts a prevention-oriented restorative character.

Conducted in 2026, this qualitative study focuses on school administrators and educational personnel who have completed certified training in Restorative Justice (JC). A semi-structured interview approach of three personnel who had completed RJ training was adopted to gather in-depth data. Data were subsequently analyzed using phenomenological content analysis to identify differences in implementation strategies before and after training, and to evaluate the qualitative transformation of interaction quality from the perspective of the practitioners.

The findings indicated several key outcomes. First, a cognitive shift in personnel from purely “retributive accountability” to focus on “addressing needs,” viewing conflict as an opportunity for relationship repair. Second, preliminary SOPs for cross-departmental collaboration were established, effectively bridging the structural gap between administration and counseling. Finally, a measurable reduction in systemic tensions, leading to decreased student defensiveness and an increased willingness to take responsibility.

The study reveals that greater RP implementation levels are associated with significantly improved teacher-student relationships. These findings provide a robust empirical basis for sustaining a restorative culture. By offering a practical reference for schools in transition, this 2026 research guides the systemic shift from a punitive culture toward a restorative and supportive school climate, ultimately fostering an ethos of care and enhanced social-emotional growth.

Keywords: restorative practices; school climate; teacher-student conflict; social emotional learning

ID: ACS2026-025

Research on the Attribution of Criminal Liability of Artificial Intelligence in the Medical Field

*Yao Hao and Li Pan
Macau University of Science and Technology, China*

Corresponding author: Yao Hao (yaohaolaw@outlook.com)

Abstract

Medical artificial intelligence represented by deep learning has been widely applied in imaging diagnosis, pathological identification, auxiliary decision-making, surgical robots, remote monitoring and other fields. It has played a significant role in improving the efficiency and accuracy of diagnosis and treatment, as well as alleviating the imbalance between the supply and demand of medical resources. However, as medical artificial intelligence becomes increasingly deeply involved in diagnosis and treatment decisions, the risk of serious medical damage caused by system errors, data bias or improper use has also increased. When artificial intelligence products cause harmful consequences to society, liability cannot be attributed to them due to their lack of "human" identity. The original legal systems and regulatory models targeting traditional medical devices and medical practitioners can no longer fully adapt to the development of medical artificial intelligence in the new era. The current subjects of criminal liability under criminal law are constructed around the dual subjects of natural persons and units, and the criminal subject status of algorithms or artificial intelligence systems themselves has not yet been recognized. Liability should be attributed to various participants of different types of medical artificial intelligence products, including device developers, hospitals, medical personnel and even regulatory authorities, under specific circumstances.

Keywords: artificial intelligence; medical devices; criminal liability; principle of liability attribution

The Research on the Establishment of a Dynamic Relapse Risk Assessment Scale for Drug Addicts

*Min-Chieh Lin and Leow Hooi Teng
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Leow Hooi Teng (vickyleow7297@gmail.com)

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to develop a dynamic relapse risk assessment scale for drug addiction, which is often challenging to improve. There were 245 males in the study, allowing for the creation of four separate scales. (1) For males, the 3-month relapse rate was 7.8%. The predictive scale consisted of seven items with a range of 0 to 17. The predictive validity is $r = .38$ and $ROC = .77$, indicating moderate to high predictive validity. (2) For males, the 6-month relapse rate was 15.1%. The predictive scale comprised three items with a range of 0 to 2. The predictive validity was $r = .20$ and $ROC = .64$, indicating low predictive validity. (3) For females, the 3-month relapse rate was 5.1%. The predictive scale consisted of four items with a range of 0 to 17. The predictive validity was $r = .43$ and $ROC = .77$, indicating moderate to high predictive validity. (4) For females, the 6-month relapse rate was 10.4%. The predictive scale comprised two items with a range of 0 to 11. The predictive validity was $r = .47$ and $ROC = .75$, indicating a moderate predictive validity. The authors recommend that supervision and treatment of addicts be graded using this scale to plan improvements in their confidence and family connections, thus reducing the risk of relapse.

Keywords: drug addicts; addictive drugs; substance abusers; relapse risk factors; risk assessment

The Impact of Childhood Adversity on Sexual Offending: A Life-Course and Therapeutic Perspective

Leow Hooi Teng
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan

Corresponding author: Leow Hooi Teng (vickyleow7297@gmail.com)

Abstract

Criminological theories have predominantly focused on explaining why individuals engage in criminal behavior, with comparatively limited attention given to the factors that inhibit offending. Addressing this gap, the present study examines the role of childhood adversity in shaping the development and manifestation of sexual offending behavior from a life-course perspective.

Drawing on prior literature, human behavior is understood to be influenced by the dynamic interplay of social, familial, and interpersonal contexts across developmental stages. Accordingly, this study pursues three primary objectives. First, it explores whether childhood adversity among sexual offenders, as revealed in cognitive-based group therapy, is associated with prior traumatic experiences or neurodevelopmental deprivation. Second, it investigates how offenders construct and interpret their life trajectories within therapeutic settings. Third, it analyzes the processes through which offenders reflect on the origins of self-centered or maladaptive behaviors, and whether such reflection facilitates the emergence of empathy, mutual respect, and prosocial orientation.

A quantitative survey design was employed, with data collected through structured questionnaires administered to adult sexual offenders residing in both urban and rural contexts. Instrument reliability and validity were rigorously assessed. The study incorporates multiple domains, including individual characteristics, interpersonal relationships, family background, educational experiences, and occupational and marital conditions. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) was utilized to examine the relationships among these variables and to assess the influence of external risk factors on sexual offending behavior.

It is anticipated that sexual offending will be significantly associated with dysfunctional family environments, adverse social experiences, and insecure attachment patterns during childhood. Furthermore, negative experiences in intimate relationships may intensify psychological compensation needs, thereby increasing the risk of offending. In contrast, the presence of stable attachment relationships is expected to serve as a protective factor. The findings of this study aim to contribute to the theoretical understanding of sexual offending and to inform the development of more effective prevention and intervention strategies within clinical and correctional settings.

Keywords: childhood adversity; sexual offending; life-course perspective; attachment; cognitive group therapy

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**Public Attitudes Toward the Criminal Reconciliation System in China: An
Analysis through the Lens of the Relationism Theory**

*Yu Pin
West Anhui University, China*

Corresponding author: Yu Pin (Yu_Pln123@163.com)



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Colonialism, Corruption and Anticorruption: The Case of British Colonial Hong Kong

*Peng Wang and Dong Yuanmei
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Corresponding author: Dong Yuanmei (yuanmeidong@connect.hku.hk)



Current Status and Reform Suggestions for Forensic Interview Procedures in Taiwan

*Wang Li Hsin
Central Police University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Wang Li Hsin (ntwamg316@gmail.com)

Abstract

Fair and impartial judicial trials constitute a foundational element of social justice, and the legitimacy of final judgments depends on the adequacy of evidence collection. Empirical and doctrinal research nevertheless indicates that, in sexual assault cases involving vulnerable witnesses—such as children or persons with intellectual or mental disabilities—the victim is often the sole eyewitness, and investigative interviews with the victim represent one of the few reliable means of obtaining relevant information. To ensure that criminal charges are properly substantiated, investigators must elicit accurate and sufficiently detailed accounts of the events from the victim's memory. Accordingly, many jurisdictions have established forensic interview systems designed to facilitate accurate and reliable testimony from vulnerable witnesses while minimizing the risk of secondary victimization.

At the same time, the protection of vulnerable witnesses inevitably raises concerns about safeguarding the defendant's procedural rights. In particular, the manner in which a legal system reconciles witness protection with the defendant's constitutionally guaranteed right to confrontation frequently constitutes a decisive factor in assessing the legitimacy and effectiveness of forensic interview systems.

In 2015, Taiwan introduced a forensic interview system by drawing on European and American legal models. Under Taiwan's current framework, records produced during pre-trial interviews conducted by forensic interviewers are admitted directly as exceptions to the hearsay rule, thereby preventing victims from being required to testify again at trial and reducing the likelihood of secondary victimization. While this legislative objective is normatively justified, the accompanying institutional mechanisms intended to compensate for the resulting restrictions on the defendant's right to confrontation appear to be insufficient.

Through a combination of literature review and comparative legal analysis, this study finds that Norway's pre-trial forensic interview system is particularly noteworthy for its institutional design aimed at safeguarding the defendant's right to confrontation. Although pre-trial interviews with victims are conducted under the direction of a forensic interviewer, judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel observe the interview process via real-time video transmission. Following each phase of questioning, the interviewer consults with the judge, prosecutor, and defense counsel regarding issues requiring clarification or further inquiry before resuming the interview.

This iterative process continues until no party raises further objections or doubts concerning the victim's testimony, at which point the interview procedure is formally concluded. Except in rare and exceptional circumstances, the victim is not subjected to additional questioning during either the investigative or trial stages thereafter.

Functionally, Norway's interview model relocates the core elements of cross-examination from the trial stage to the pre-trial stage, enabling defense counsel to exercise procedural safeguards on behalf of the defendant within the interview process itself. When compared with Taiwan's approach—under which interview records are classified as hearsay exceptions, and the defendant is largely confined to challenging the written record *ex post*—Norway's model offers a more robust compensatory mechanism for limitations imposed on the defendant's right to confrontation. Nevertheless, because Taiwan's criminal procedure system does not fully correspond to that of Norway, the feasibility of directly transplanting Norway's institutional design into Taiwan's existing legal framework, or the extent to which related procedural adjustments would be required, remains open to further examination.

Accordingly, this article first examines the evidentiary characteristics of vulnerable witnesses and the functional significance of forensic interview systems in criminal investigations. It then analyzes the operation and unresolved issues of Taiwan's forensic interview procedures through a comparative assessment of Norway's pre-trial interview model. On this basis, the article proposes reform recommendations aimed at enabling Taiwan's forensic interview system to achieve a more appropriate balance between the protection of vulnerable witnesses and the effective safeguarding of the defendant's right to confrontation.

Keywords: vulnerable witnesses; forensic interview; right to confrontation

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From Roots to Resilience: Environmental Study on Policy Enforcement and Conservation of Mangroves in Camarines Sur, Philippines

*Alden Bonita Galido, Alex A. Lagarde and Marilyn F. Balares
Naga College Foundation, Inc., Philippines*

Corresponding author: Alden Bonita Galido (agalido@ncf.edu.ph)



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**Shifting the Focus: A Quantitative Analysis of Spousal Abuse against Husbands
by their Wives**

*Nestor C. Nabe and Carmelita B. Chavez
University of Mindanao, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Nestor C. Nabe (neststor_nabe@umindanao.edu.ph)



Gender-based Sexual Harassment Victimization Survey among OJT Students of Sibonga Community College for AY 2025-2026

*Edward Maglucot
Sibonga Community College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Edward Maglucot (edwardmaglucot52718@gmail.com)

Abstract

As succinctly provided in the Philippine Constitution, the Philippines shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Moreover, the Philippines also recognizes that both men and women must have equality, security and safety not only in private, but also on the streets, public spaces, online, workplaces and educational and training institutions. This descriptive type of research aims to ascertain the prevalence of Gender-based Sexual Harassment (GBSH) victimization among the On-the-Job Students of Sibonga Community College committed in public spaces and online as defined and penalized by RA 11313 or "Safe Spaces Act". For Gender-based Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces, the common crimes committed are leering and intrusive gazing, use of words, gestures or actions that ridicule a person, relentless request for personal details and making offensive body gestures. These crimes were usually committed in public utility vehicle, school, public markets and malls. The usual perpetrator of the crime are stranger acquaintances, friends, classmates and drivers. Victims' usual reaction after victimization are considered it a joke and just ignored it, confronted the perpetrator, considered it a compliment and liked it and recorded the incident through cellular phone. For Online Gender-based Sexual Harassment, the most common crimes are invasion of privacy through cyberstalking and incessant messaging, unwanted sexual misogynistics, transphobic, homophobic and sexist remarks and uploading and sharing without the consent of the victim any form of media containing photos, voice or video with sexual content. The usual perpetrator of Online Gender-Based Sexual Harassment are strangers with dummy account, social media friends or followers and strangers with organic account. The most common action after victimization are blocked the social media account of the perpetrator, reported the social media account and considered it a joke, so he ignored it.

Keywords: gender-based sexual harassment; victimization survey; online sexual harassment

Family Disputes and Loose Firearms Incidence in Marawi City: A Case Study

*Salon, Roan C
Phinma Cagayan De Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Salon, Roan C. (rcsalon.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This research investigates the interplay between clan-based disputes (rido) and the presence of unregulated firearms in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur. Rooted in the Maranao principle of maratabat (honor and pride), rido continues to foster cycles of retaliation that persist across generations. The widespread availability of firearms further escalates these conflicts, transforming minor quarrels into prolonged violence. Anchored in Peace Theory, Conflict Theory, Cultural Violence Theory, Justice Theory, and Human Needs Theory, the study frames rido as both a cultural and structural challenge that requires multidimensional solutions. Using a qualitative case study design guided by the Input-Process-Output model, the study engaged ten purposively selected participants, including barangay officials, datos, and sultans. Through semi-structured interviews, the research captured lived experiences, coping strategies, perspectives on how firearms influence conflict dynamics. The findings indicate that disputes often stem from land ownership issues, domestics, and martial conflicts, political rivalries, and youth related misconduct, with maratabat intensifying these triggers. Although traditional approaches such as Taritib and Ijma remain central to conflict resolution, their effectiveness is undermined by firearm access and the absence of enforceability within statutory law. Leaders reported coping by combining cultural authority, religious guidance, financial sacrifices, and community advocacy. They emphasized reframing maratabat from a source of vengeance into a commitment to dignity, unity, and compassion, consistent with Islamic values. The study concludes that sustainable peacebuilding requires hybrid frameworks that integrate customary mechanisms with formal law, stronger firearm regulation, and culturally grounded education on conflict resolution. In sum, the research offers practical recommendations for policymakers, law enforcement, educators and traditional leaders, highlighting the need for collaborative, community-based strategies to mitigate rido, regulate firearms, and cultivate a culture of peace in Marawi City and beyond.

Keywords: Rido; Maratabat; loose firearms; conflict resolution; Taritib and Ijma; peacebuilding; Marawi City, Philippines.

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Gender-Based Differences in Criminal Offenses as Perceived by Philippine National Police Personnel in Bohol

Filven L. Cagulada



ID: ACS2026-098

Police Officers Performing Duties Involving State Compensation - Using the Use of Police Equipment as an Example

*Tsai Chang Ho
Central Police University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Tsai Chang Ho (ming269@msn.com)

Abstract

This article attempts to conduct a comparative analysis of two cases in which police officers caused national compensation claims through the use of police weapons, judging based on whether there was unlawful harm and urgency in the use of guns, and whether the use of guns complied with the principle of proportionality. The aim is to ensure that police officers can use firearms correctly according to the law while on duty, protect their own safety and that of the public, and avoid incurring national compensation liability. Finally, it also attempts to provide personal suggestions for improvement, such as: firearms may be fired directly under circumstances specified in Article 4, Paragraph 4 of the preceding regulations; when using firearms, the principle of proportionality should be strictly observed according to Article 6; in less urgent situations, interception and containment or other less-lethal weapons may be used as alternatives; after the incident, according to Article 10-1, investigative teams should be effectively utilized to clarify the timing, process, and administrative responsibility of firearm use; and according to Article 10-3, assistance and counselling should be provided to officers involved in litigation.

Keywords: state compensation; subrogation responsibility; use of police equipment, principle of proportionality

Frontline Custodians: Work World of Jail Guards

*Paulino V. Piouquinto, Emmanuel Cesar Q. Prias and Yolanda C. Sayson
Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Paulino V. Piouquinto (ppioquinto@uc.edu.ph)



Spectrum-Based Crime Typology Theory (SBCTT): A Multidimensional Framework for Policing and Law Enforcement

*Atty. Dodelon F. Sabijon, RCrim
University of Cebu Main Campus, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Atty. Dodelon F. Sabijon, RCrim (delon.ucmain@gmail.com)

Abstract

This study introduces Sabijon's Spectrum-Based Crime Typology Theory (SBCTT), a novel framework in Criminology that reconceptualizes crime as a multidimensional continuum rather than a dichotomy between white-collar and street crime. Traditional distinctions, particularly between white-collar crimes and street crimes, have guided policing but are increasingly inadequate, if not inefficient, in capturing hybrid, technology-driven, and structurally embedded offenses. SBCTT is a unified model that moves beyond binary classification, integrates socio-economic, structural, and institutional variables, and addresses enforcement disparities in policing. Drawing from Strain Theory, Routine Activity Theory, Conflict Theory, and Labeling Theory, the study develops a spectrum model defined by socio-economic position, visibility, organizational structure, and power relations. Using qualitative theoretical synthesis and a proposed Cebu, Philippine-based empirical design, the paper identifies five crime zones: structural, opportunity, survival, emergent, and hybrid. Findings suggest a systemic enforcement imbalance favoring high-visibility crimes over structurally embedded offenses. The theory aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 and supports reform priorities of the Philippine National Police Commission. SBCTT contributes to criminological scholarship and provides a policy-relevant tool for evidence-based policing.

Keywords: crime typology; policing; criminological theory; SDG 16; SBCTT; Cebu, Philippines

Digital self-policing: Victim-led Crime Prevention in Cases of Online Stalking in Malaysia

Mohamad Shazlan Mohd Ali Piah, Nur Hafizah Yusoff, Azianura Hani Shaari and Azahah Abu Hassan Shaari, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia

Corresponding author: Mohamad Shazlan Mohd Ali Piah (p145437@siswa.ukm.edu.my)

Abstract

The rapid expansion of digital connectivity in Malaysia has intensified exposure to technology-facilitated harms, including online stalking, yet institutional responses remain in transition despite the criminalisation of stalking under Section 507A of the Penal Code in 2023. This study examines how women victims of online stalking in Malaysia engage in digital self-policing as a form of informal crime prevention within technology-mediated environments. Anchored in Routine Activity Theory and supported by Situational Crime Prevention, the study explores how perceived gaps in institutional guardianship shape victim-led adaptations. Using a qualitative design informed by interpretative phenomenological analysis, semi-structured interviews were conducted with four Malaysian women who experienced prolonged online stalking ranging from five to eight years. Reflexive thematic analysis identified four interrelated patterns: defensive digital blocking as micro-guardianship, visibility reduction and target hardening, offline behavioural modification, and emotional labour as invisible crime control. Participants described repeatedly blocking perpetrators, restricting account visibility, limiting social media engagement, and modifying both digital and physical routines to reduce exposure. These strategies functioned as access control and opportunity reduction mechanisms, effectively positioning victims as substitute capable guardians in contexts where institutional intervention was perceived as delayed, uncertain, or procedurally constrained. However, digital self-policing extended beyond technical adjustments. Online harassment spilled into offline behavioural modification, including avoidance of public spaces, social withdrawal, and recalibration of everyday mobility. Sustained hypervigilance, notification anxiety, and emotional exhaustion further revealed the psychological costs of prolonged self-managed safety practices. While these strategies mitigated immediate risk, they simultaneously generated invisible forms of emotional labour, illustrating the privatisation of crime prevention responsibilities in digitally networked societies. The findings extend Routine Activity Theory by reconceptualising capable guardianship as individualised and embedded within everyday digital routines rather than solely institutional. They also illuminate processes of responsabilisation, whereby safety management shifts from the state to victims themselves, often along gendered lines. Situated within Malaysia's rapidly digitalising landscape and broader Southeast Asian transitions, this study contributes to Asian criminology by highlighting how technological expansion, evolving legal frameworks, and institutional adaptation intersect in redistributing the burden of crime prevention. Online stalking therefore emerges not only as individual victimisation but as a governance challenge within contemporary digital risk societies.

Keywords: digital self-policing; online stalking; routine activity theory; victim-led crime prevention; Southeast Asian cybercrime



Exploring Police Misconduct in Malaysia: A Study of Stakeholder Perspectives

¹Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson, ¹Chong Eu Chong, ¹Cynthia Lau, ²Lim Shiang Shiang and ²Ting Mao Seng

¹Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia

²Han Chiang University College of Communication, Malaysia

Corresponding author: Sharon Jacqueline Albert Wilson (sharon@utar.edu.my)

Abstract

Police misconduct, encompassing corruption, abuse of power, and unethical practices, remains a critical challenge globally and in Malaysia. Such misconduct significantly undermines public trust and democratic rule of law. Despite the establishment of oversight bodies like the Independent Police Conduct Commission (IPCC) and numerous disciplinary actions taken against personnel, concerns persist regarding the effectiveness of these mechanisms in addressing systemic issues. While existing literature has examined police accountability from institutional and legal perspectives, there remains a notable gap in research directly exploring the factors influencing public and stakeholder perceptions in the Malaysian socio-cultural context.

This study aims to bridge this research gap with three primary objectives: to gather stakeholder perspectives on the barriers and enablers of good governance in managing police accountability; to assess public perceptions and trust regarding police misconduct; and to synthesize these findings into evidence-based policy recommendations for improving transparency and police-community relations. The broader research adopts a mixed-methods design across three distinct phases. This abstract focuses on the preliminary qualitative findings from Phase 1, which utilized in-depth, semi-structured interviews to gather data. Using purposive and snowball sampling, the research engaged 15 key stakeholders, including retired senior police officers, policymakers, journalists, legal professionals, academics, and civil society representatives. The interview data was transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key systemic challenges.

The thematic analysis revealed several deeply entrenched barriers to police accountability in Malaysia. These include the pervasive cultural norm within the force which prioritizes institutional loyalty over accountability, discouraging whistleblowing and effectively shielding peers who commit misconduct. Secondly, the normalization of corruption includes unethical practices which are frequently treated as everyday norms, reinforced by the perceived helplessness of victims and the lack of meaningful consequences for offenders. Thirdly the cultural gaps that limit the institution's ability to engage effectively with Malaysia's multicultural society, leading to unintentional biases and miscommunication. Fourth is the institutional entrenchment and weak oversight where the police operate with immense historical autonomy and political leverage, making the institution highly resistant to external reforms. This is exacerbated by weak oversight bodies; stakeholders noted that the IPCC lacks the necessary investigative and enforcement powers to act as a true deterrent.

Furthermore, outdated legal frameworks and ineffective internal disciplinary inquiries fail to hold officers accountable and finally of political interference wherein political intervention in police administration and investigations compromises operational independence, fosters favouritism, and distorts meritocracy. The culmination of these systemic constraints is a profound cycle of public distrust, particularly among vulnerable communities, leading to disengagement and a reluctance to report crimes. The preliminary findings underscore that addressing police misconduct in Malaysia requires dismantling deeply ingrained cultural and political barriers. Ultimately, this study will provide targeted strategies to align Malaysian policing practices with the core principles of good governance, thereby restoring public confidence and institutional integrity.

Keywords: police, misconduct; qualitative; integrity; investigation

Determinants of Public Sector Integrity Among Royal Malaysian Police Personnel in Malaysia: A Rotten Apple Theory Perspective

Shahriza Ilyana Ramli, Ain Zulaikha Hussin, Nurul Huda Basri*

*School of Social Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia**

Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Merbok, Kedah, Malaysia

Corresponding Author: *ilyana@uitm.edu.my / shahrizailyanaman@gmail.com_*

Abstract

Public sector integrity is an important element in maintaining the trust of public in government agencies and ensuring effective public services delivery, especially in law enforcement agencies. In Malaysia, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) is one of the most important agencies in playing a role in public sector integrity by upholding rules and laws, making integrity the most important thing in performing their jobs. However, the public trust and confidence towards the Royal Malaysia Police have shown vice versa. The statistics released by Public Complaint Bureau (PCB) has marked RMP has received highest complaints against the police force from 2012 to 2019. This includes 676 complaints received in 2018 and 470 complaints in 2019. On top of that, according to the statistics released by Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) has also marked the same result as RMP was the public's most complained-about agency according to the EAIC. Therefore, this study explores the factor affecting public sector integrity among Royal Malaysia Police in Malaysia by analyzing key aspects of personal traits, leadership style and organizational culture which could be as determinants to police integrity. This study uses non-probability sampling which is purposive sampling to gather data from police at Kedah Contingent Police Headquarters. Using a quantitative approach that relying on primary data collected directly from respondents, data was collected through questionnaires given to police officers, and the data was analyzed using statistical techniques. The findings demonstrate strong connections between personal traits, leadership style, and organizational culture and public sector integrity among Royal Malaysia Police in Malaysia. The findings also seek to provide more knowledge and contribute to the relevant body of study by providing insightful information on the factors influencing the public sector integrity among Royal Malaysia Police in Malaysia.

Keywords: Public Sector Integrity, Royal Malaysia Police, Personal Traits, Leadership Style, Organizational Culture.

Public Perception on Police Ethics Based on Procedural Justice Theory

Shahriza Ilyana Ramli¹, Nur Alyssa Saila Mohd Alias² & Shahirah Amanisa Shapuranan³
¹ Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Kampus Sungai Petani, Cawangan Kedah

Corresponding Author: *ilyana@uitm.edu.my*

Abstract

Police ethics are fundamental to maintaining public trust, institutional legitimacy, and confidence in law enforcement agencies. In Malaysia, increasing public concern regarding police accountability, transparency, integrity, and ethical conduct has highlighted the importance of understanding the factors that influence public perceptions of police ethics. Guided by Procedural Justice Theory, this study examines the relationship between four key dimensions of procedural justice—voice, neutrality, respect, and trustworthiness—and public perception of police ethics within the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM). A quantitative, cross-sectional research design was employed, with data collected from 139 respondents, as determined using the Raosoft sample size calculator. A structured questionnaire was utilised as the primary data collection instrument, and the data were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), incorporating descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. By examining the role of procedural justice in shaping public perceptions, this study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on police ethics and legitimacy in the Malaysian context. The study is expected to provide valuable insights for policymakers, police administrators, and other stakeholders in strengthening ethical governance, enhancing public confidence, and promoting more transparent, accountable, and community-oriented policing practices.

Keywords: Police ethics, public perception, accountability, integrity, transparency, honesty, Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM).

Research on the Theory and Practice Improvement of Fine Punishment

*Li Pan and Yao Hao
Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau*

Corresponding author: Li Pan (279510993@qq.com)

Abstract

As an important property punishment in China's criminal law system, fines play an increasingly prominent role in the governance of minor crimes. However, in practical application, there are many problems, such as an unreasonable scope of application, unscientific determination of fine amounts, a low execution rate, and a serious phenomenon of "empty judgments", which affect the authority of criminal law and the effectiveness of minor crime governance. This paper first defines the basic theory of fines, clarifies their functions and status in the criminal law system, and then analyzes the current situation of the legislation and judicial application of fines in China, focusing on the prominent problems and their underlying causes in the application and execution of fines in the governance of minor crimes. By drawing on the advanced experience of fine punishment systems in continental law system and common law system countries, this paper puts forward targeted improvement paths, including improving legislative provisions, standardizing judicial application, optimizing execution mechanisms and improving social supporting conditions. The purpose of this research is to give full play to the light punishment value of fines, enable them to better adapt to the needs of minor crime governance, achieve the dual purposes of punishment retribution and prevention, promote the scientization and standardization of China's criminal punishment system, and provide theoretical reference and practical guidance for the standardized application of fines in judicial practice and the improvement of the minor crime governance system.

Keywords: fine punishment; minor crime governance; penalty execution; judicial discretion; legal reform

The Marginalization of Preventive Purposes in Sentencing

*Wang Yue
Ocean University of China, China*

Corresponding author: Wang Yue (wangyue@ouc.edu.cn)

Abstract

Background and Purpose: It is generally assumed that punishment is justified by both retribution for past crimes and the need to prevent future crimes. Accordingly, sentencing should also be determined by reference to the offender's desert and the extent of preventive need. However, at the present stage, recidivism risk assessment remains unable to meet the demands of sentencing, which may lead judges to exclude preventive need from consideration in sentencing. Based on a statistical analysis of Chinese robbery judgments, this article shows that preventive purposes are marginalized in sentencing and further analyzes the possible causes of this phenomenon.

Methods: Using 2,603 first-instance robbery judgments as the sample, this article employs multilevel linear regression to examine the relationship between preventive purposes and both the length of fixed-term imprisonment and the amount of fines. It also uses weighted binary logistic regression, together with ROC curves and AUC indicators, to explore the impact of preventive purposes on the use of suspended sentences. On this basis, the article summarizes the overall role of preventive purposes in robbery sentencing.

Findings: First, among sentencing factors related to preventive purposes, those prescribed by criminal law or judicial interpretations generally have adoption rates above 90%, whereas factors left to judicial discretion all have adoption rates below 30%, revealing a clear hierarchical pattern.

Second, preventive purposes have far less explanatory power than desert in relation to the length of fixed-term imprisonment and the amount of fines, and their influence is substantially affected by the level of desert.

Third, apart from legally prescribed recidivist status, sentencing factors that merely indicate preventive need have low adoption rates and exert only limited practical influence on sentencing outcomes.

Fourth, defendants are more likely to receive sentencing leniency when they are regarded as presenting a lower risk of recidivism because of their cooperation with criminal justice authorities or reconciliation with victims.

Conclusions: Beyond the provisions of criminal law and judicial interpretations, Chinese judges rarely adjust the severity of punishment at their discretion on the basis of preventive purposes; preventive purposes are therefore marginalized in sentencing. In light of this reality, facts that merely indicate preventive need should not be incorporated into the system of sentencing factors, and the influence of preventive purposes in sentencing should be restricted.

Keywords: preventive purposes of punishment; justification of punishment; grounds of sentencing; desert and prevention; recidivism risk

Unveiling Perceived Risks and Rewards of Corruption: Constructing a Scale for Chinese Grass-root Officials

*Li Li and Chai Xinya
China University of Political Science and Law, China*

Corresponding author: Li Li (lililetter@163.com)

Abstract

Research on corruption perception in post-reform China is expanding. While most surveys focus on public opinion, expert views, and college students, there has been a noticeable gap in examining the perception of corrupt officials. The recent launch of anti-corruption reforms in China presents a unique opportunity to fill this gap and explore how corrupt officials perceive corruption, as defined by law. This study aims to comprehensively map the subjective perceptions of risks and rewards among officials engaged in criminal activities in contemporary China. To achieve this, qualitative in-depth interviews were conducted with 10 respondents incarcerated in a prison in H Province, China. These interviews shed light on the personal definitions and subjective perceptions of risks and rewards among official duty crime prisoners. Building on the insights from the interviews, a questionnaire was developed, incorporating the main themes identified. This questionnaire was then administered to 170 prisoners charged with official duty crimes in H Province, with 141 questionnaires considered valid for analysis. The study identifies a distinct set of factors related to duty crime offenders in China through the development of a scientifically constructed measurement scale. Moreover, it uncovers a dual consideration framework, balancing risks and rewards, which is crucial for understanding the complexities of corrupt behavior in China.

Keywords: perceived risks and rewards; grass-root corrupt officials; China

ID: ACS2026-26A

**Research on the Path of Practical Improvement of Fine Punishment — From the
Perspective of China's Minor Crime Governance**

Lipan



A Life-course Analysis of Adult Substance Abuse: Pathways from Adolescent Delinquency

*Leow Hooi Teng
National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

Corresponding author: Leow Hooi Teng (vickyleow7297@gmail.com)

Abstract

The increasing prevalence of illicit drug use has emerged as a significant criminological concern, with evidence indicating a downward age trend in initiation. In Taiwan, studies have highlighted the growing involvement of adolescents in illicit drug use, raising concerns about the developmental origins of adult substance abuse. Media coverage of drug-related offenses involving celebrities and athletes may further normalize such behaviors, weakening adolescents' resistance to drug-related influences.

From a life-course criminology perspective, delinquent behavior is understood as the product of cumulative risk exposure across developmental stages. During adolescence, a critical period of socialization, individuals are particularly susceptible to environmental influences, especially those stemming from family dynamics, peer associations, and community context. Differential association with deviant peer groups may facilitate the internalization of pro-delinquent values, increasing the likelihood of persistent offending trajectories into adulthood.

This study adopts life-course theory as a guiding framework to examine the developmental pathways linking adolescent drug abuse to adult substance dependence. Drawing on literature from Taiwan and international contexts, the study employs a structural equation modelling (SEM) to test a conceptual model incorporating five key domains: family functioning, community environment, peer relationships, individual traits, and school adaptation. The findings aim to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the etiology of substance abuse within a developmental and criminological framework.

Keywords: drug abuse; life-course theory; delinquency; developmental pathways; substance use

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China's "Lost Generation": Non-Elite Chinese Youth Lost in Online Gambling

*Wang, Peng
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Corresponding author: Wang, Peng (pengwang@hku.hk)



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Negotiated Practice Governance: Peer Norm Enforcement and Bullying in Hong Kong Primary Schools

*Kayan Lapto and Frances Yik Wa Law
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Corresponding author: Kayan Lapto (lapto02@hku.hk)



Children in Conflict with the Law in Cagayan de Oro City: A Case Study

*Marrianne B. Mejia, Miranda, Hecille Jane S., Dadores, Bhea D., Llacuna and Mary Marielle C.
Western Philippines University, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Marrianne B. Mejia (marrianne.mejia@wpu.edu.ph)

Abstract

This study examined the experiences of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in Cagayan de Oro City, focusing on the social, emotional, and environmental factors that led to their involvement in delinquency and their paths toward rehabilitation. Using a qualitative approach, in-depth interviews were conducted with five participants from various barangays, providing insight into their lives before, during, and after their delinquent activities. The findings revealed that adverse childhood conditions, including poverty, family instability, and lack of parental support, severely impacted their emotional development, making them more susceptible to delinquency. Peer pressure and the normalization of illegal activities in their communities further drove them into criminal behavior, often as a means of survival. Emotional struggles, such as hopelessness and isolation, led many to adopt destructive coping mechanisms, such as substance abuse.

During their delinquent phases, emotional detachment emerged as a common coping mechanism, reducing empathy and increasing the likelihood of engaging in risky behavior. Afterward, participants struggled with reintegration, dealing with shame, regret, and diminished self-esteem. Despite these challenges, many expressed a strong motivation for change, driven by self-reflection, goal-setting, and the support of social welfare programs. Participants emphasized the critical role of social support from family, friends, and social workers in helping them cope. Their resilience was evident through adaptive survival strategies and involvement in rehabilitation programs that promoted emotional growth and personal development. The study underscores the importance of educational programs that foster accountability and informed decision-making, concluding that addressing the emotional, environmental, and economic challenges faced by CICL is crucial for their successful reintegration and the reduction of reoffending.

Keywords: children in conflict with the law (CICL); juvenile delinquency; social welfare programs

A Research on Drug Smuggling of Cross-Strait and Taiwan's Border Law Enforcement

*Huang, Yu-Chun, Yueh, Chi-An and Huang, Yi-Lin
Central Police University, China*

Corresponding author: Yueh, Chi-An (ann253253@gmail.com)

Abstract

Illicit drugs, similar to firearms and human trafficking, are among the most prominent transnational smuggling crimes worldwide. Being an island nation, Taiwan's drugs are mainly from external sources; hence, each year, law enforcement agencies identifies many drug smuggling cases that are concealed and imported through maritime and air cargo containers, international postal parcels, passenger luggage, and body packing. Besides, the smuggling of drugs and related materials between Taiwan and Mainland China persists, with notable qualitative and quantitative shifts in both drug types and smuggling techniques.

The study employs Cross-Strait drug smuggling as a case subject to analyse the characteristics, methods, and patterns of emerging drugs trafficked from Mainland China into Taiwan. Drawing upon official statistics, literature review, and officers' interviews, it aims to clarify criminal behaviors and operational modalities associated with these smuggling activities. Furthermore, the study wants to review and compare current regulatory frameworks and anti-drug enforcement strategies across the Taiwan Strait. By identifying the difficulties and challenges faced in Taiwan's border interdiction efforts, the research also seeks to contribute to drug-control policies and enforcement planning. Ultimately, the research findings aim to help the realization of the government's core objective of preventing drugs outside the national border and intercepting them at entry points.

Keywords: transnational crime; border control; drug smuggling; cargo security screening; luggage concealment

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**Sweet Deception in Cyber Spaces: How Chinese Organized Crime Groups
Conduct Crossborder Romance Scams Involving Cryptocurrency**

*Peng Wang and Ken Chen
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Corresponding author: Peng Wang (pengwang@hku.hk)



Decline of Local Gangs and Rise of Cyber Gangs: Yami Baito as a Gateway to Crime in Japan

*Koichi Hamai
Ryukoku University, Japan*

Corresponding author: Koichi Hamai (khamai@law.ryukoku.ac.jp)

Abstract

Juvenile delinquency in Japan had declined for two decades but has risen since 2022, partly due to the spread of Yami Baito (dark part-time jobs). This study examines how Yami Baito operates as a recruitment gateway linking individuals to Tokuryu (anonymous, fluid criminal groups) amid the decline of traditional local gangs and the emergence of decentralized cyber-based networks.

Using questionnaire data from 110 juveniles in training schools and 269 young prisoners collected in 2025, the study identifies distinct recruitment patterns. Juveniles are primarily recruited through delinquent peer networks, while young adults are often recruited via social media, frequently without clear awareness of the criminal nature of the work.

Participants involved in Yami Baito tend to show lower emotional literacy, higher moral disengagement, and greater social marginalization, including school refusal and unstable employment. The system is highly segmented, assigning individuals roles based on social skills, from managerial positions to disposable high-risk tasks.

Yami Baito thus functions as an illicit labor market connecting marginalized individuals to crime. Effective prevention requires not only law enforcement but also social policies addressing isolation, emotional development, and access to legitimate opportunities.

Keywords: juvenile delinquency; cybercrime; Yami Baito; gang; post-pandemic

Beyond Deterrence: Applying Criminological Approaches to Wildlife Crime Through Collaborations

Jonathan Hunter
Wildlife Conservation Society, USA

Corresponding author: Jonathan Hunter (jhunter@wcs.org)

Abstract

On the 19th February 2026, in Malaysia, three Vietnamese nationals convicted of wildlife trafficking were served with fines of RM 127 million (USD \$32 million), along with 12 year prison sentences, one of the largest criminal fines ever issued in the country. The offenders were arrested in possession of over 1,000 animal parts from a range of legally protected species such as tigers and elephants. This case is a testament to the hard work of the Malaysian law enforcement authorities, but this isn't the first case of its type, and it isn't even the most recent. On the 10th April 2026, Hoang Van Thai pled guilty in Malaysia to possessing parts of legally protected wildlife valued at RM 36.8million (USD \$9 million).

These two incidents, coming only months apart, are striking, and attest to the very real challenges facing law enforcement agencies today. Severe sanctions are typically expected to deter other offenders. How can it be, that even after record fines and substantial prison sentences are issued for wildlife trafficking in February 2026, that Hoang Van Thai continued to traffic in large quantities of wildlife? Why wasn't Hoang Van Thai deterred from wildlife trafficking after this landmark, and widely publicised sentencing of other wildlife traffickers?

This issue is not unique to Malaysia, Viet Nam or even Asia. The most recent report on wildlife crime by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime stated that "... wildlife trafficking persists worldwide despite two decades of concerted action at international and national levels... UNODC's 2024 assessment of available evidence gives no confidence that wildlife trafficking overall is being substantially reduced". This suggests sanctions alone are not deterring wildlife traffickers.

There is a growing body of evidence showing that applying criminological approaches to wildlife trafficking is more successful at preventing crime than relying only on sanctions to deter offenders. Three case studies from Asia will be explored, that illustrate the use of criminology in law enforcement, including the operation inWay Kambas National Park in Indonesia that co-won the prestigious 2024 Herman Goldstein Award hosted by the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at Arizona State University.

What is notable in these three case studies is that their success can be attributed to a tripartite collaboration between law enforcement practitioners, academics and civil society. When these three groups bring their unique perspectives, resources and mandates, crime can be substantially reduced. But building these collaborations won't happen overnight.

Increasing these tripartite collaborations requires work on all sides. One place to start is raising awareness among law enforcement practitioners, especially decisions makers, of the value offered by criminological approaches. Following analysis of the three case studies, a model for building this awareness and these tripartite collaborations will be presented, focused on the work of the Wildlife Conservation Society which is involved in training law enforcement officers in criminological approaches across Asia and the world.

Keywords: organized crime; wildlife trafficking; applied criminology; problem solving; training

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Mediating Conflicts, Settling Disputes and Restoring Peace: Work World of Barangay Justice Chairs

*Paulino V. Pioquinto, John Philip E. Dunque and Yolanda C. Sayson
Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines Inc., Philippines*

Corresponding author: Paulino V. Pioquinto (ppioquinto@uc.edu.ph)



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Bulwark Against the Big One: Lifeworld of Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Chiefs

*Paulino V. Pioquinto, John Earl C. Diente and Yolanda C. Sayson
Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines Inc., Philippines*

Corresponding author: Paulino V. Pioquinto (ppioquinto@uc.edu.ph)



Social Control Theory and Person Who Use Drugs: A Study Inside the Rehabilitation Center

*Starcheene T. Magsipoc and Roan C. Salon
PHINMA – Cagayan de Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Starcheene T. Magsipoc (stmagsipoc.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This study applied Hirschi's Social Control/Bond Theory, as elaborated by Haaja, to examine the rehabilitation experiences of persons who used drugs at the Department of Health Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Cagayan de Oro City. The study focused on four social bonds: attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief. A mixed-methods design was used, combining quantitative analysis and qualitative phenomenological inquiry. The participants were sixty (60) adult male rehabilitation clients, with ten (10) selected for in-depth interviews. Findings showed very high levels of social bonds across all four dimensions, suggesting that the rehabilitation setting helped strengthen the respondents' relationships, discipline, participation, and moral values. Belief obtained the highest overall mean, while attachment obtained the lowest, although both remained at a very high level. Civil status significantly influenced attachment, while educational attainment significantly affected commitment. Age and length of stay showed no significant differences. The qualitative findings highlighted the importance of family support, communication, forgiveness, structured activities, responsibility, and spiritual beliefs in supporting recovery and preventing relapse. The study concluded that the DOH-TRC helped rebuild social bonds that supported recovery, self-control, and community reintegration. The study recommended strengthening counselor-client relationships, family reconnection, community acceptance, vocational and livelihood planning, substitute support systems for socially vulnerable clients, and structured aftercare activities to sustain recovery after discharge.

Keywords: social control/bond theory; social bonds; drug rehabilitation; attachment; commitment; involvement; belief

ID: ACS2026-203

**Social Disorganization Across Spaces: Comparing Neighborhood Disorder,
Informal Social Control, and Crime Perception in Rural and Urban Areas of the
Global South**

*Corpuz, Rhem Rick Navarro
Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Corpuz, Rhem Rick Navarro (corpuzrhemrickcrim@gmail.com)



ID: ACS2026-020

Criminogenic Infrastructures of Extraction: Timber Laundering in Democratic Borneo

*Mariyam Jameelah
Utrecht University, Netherland*

Corresponding author: Mariyam Jameelah (m.jameelah@uu.nl)



A Multi-Site Assessment of the Lethality Assessment Program's Impact on Reducing Intimate Partner Violence

¹Christopher Damian Maxwell, ²Tami Sullivan and ²Joy Kaufman

¹Michigan State University, USA

²Yale School of Medicine, USA

Corresponding author: Christopher Damian Maxwell (cmaxwell@msu.edu)

Abstract

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence developed its Lethality Assessment Program [LAP] protocol to train police officers to use their brief screener to identify victims who are at high risk of being killed by their partners and connect them with local domestic violence hotline staff to develop a personalized safety plan. An initial assessment of the LAP showed promising results. The Department of Justice selected this program as one of two risk-based intervention protocols for community-wide implementation and evaluation under its National Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative. This presentation highlights key findings from the NIJ-supported multi-site evaluation of the LAP. Researchers gathered data from two communities chosen by the U.S. Department of Justice to run the LAP program. These sites received ongoing support, including technical help, training, and funding, to implement and evaluate the program over several years. The findings in this presentation are based on both bivariate and multivariate analyses of 6,494 police records collected over time, as well as 651 face-to-face victim interviews conducted up to three times within a six-month period. Law enforcement classified 41% of female victims and 26% of male victims as high-risk. Multivariate longitudinal analyses indicated that individuals classified as high-risk continued to experience violence for at least six months at rates comparable to or exceeding those not identified as high-risk. Furthermore, contacting the hotline at the scene did not result in reduced victimization among high-risk individuals. During the evaluation period, five victims were killed; three of these homicide victims had LAP scores indicating high risk, and two of the three high-risk victims communicated with hotline staff on at least one occasion. The study identified a positive association between LAP assessment scores and higher rates of re-victimization. Findings on additional key outcomes related to the intervention program were inconsistent across risk categories, intervention groups, and data sources. Additional analysis is needed before determining whether the implementation of the LAP at both sites failed to decrease the risk of subsequent violence.

Keywords: violence; intimate partner violence; risk assessment; police; intervention.

Interrogating Compliance to Environmental Laws Using the Procedural Justice Framework: A Study of Fisherfolks around Tanon Strait, Philippines

¹Sheila Royo Maxwell, ²Dan Jerome Barrera and ²Dennis Chiu

¹Michigan State University, USA

²Negros Oriental State University, Philippines

Corresponding author: Sheila Royo Maxwell (MAXWEL22@msu.edu)

Abstract

Criminologists have marginally engaged in discourses about environmental regulations. While Green Criminology has largely carried this banner and has propagated this discourse over the years, much theory-driven and empirical research has yet to be realized, within the United States and across the globe. This current study demonstrates the utility of the procedural justice framework in understanding compliance to environmental regulations within a marine protected seascape in the Philippines. Very few human behavior models have been advanced in discourses about conservation, biodiversity, sustainability and even climate change mitigation. The procedural justice framework is a useful tool in interrogating the intersections between environmental laws, enforcement agents, and compliance behaviors. This research presents results of face-to-face interviews conducted among fisherfolks in the marine protected seascape of Tanon Strait using the procedural justice model. Results show disparate understandings of regulations and the role of enforcement bodies, and how distrust undermines cooperation to environmental regulations. Results underscore the need for a behavioral model that incorporates fairness and justice perceptions and trust relationships between the regulators and the regulated.

Keywords: environmental-laws; Philippine-environment; procedural-justice.

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When Malicious Arrears Meet Criminal Law: Governance Dilemmas and Recalibration in China

*Zhang Heqi and Li Pan
Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau*

Corresponding author: Zhang Heqi (adamz1025.tj@gmail.com)



From Restorative to Restorytive: Reimagining Justice through Prison Theatre in Canada

*Konomi Kato
Ritsumeikan University, Japan*

Corresponding author: Konomi Kato (konomi.kato2@gmail.com)

Abstract

How might prison theatre reshape understandings of justice, reconciliation, and community beyond the conventional framework of rehabilitation? This study reexamines prison theatre through the lens of restorative justice by focusing on William Head on Stage (WHoS), a theatre company operated by incarcerated artists for over four decades within a federal minimum-security men's institution in Victoria, Canada.

Although prison theatre has been widely recognized for its rehabilitative and therapeutic effects—such as skill development, confidence-building, and community formation—its significance as a justice practice has received limited scholarly attention. This paper argues that prison theatre should be understood not merely as a correctional intervention, but as a performative site in which relationships among incarcerated people, audiences, and communities are renegotiated through narrative, embodiment, and public encounter.

Drawing on performance analysis, audience reception, and restorative justice theory, this study examines three interrelated questions: (1) how incarcerated performers construct and negotiate selfhood in performance; (2) how audiences respond to and reinterpret incarceration through theatrical encounter; and (3) how notions of forgiveness, accountability, and reconciliation emerge within this shared performative space.

The research places particular emphasis on Sara Warner's concept of "Restorytive Justice" (2011) which extends restorative justice into the imaginative and affective realm, where storytelling, fiction, and embodied performance generate possibilities for social repair than formal justice mechanisms cannot fully address. Bringing Warner's framework into dialogue with masculinity studies, this paper further explores how incarcerated men perform, reconstruct, and negotiate masculinities through collaborative theatrical practice.

By conceptualizing prison theater as a relational and performative mechanism of justice, this paper proposes that reconciliation is not simply an institutional outcome, but an ongoing social process co-created through performative encounter. In doing so, it offers a new interdisciplinary perspective on prison theatre at the intersection of criminology, restorative justice, gender studies, and performance studies.

Keywords: restorative justice; restorytive justice; prison theatre; performance; masculinity



Why Public Support for the Death Penalty Persists in Singapore

*Wing-Cheong Chan
Singapore Management University, Singapore*

Corresponding author: Wing-Cheong Chan (wcchan@smu.edu.sg)

Abstract

This paper analyses the public opinion surveys conducted in Singapore between 2016 and 2021 to evaluate the extent and strength of public support for the death penalty. While prevailing scholarship both in Singapore and overseas suggest that such support is rooted in limited understanding, is weakly held, and susceptible to change when respondents are exposed to evidence-based information and informed debate, this paper challenges that assumption in the Singapore context.

This paper argues that public endorsement of the death penalty in Singapore is resilient and will remain high. This stability is reinforced by institutional factors, state narratives on law and order, and the public's trust in state institutions.

These findings suggest that advocacy strategies premised on shifting public opinion through education and awareness is likely to have limited effect in Singapore. Consequently, human rights organisations and abolitionist movements must reconsider their engagement strategies.

The Singaporean case study offers valuable comparative insights for other retentionist countries, many of which are in Asia, where similar dynamics may be at play. By highlighting the contextual factors that sustain public support for the death penalty, this paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of penal attitudes and informs the strategic recalibration of abolitionist efforts in other countries as well.

Keywords: death penalty; Singapore; public opinion; criminal justice

Justice System of Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Community: A Basis for Peace and Development Program

*Kathleen B. Libayao and Gerry J. Caño
PHINMA Cagayan de Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Kathleen B. Libayao (kbllibayao.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This study explored the justice system of the Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) in Impasugong, Bukidnon as a basis for peace and development program. It examined the system's historical roots, principles, practices, and contemporary adaptations. Using a qualitative case study design, data were gathered from eleven key informants, providing an in-depth understanding of the traditional justice system. Findings revealed that in Problem 1, leadership is organized through customary and character-based structures, emphasizing restorative governance. In Problem 2, themes highlighted challenges and responsibilities in conflict resolution, alongside ritual-based and restorative practices. Problem 3 identified a graduated, negotiation- and leadership-guided dispute resolution process supported by ritual and cultural practices. In Problem 4, moral and service-oriented indigenous leadership emerged as the foundation of peace and justice, along with the preservation of indigenous systems as a shared responsibility for sustainable governance. In Problem 5, ten themes were identified: strengthening restorative justice mechanisms, culturally sensitive documentation, human rights and due process safeguards, hybrid justice system integration, jurisdictional clarity, capacity building for elders, institutional collaboration, monitoring and evaluation systems, codification with cultural preservation, and addressing power dynamics and equity. The study concluded that strengthening peace and development initiatives requires a systematic yet culturally grounded approach. The final problem provided the Higaonon ICC Justice System: A Community-Based Peace and Development Program. Standardizing mediation processes, ensuring accountability, fostering collaboration, and preserving Indigenous knowledge are essential to sustain the effectiveness, legitimacy, and long-term contribution of the Higaonon ICC justice system.

Keywords: Higaonon Justice System; indigenous cultural community; indigenous people; Datu, IPRA Law; National Commission on Indigenous People

Justice System of Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Community: A Basis for Peace and Development Program

*Kathleen B. Libayao and Gerry J. Caño
PHINMA Cagayan de Oro College, Philippines*

Corresponding author: Kathleen B. Libayao (kbllibayao.coc@phinmaed.com)

Abstract

This study explored the justice system of the Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) in Impasugong, Bukidnon as a basis for peace and development program. It examined the system's historical roots, principles, practices, and contemporary adaptations. Using a qualitative case study design, data were gathered from eleven key informants, providing an in-depth understanding of the traditional justice system. Findings revealed that in Problem 1, leadership is organized through customary and character-based structures, emphasizing restorative governance. In Problem 2, themes highlighted challenges and responsibilities in conflict resolution, alongside ritual-based and restorative practices. Problem 3 identified a graduated, negotiation- and leadership-guided dispute resolution process supported by ritual and cultural practices. In Problem 4, moral and service-oriented indigenous leadership emerged as the foundation of peace and justice, along with the preservation of indigenous systems as a shared responsibility for sustainable governance. In Problem 5, ten themes were identified: strengthening restorative justice mechanisms, culturally sensitive documentation, human rights and due process safeguards, hybrid justice system integration, jurisdictional clarity, capacity building for elders, institutional collaboration, monitoring and evaluation systems, codification with cultural preservation, and addressing power dynamics and equity. The study concluded that strengthening peace and development initiatives requires a systematic yet culturally grounded approach. The final problem provided the Higaonon ICC Justice System: A Community-Based Peace and Development Program. Standardizing mediation processes, ensuring accountability, fostering collaboration, and preserving Indigenous knowledge are essential to sustain the effectiveness, legitimacy, and long-term contribution of the Higaonon ICC justice system.

Keywords: Higaonon Justice System; indigenous cultural community; indigenous people; Datu, IPRA Law; National Commission on Indigenous People

Exploring the Role of Technology in Human Trafficking in Pakistan: A Qualitative Study of Human Trafficking Victims

Zeeshan Khan, Jamiah Manap, Surendran Rajaratnam & Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin

Abstract

The use of technology in human trafficking has increased significantly alongside the growing prevalence of trafficking activities worldwide. Despite this alarming trend, many antitrafficking agencies have yet to fully address the technological dimensions of the crime. This qualitative study is among the first in Pakistan to provide a comprehensive exploration of the role of technology in human trafficking from the perspectives of human trafficking victims. Employing a phenomenological approach, the study was conducted across two provinces and the capital city of Pakistan. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with 13 victims selected using purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The data were subsequently analysed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that traffickers extensively utilise various forms of technology, including mobile phones, social media platforms, fake online job advertisements, and online banking systems, to recruit, manipulate, transport, and exploit victims. Technology was also found to facilitate anonymity, expand traffickers' networks, and increase the efficiency of trafficking operations. This study contributes to the growing body of knowledge on technology-facilitated human trafficking and offers valuable insights for academic institutions, security agencies, policymakers, anti-human trafficking organisations, and advocacy groups in strengthening prevention and intervention strategies. Furthermore, the study supports the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 5.2, 8.7, 16.2, and 17.6, which aim to eliminate human trafficking and related forms of exploitation.



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