



Editorial

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Introduction

I am pleased to take on the role of editor for the Journal of *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* as I am supported by Sharon Chamard (Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Justice Center, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA), Zarina Vakhitova (PhD in criminology, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Australia), and Ben Stickle (Professor of Criminal Justice Administration, Middle Tennessee State University, USA). Collectively, we offer a diverse range of expertise covering criminology, criminal justice, policing, urban planning, geography, and applied policy research.

Since its beginning, *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* has thoughtfully connected theory, policy, and practice. Led by Professor Rob Mawby (a Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Plymouth, later at Harper Adams University, UK), the journal has grown into a welcoming international space for sharing knowledge. Originally published by Perpetuity Press, the journal expanded its reach after its acquisition by Palgrave Macmillan in 2012 and, in 2015, became part of Springer Nature. Over time, the journal has kept its readers engaged with the latest discussions and research, starting with traditional environmental criminology and crime prevention, and gradually embracing interdisciplinary and technology-related topics. The journal's development and reputation are a testament to the inspiring leadership of Professor Rob Mawby, whose vision and dedicated efforts have helped shape it into the valued platform it is today. On behalf of the new editorial team, our researchers, and readers around the world, we sincerely thank Professor Mawby for his significant contributions and for laying a strong foundation that continues to guide and motivate us all.

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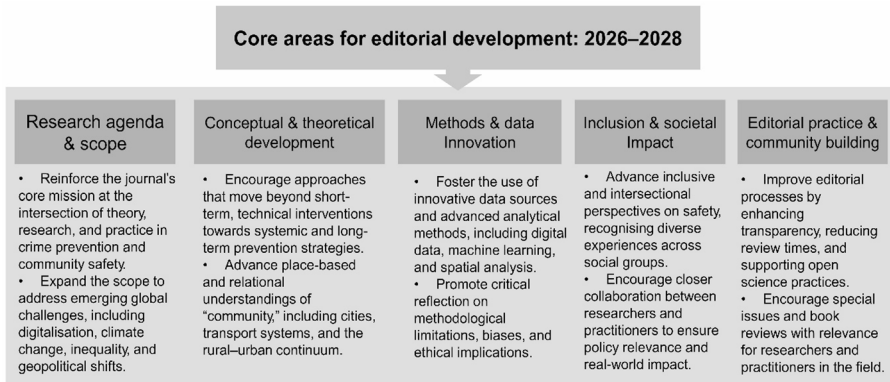


Fig. 1 CPCS editorial strategy 2026–2028

To support this new phase of *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, we highlight ten key priorities that build on the journal's established mission while remaining open to fresh perspectives (Fig. 1). These priorities are not strict goals for the editorial team but serve as themes and methodological directions the journal aims to promote. Achieving these goals requires collaboration among authors, readers, and the wider scholarly community to address current societal challenges, as discussed in the next section. Our hope is to encourage scholarship that deepens understanding, sparks thoughtful debate, and informs evidence-based practice across various settings.

Reinforcing current scope

As the incoming editorial team, we are dedicated to preserving the journal's fundamental focus while welcoming new topics and approaches. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* is an international platform that advances knowledge at the crossroads of theory, research, and practice in these fields. Its scope covers the study of environmental, social, and policy factors that influence crime and public perceptions of safety, including community safety beyond major urban issues, urban design, policing, security technology, and the prevention of both traditional and emerging crimes.

The journal has consistently linked these areas to other topics such as crime trends; audits of crime and disorder; policing measures and initiatives; multi-agency collaborations; victimisation; crime investigation technologies; evaluation of crime prevention strategies; the criminal justice process; anti-social behaviour; parenting and crime; domestic violence; crowd behaviour; zero-tolerance policing; strategic planning; fear of crime; international crime control perspectives; racial harassment; alcohol- and drug-related crime and disorder; as well as issues related to tourism, security, and public disorder. In essence, the journal facilitates a dialogue between both scholars and practitioners, encouraging the exchange of findings on strategies to reduce crime and improve public safety across diverse communities. Building on the foundation established by the previous editorial team, we will foster a plat-



form that supports interdisciplinary scholarship and welcomes new methodological approaches.

New challenges, advancing the mission

Globalisation, digitalisation, political polarisation, climate change, and widening inequalities are reshaping both criminal opportunities and the very meaning of safety. These global dynamics influence the questions we ask, the communities we study, and the ways in which knowledge is produced and shared. In response, we propose a renewed mission: to foster forward-looking research that engages with emerging social problems and technological realities, interrogates who is prioritised for safety, and explores innovative approaches to better understand crime and safety in a complex, interconnected world.

Cities are at the forefront of global challenges, facing increasing pressures from climate change, social inequalities, and rapid urban transformation (UN-Habitat 2024). How urban environments are planned, designed, and governed has significant implications for people's quality of life. Poorly designed or fragmented spaces can worsen inequalities, limit access to essential services, and heighten vulnerability to crime. Equally important is how places and communities are managed and maintained (Eck 2018). Targeted situational interventions can reduce opportunities for crime, while place management is a crucial part of crime prevention (Clarke 1995). We continue to emphasise a focus on communities, irrespective of how they are conceptualised, and welcome studies that explore how planners, place managers, police and civil society collaborate with other relevant actors to reduce crime and improve safety.

Public transportation systems are essential for fostering sustainable and inclusive cities, linking residents to opportunities, reducing environmental impacts, and shaping experiences of public space. However, many users still harbour safety concerns, whether related to crime, incivility, or perceived dangers, which serve as major obstacles to using public transport (Newton 2017). Since crime is neither spatially nor temporally evenly distributed (Brantingham and Brantingham 1984, 1993), research on transit safety has traditionally been approached through the routine activity framework (Cohen and Felson 1979), which suggests that crime occurs when motivated offenders, appropriate targets, and the lack of capable guardians come together in time and space. Factors such as daily and weekly routines and weather anomalies influence these patterns (Breetzke and Corcoran 2025). By analysing when, where, and under what conditions potential offenders, users, and security measures intersect, transit safety research can pinpoint critical moments for intervention. Some transit nodes attract crime, others generate it (Brantingham and Brantingham 1995), and some act as crime radiators (Bowers 2014). Research consistently demonstrates how interventions in public transport, from situational measures to design strategies, aim to make travel safer and more welcoming, reducing opportunities for disorder while maintaining accessibility (see the seminal works of Levine et al. 1986; La Vigne 1996; Smith et al. 2006). In this context, studying everyday mobility, temporal rhythms, and environmental influences aligns closely with the journal's mission to



promote scholarship that informs practice and policy in community safety, providing evidence-based guidance for safer, more accessible transit systems.

Moving beyond administrative definitions (e.g., neighbourhoods or communities) and conventional statistical units of analysis, we welcome contributions that conceptualise “communities” as dynamic, relational entities, continuously shaped through social interactions rather than serving as fixed backdrops to crime. From this perspective, space is not static but continuously produced, with multiple trajectories intersecting across scales (Massey 2005). We particularly encourage work that examines contested spaces, where ownership, management, and social negotiation shape who can access or control a place and how this affects crime, safety, and prevention practices, as highlighted in the research on urban planning and place management (Loukaitou-Sideris and Ehrenfeucht 2011; Eck et al. 2023).

While urban settings remain central to *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, we invite research that engages with the ‘rural–urban continuum’ (Ceccato 2025) and with translocal networks that connect distant places through migration, markets, and organised crime. We welcome studies exploring how diverse areas experience distinct crime opportunities and vulnerabilities, drawing on influential work in rural criminology (see, for global coverage, Donnermeyer 2016). We also invite research that incorporates perspectives from beyond the Global North and promotes a decolonising approach to crime and safety studies worldwide, including studies of environmental crime, natural resource exploitation, and other place-based harms, as well as broader issues of crime, justice, and governance (Carrington et al. 2018). In this spirit, recent work on new geographies of crime highlights the value of broadening our analytical lens, for example, to cybercrime, Southern criminology, and diversified research agendas that transcend traditional metropolitan and Western-centric frames (Hall and Yarwood 2024), reinforcing the need to examine crime and its controls in diverse social, cultural, and geographical contexts.

Rapid technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, are transforming research and practice amid a world marked by geopolitical tensions, environmental issues, and humanitarian crises. The growth of the sharing economy, exemplified by platforms like Uber, Lyft, and Airbnb, is reshaping crime and its prevention, offering new opportunities for crime prevention and dispute resolution (Stickle 2025) following particular temporalities (Corcoran et al. 2019). These shifts influence the types of offences, ranging from private-sector losses such as retail theft, cargo theft, shrinkage, and supply chain disruptions (e.g., Justus et al. 2018) to more difficult-to-measure crimes, including organised networks, trafficking, and attacks on critical societal infrastructure, such as transportation, utilities, and other essential services. More knowledge is needed about individuals' online lifestyles and routine activities (Vakhitova et al. 2023). Emerging digital threats, including cybercrime, ransomware, and attacks on digital infrastructures, are increasingly interacting with physical spaces, creating new vulnerabilities for communities and organisations. Digital infrastructures, surveillance systems, predictive tools, and smart environments are becoming central to crime prevention efforts. We also encourage research that evaluates their effectiveness and considers broader social, ethical, and governance issues, including power dynamics, accountability, privacy, and legitimacy. By examining these technological and digital dimensions, scholars can clarify the evolving land-



scape of crime and safety, contributing to evidence-based prevention strategies in complex, interconnected settings.

Articles in this journal have traditionally focused on geographical information systems and spatial analysis, which have long played a central role in the study of crime prevention and community safety by providing essential tools for mapping, visualising, and understanding the distribution of crime in space and time. Building on this foundation, we now seek studies that explore new types of data and datasets, either alone or in combination with traditional statistics (official records, surveys, policy documents). We welcome submissions that leverage innovative data sources—such as crowdsourced data, street-view imagery, remote-sensing information, and digital traces from cyber environments and ‘hyperspaces’ and that apply futures thinking to anticipate emerging crime opportunities and security threats, including online fraud, AI-enabled offences, and crimes in the metaverse (Johnson 2024). In addition to new data sources, we welcome research that applies advanced analytical techniques, including machine learning, virtual reality, laboratory and real-world experiments, and both exploratory and confirmatory analyses (see e.g., Van Gelder et al. 2014; Solymosi et al. 2018; Ribeiro et al. 2024; Ceccato and Ioannidis 2025; Abraham et al. 2025). These approaches allow researchers to generate fine-grained, real-time insights into crime and safety across multiple scales. At the same time, we encourage critical reflection on the limitations, potential biases, and broader social and ethical implications of these methods.

The journal recognises that criminology faces a range of pressing challenges. Thus, we seek not simply to extend existing agendas but to reflect on what crime prevention practices have become. Too often, crime prevention is framed in short-term, technical, or managerial terms, missing the relevant interlinked interconnections. Previous research has called for deeper engagement with these issues (Ekblom 1990, 2023; Tilley 1993; Borrión et al. 2020; Lamont 2021). The journal, therefore, calls for scholarship that moves beyond reactive, fragmented interventions and situates crime prevention within longer-term social, environmental, and economic processes. Importantly, we reaffirm that learning from prevention involves engaging not only with success stories but also with failures, ambiguities, and contradictions (Ceccato and Newton 2024). We build on the emphasis on learning from failures by explicitly encouraging submission and publication of null, mixed, or negative results, often difficult to publish but essential for reducing bias and advancing evidence-based prevention. To ensure that these contributions are both analytically robust and practically relevant, we particularly encourage submissions that bridge theory and practice. This includes practitioner co-authorship and collaborative research with frontline prevention and community safety professionals, whose insights are essential to translating knowledge into effective, context-sensitive interventions.

We welcome research that links crime prevention and policing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate adaptation, showing how evidence-informed strategies can reduce harm, build resilient communities, and tackle long-term social and environmental risks rather than simply reacting to incidents (Charmard 2024). The United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the multifaceted nature of urban challenges, underscoring crime and the fear of crime as significant threats to urban sustainability (UN-Habitat 2019). We aim to provide a



platform for scholarship that situates crime prevention within broader social, environmental, and economic contexts, highlighting innovative approaches that promote safety, equity, and resilience in communities worldwide. Central to this mission is a renewed commitment to inclusive and intersectional perspectives on safety (Crenshaw 1989). We invite research that examines how crime and fear are unevenly distributed across gender, age, ethnicity, disability, migration status, and socio-economic position (e.g., Chowdhury et al 2024; Sundling et al. 2024; Burrell 2023; Panfil 2025). Rather than treating “the community” as a homogeneous entity, we encourage analyses that foreground the differentiated experiences of diverse groups and that interrogate whose safety is prioritised, whose voices are marginalised, and whose vulnerabilities remain invisible within prevailing prevention frameworks. When referring to “community,” note that analyses can focus narrowly on individuals or vulnerable groups and/or extend to digital/online spaces, reinforcing their applied relevance and linking smoothly to the section on technological change.

Contemporary safety challenges demand a set of abilities and expertise that extend beyond what is traditionally expected of professions and go beyond traditional professional boundaries. The mission of *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* is to advance scholarship that meets these demands by fostering innovative, interdisciplinary, and context-sensitive approaches. As we enter this new phase, we are committed to fostering greater author diversity, supporting submissions from the Global South, appointing board members and associate editors with area-specific expertise, and strengthening the journal’s visibility and engagement through social media. By fostering scholarly diversity and dialogue across disciplines and areas, *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* aims to remain a dynamic forum of knowledge exchange. We welcome contributions that bridge theory, empirical research, and practice to develop sustainable strategies for understanding, preventing, and managing crime in diverse and evolving environments.

Special issues and book reviews

We invite proposals for special issues on the topics outlined in the previous section and are particularly seeking 4–5 articles of 7,000–8,000 words that align with the journal’s scope. We hope these contributions will advance scholarship, stimulate debate, and foster collaboration within our community. Submissions may offer empirical research, theoretical insights, methodological innovations, or critical reflections on policy and practice. We particularly welcome work that addresses emerging challenges, highlights interdisciplinary perspectives, or explores the practical implications of crime prevention and community safety initiatives.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety also invites submissions of book reviews that critically engage with recent publications in the field. Reviews should assess the book’s contribution to contemporary debates in criminology and highlight its practical relevance to research, policy, and practice in crime prevention and community safety. We welcome analyses that consider theoretical frameworks, methodological approaches, and the real-world implications of the work. Reviews should be 1,500–2,000 words and provide a balanced evaluation that informs and inspires our reader-



ship. Please do not hesitate to contact the editorial team if you would like to propose a topic, a book review or discuss other potential contributions.

Improving journal processes and systems

To promote transparency, reproducibility, and the cumulative advancement of knowledge, contributing authors are encouraged to follow open and transparent research practices. Whenever possible, accepted papers are encouraged to be published as (green) open access, share data, code, and study protocols with reviewers and in open repositories upon publication, and specify contributor roles using recognised standards such as the CRediT taxonomy.

We are committed to fostering clear communication and robust editorial practices that support both contributors and the broader research community. Following the example of the previous editorial team, we will work diligently to improve review timeframes and the quality of article evaluations by providing reviewers and authors with clear instructions and timelines. To improve journal processing times, it is essential to streamline submission handling through online systems, conduct rapid manuscript pre-screening, and coordinate the editorial team efficiently. Maintaining a reliable reviewer pool, setting clear deadlines, and providing incentives can accelerate peer review, while technology tools for plagiarism and reference checks reduce manual workload.

Achieving this goal, however, requires your support. Like many journals, we face ongoing challenges in securing qualified reviewers. We greatly value your expertise and invite you to contribute to our community by reviewing when possible. In doing so, you will play a vital role in maintaining the journal's standards and shaping its future direction.

Finally, in this new phase, *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* reaffirms its commitment to advancing interdisciplinary, policy-relevant, and forward-looking scholarship at the intersection of crime, safety and crime prevention practices. Building on its established foundations, the journal will continue to serve as a platform for rigorous research while embracing emerging challenges shaped by technological change, global transformations, and evolving notions of safety and community. By encouraging diverse perspectives, innovative methods, and closer collaboration between researchers and practitioners, we aim to foster critical dialogue and support evidence-based approaches to prevention. Ultimately, the journal seeks to contribute to more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities by promoting knowledge that not only explains crime and safety but also informs meaningful action. We count on your support!

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