

**EDITORIAL**Christina Zarafonitou<sup>1</sup>

The study of the criminal phenomenon in the context of the urban environment can be traced to the origins of criminology and constitutes, until today, a core field of theoretical and empirical research. With interdisciplinarity and the use of combined methods and techniques as its key features, this field can also be distinguished for its important contribution to the planning and application of a rational and evidence-based crime policy.

The approach of the complex aspects of the criminal phenomenon and its international perspective will be attempted by this new electronic criminological journal, which is published in the context of the Laboratory of Urban Criminology of Panteion University.

*Urban Crime* will present a composite of analyses and syntheses of research on the intersections between crime and the urban environment, drawn from a variety of sources. It will publish peer-reviewed, original research articles in English, French and Greek. The contents of the new journal will also include reviews of important new books and will present analyses and commentaries on current issues in urban crime as well as research projects and new releases of books and articles. The journal will also occasionally publish thematic/special issues on specific topics related to urban crime with the participation of guest editors, who are invited to submit special issue proposals.

*Urban Crime* aims to become a useful resource for academics and researchers as well as practitioners and policy makers. The vision for the growth and impact of *Urban Crime* involves becoming a truly *global* publication that represents the diversity of thematic interests and research cultures in the field of urban crime studies and includes:

- Implementing rigorous and swift editorial and peer-reviewing process that will make the journal an indispensable forum in the field.
- Becoming the home of cross-cutting, theoretically ambitious studies that are relevant across specializations, as well as a globalized journal featuring research that draws from wide-ranging geographical, cultural, political and social contexts. To this end, we intend to work towards inviting submissions from all parts of the world to further promote the journal not only in contexts that are

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well-represented (e.g. Europe, N. America) but also, through our extensive scholarly network, in regions such as Asia, Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America. These regions are currently under-represented and can offer fresh empirical and theoretical insights into the study of urban crime.

- Encouraging the submission of quality research and commentary by practitioners such as law enforcement agents, members of the judiciary, government and local government officials, industry and non-governmental organizations working on urban crime-related topics.

With this issue, we launch our new, multi-lingual peer-reviewed journal '**Urban Crime. An International Journal**' where we host remarkable contributions that reflect its interdisciplinarity, with the hope that we will host many more in the future, in order to achieve our goal which is scientific exchange and dialogue.

This effort is supported by all the colleagues that participate in the Editorial Board, the members of the Laboratory of Urban Criminology as well as the administrative and technical services of Panteion University. We thank everyone for the trust and the collaboration!

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