

EDITORIAL

Christina Zarafonitou¹

The papers published in this issue (Vol. 6 - No 1) of *Urban Crime-An International Journal* include contemporary scientific topics that fall within the remit of international authors. The first two articles cover issues related to the role of modern technology in crime, highlighting the existing urban dimension.

The first article titled “*From detection to protection: Artificial Intelligence and victim management in urban vulnerability contexts*”, authored by Vasiliki Theologi (Democritus University of Thrace), explores the contribution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to the management of crime victims in large urban environments with a focus on phenomena such as domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual abuse, and refugee vulnerability. Within this spectrum, the article examines how digital tools contribute to the identification and enhanced protection of victims, and the use of such technologies either as a lever of social trust or as a potential mechanism of surveillance.

The second one, titled “*The “a-spatiality” of cybercrime and its connection to the urban environment*”, authored by Georgios Germanos (University of Peloponnese), investigates the concept of *a-spatiality* in relation to cybercrime, examining the ways in which digital criminal activities transcend conventional spatial constraints while simultaneously engaging with the dynamics of urban environments. Addressing a critical gap in existing research, the study explores how urban infrastructure, socio-economic disparities, and public vulnerabilities mediate both the prevalence and consequences of cybercrime. Integrating theoretical perspectives from digital geography and criminology, the paper conceptualises cybercrime as an inherently urban phenomenon, situated within interwoven digital and physical networks. In this context,

¹ Professor of Criminology, Department of Sociology, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece. chrizara@panteion.gr ORCID ID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6636-7903>

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particular emphasis is placed on the implications for policing, governance, and prevention strategies within increasingly decentralised and technologically mediated contexts.

In the third article, titled “*The institution of Local Councils for Crime Prevention in Greece: The institutional framework and implementation in practice*” the author Ioannis Papos (Panteion University) analyses the operation and implementation of the Local Councils for Crime Prevention (LCCPs) in Greece, aiming to enhance the existing body of knowledge on the topic. After providing a brief overview of the historical developments that led to the adoption of this policy and a comprehensive reference of its implementation across Europe, the article presents qualitative data from research conducted in Municipalities in Attica, where Local Councils for Crime Prevention have been established. The article highlights both the gap between the institutional framework and its practical application, as well as the ongoing challenges and obstacles faced, while emphasising the importance and benefits of supporting and strengthening the institution.

The section of **Commentary** hosts two contributions. The first one constitutes a contribution of Vasiliki Theologi (Democritus University of Thrace) and Alexandros Antonoglou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) on “*Digital Criminology and Artificial Intelligence: New Approaches in Crime Prevention and the Greek Context*”. The authors explore the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on crime and criminological analysis in the context of the Digital Age. They outline AI-related crime types and their applications in crime prevention. They also emphasise Greece's current situation by highlighting police modernisation efforts, legislative reforms, and the use of advanced technologies in crime scene analysis, as well as the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to improve the reliability and effectiveness of criminal investigations.

The second contribution of Anthony Owolabi (Obafemi Awolowo University), Albert Ayorinde Abegunde (Obafemi Awolowo University), Henry Afolabi (Obafemi Awolowo University), Temitope Ruth Adeyemi (Obafemi Awolowo University), and Olorunjuwon David Adetayo (Obafemi Awolowo University) focuses on “*Assessing stakeholders’ responses to Farmer-Herder Land Conflict: A case study of the Oke-Ogun region, Nigeria*” and analyses the Farmer-Herder Land Conflicts (FHLC) in the Oke-Ogun Region (OOR) in Nigeria and the stakeholders’ responses to these violent

conflicts. The authors aim to examine how stakeholders respond to farmer-herder land conflicts in the OOR and analyse these responses within the study area. This is intended to develop a framework that could improve peacebuilding, land-use planning, and development.

The current issue also includes the section **“Projects and Publications Monitor”** which presents the experience of CITISENSE Network, Municipality of Piraeus, titled *“CITISENSE: Scaling participatory urban security through innovation and governance”*. The research note focuses on the objectives, structure, and methodological contributions of CITISENSE, an URBACT Innovation Transfer Network built around the transfer and adaptation of the “Be Secure – Feel Secure” (BSFS) project developed in Piraeus (Greece), summarizing the network’s integrated model, its transferability strategy, and policy implications for inclusive urban security governance.

Finally, at this point, I would like to thank the authors for their very interesting contributions and their thorough response to comments and recommendations and the reviewers for their valuable comments and constructive criticism. Thanks also to the Panteion University Library for hosting the issue and collaborating on technical matters, as well as to the managing editor, Dr. Eleni Kontopoulou, for her assistance in coordinating the publication and for all the fruitful collaboration that contributed to the final result.