

Editorial

Towards an Advancing Science of Criminology and Criminal Justice

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1. Introduction

Issues related to crime and criminals have been a major focus of empirical research, considerable political debate, and significant public discourse. Perhaps there is no other outcome where people are more vested and have their own opinions on its causes than when it comes to crime. This interest, of course, has come at a price, i.e., the generation of large amount of information that it is difficult to differentiate accurate from inaccurate information. In some circles, what appear to be commonsensical ideas, but that do not have a shred of supporting evidence, are touted as factual. Other explanations of crime are often dismissed or ignored, not because they lack empirical backing, but because they are viewed as controversial or even heretical. In addition, there is lack of innovation regarding criminological theories and limited research during the past decades. Given this background, little is known about the etiology of crime. This is partly caused by the lack of opportunities to publish research that challenges the status quo, that makes unique interdisciplinary contributions, or that bridges the gap between academic research and policy. Finding an existing outlet that achieves all of these goals in the criminological/criminal justice discipline is difficult if not impossible.

2. Aims and Scope

The new journal, *International Journal of Applied Violent and Criminal Behavior (IJAVCB)*, is designed to advance the current understanding of violent and criminal behavior by publishing high-quality research. One of the key focal points of this journal will be on the use of strong methodological approaches that can address interdisciplinary issues related to crime, criminology, and criminal justice. A unique aspect of the journal, moreover, is that studies are designed to inform not just academics, but also policymakers, politicians, and practitioners. As a result, manuscripts will discuss how research findings can be translated into real-world applications and/or can be used to guide and inform policy decisions.

Although diverse topics will be covered in the journal, the specific scope of the journal will include the following:

- Etiology of crime and delinquency
- Consequences associated with antisocial behavior
- Program evaluations of crime prevention and rehabilitation efforts
- Developmental pathways to violent criminal offending
- Meta-analyses of key criminological issues
- Research notes focused on specific methodological and/or statistical concepts
- Criminal justice system responses to unlawful behavior

We encourage submissions that touch not just on these topics, but on others that may have broad appeal to those interested in crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system.



3. Outlook

The vision of *IJAVCB* is to be one of the leading criminological and criminal justice journals. To facilitate this goal, all submissions will be processed quickly and will be vetted based on scientific merit, not on the results of the analyses or whether the findings converge with a certain political or social landscape. Our hope is that this journal will be a meeting place of minds, where diverse findings can be published, and where scholars and practitioners can access results from high-quality and objective studies. If you would like to be part of this exciting new journal, we encourage you to submit your manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.