

About a thematic issue on Security and safety in local communities: Rural and urban perspectives

It is a great honour and privilege to present to you a thematic issue of the Journal of Criminal Investigation and Criminology on safety and security in rural and urban local communities. This issue in the English language is edited by a guest editor, Professor Emeritus Joseph Donnermeyer of the Ohio State University, Columbus, USA, a leading international researcher on rural criminology who has been spearheading international efforts to develop criminological research in rural settings globally. Professor Joseph Donnermeyer's article, entitled 'The Importance of Place: Safety and Security of Rural Peoples and Communities in an Urbanising World' in which he reflected upon rural and urban perspectives of crime and rural criminology, can be understood as the Editorial to this thematic issue of the journal. In it, he summarised and reflected upon findings from the various papers published for this special issue (by Bučar Ručman on 'Social Ties, Solidarity and Threat Perception in Rural and Urban Communities in Slovenia'; Flander and Tičar on the 'Right to Security – An Outline of the Legal Regulation at the State and Local Levels in Slovenia'; Sotlar and Tominc on 'Perception of Security Phenomena in Local Communities in Slovenia'; Hacin and Eman on 'Police Officers Perception of Threats in Urban and Rural Environments'; Pirnat and Meško on 'Perceptions of Security Issues, Social Processes, and the Police in Urban Neighbourhoods'; and Prisljan and Lobnikar on 'Modern trends in policing: public perceptions of the preferred policing models in Slovenia'), discussing findings in broader theoretical contexts. The articles published in this issue of the Journal come from national research projects on Safety and Security in Local Communities (2015–2018) and Safety and Security in Local Communities – Rural and Urban Perspectives (2019–2024) financed by the Slovenian Research Agency and supported by the General Police Directorate of the Republic Slovenia.

Papers brought together in the fifth (special) issue of the Journal in 2019 show case examples of rural and urban criminology, a variety of rural safety and security issues, legal perspectives of local security, social processes and social cohesion in rural and urban settings, and contemporary policing perspectives in Slovenia, as well as the challenges of policing in the future. We are convinced that all articles in this special issue contribute to evidence-based policy-making and provision of safety and security.

Moreover, the articles can also be understood as another step in the transition of criminological research focus from an exclusively urban point of view to one that also considers various rural settings. Perspectives on crime, migration, soli-

O tematski številki revije o varnosti v lokalnih skupnostih: ruralne in urbane perspektive

V veliko čast in privilegij nama je predstaviti tematsko številko Revije za kriminalistiko in kriminologijo o varnosti v lokalnih skupnostih, osredotočeno na ruralne in urbane perspektive varnosti. Gostujoči urednik tematske številke v angleškem jeziku je zaslužni profesor Joseph Donnermeyer z Univerze Ohio, Columbus, ZDA. Profesor Donnermeyer je vodilni mednarodni raziskovalec ruralne kriminologije, ki si na mednarodnem področju prizadeva za razvoj kriminoloških raziskav na podeželju po vsem svetu, in je avtor uvodnega članka *The Importance of Place: Safety and Security of Rural Peoples and Communities in an Urbanising World* (O pomenu kraja oziroma prostora: varnost podeželskih prebivalcev in skupnosti v urbaniziranem svetu), v katerem razmišlja o ruralnih in urbanih perspektivah kriminalitete in ruralne kriminologije. V članku je povzel in razpravljal tudi o ugotovitvah avtorjev prispevkov, objavljenih v tematski številki: Bučar Ručman: *Social Ties, Solidarity and Threat Perception in Rural and Urban Communities in Slovenia* (Družbene vezi, solidarnost in občutki ogroženosti v ruralnih in urbanih skupnostih v Sloveniji); Flander in Tičar: *The Right to Security – An Outline of the Legal Regulation at the State and Local Levels in Slovenia*; Pravica do varnosti – očrt pravne ureditve na državni in lokalni ravni v Sloveniji); Sotlar in Tominc: *Perception of Security Phenomena in Local Communities in Slovenia* (Zaznavanje varnostnih pojavov v lokalnih skupnostih v Sloveniji); Hacin in Eman: *Police Officers Perception of Threats in Urban and Rural Environments* (Zaznava groženj pri policistih v mestnih in podeželskih okoljih); Pirnat in Meško: *Perceptions of Security Issues, Social Processes, and the Police in Urban Neighbourhoods – The Case of Ljubljana* (Zaznave varnostnih problemov, družbenih procesov in policije v urbanih soseskah – primer Ljubljane); ter Prisljan in Lobnikar: *Modern Trends in Policing: Public Perceptions of the Preferred Policing Models in Slovenia* (Sodobni trendi v policijski dejavnosti: stališča prebivalcev o najprimernejših modelih policijskega dela v Sloveniji), ki predstavljajo ugotovitve v širšem teoretičnem kontekstu. Članki slovenskih avtorjev izvirajo iz nacionalnih raziskovalnih projektov o varnosti v lokalnih skupnostih (2015–2018) ter varnosti v lokalnih skupnostih – primerjava ruralnih in urbanih okolij (2019–2024), ki ju financira Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije in podpira Generalna policijska uprava Republike Slovenije.

V peti (tematski) številki revije v letu 2019 prispevki prikazujejo primere preučevanja ruralne in urbane kriminologije, različnih vprašanj o varnosti in varovanju na podeželju, pravne vidike lokalne varnosti, družbenih procesov in družbene kohezije v urbanih okoljih, sedanje perspektive policije v Sloveniji pa tudi izzivov na področju policije v prihodnosti. Prepričani

parity, social cohesion, perception of threats, fear of crime/feelings of insecurity, formal and informal control in rural environments and other important criminological issues from a rural perspective needs a great deal more attention because the majority of studies on crime, disorder, policing, etc. come from urban settings. The rural is sometimes falsely perceived as romantic, safe, idyllic, and crime-free, while reality can be completely different.

We hope you will find papers in this special issue interesting and inspiring for a reflection on what might first appear as a simple “urban-rural dichotomy”, but from a more critical view, is much more complicated.

Gorazd Meško and Tatjana Bobnar
Editors-in-chief

smo, da vsi članki v tej številki revije prispevajo k oblikovanju z znanjem podprte politike in prakse zagotavljanja varnosti.

Članke je mogoče razumeti tudi kot prehod kriminoloških raziskovalnih usmeritev z urbanih na ruralna okolja. Perspektive o kriminaliteti, migracijah, solidarnosti, socialni koheziji, dojemanju groženj, strahu pred kriminaliteto/občutkih ogroženosti, formalnem in neformalnem nadzoru v ruralnih okoljih in druge pomembne kriminološke perspektive podeželja je treba ponovno preveriti, saj večina študij o kriminaliteti, neredu, policijski dejavnosti itd. prihaja iz urbanih okolij. Ruralne perspektive so včasih napačno dojete kot romantične, varne, idilične, brez kriminalitete, resničnost pa je lahko popolnoma drugačna.

Upava, da vam bodo prispevki te tematske številke zanimivi in navdihujoči za razmišljanje o navidezno preprosti “urbano-ruralni dihotomiji”, ki se s kritične perspektive pokaže kot bolj zapletena.

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