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| Book Name: | **"RURAL JUSTICE IN AFRICA: RETHINKING CRIME, POLICING, AND COMMUNITY SECURITY IN MARGINALISED SPACES"** |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_BPR\_5912.4** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **THE HISTORY OF RURAL CRIMINOLOGY IN AFRICA AND THE EVOLVING NATURE OF RURAL CRIME OVER TIME** |
| Type of the Article | **Book Chapter** |

**Special note:**

**A research paper already published in a journal can be published as a Book Chapter in an expanded form with proper copyright approval.**

**Source Article:**

**This chapter is an extended version of the article published by the same author(s) in the following journal.**

**IRASS Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies, 2(6): 18-37., 2025.**

**DOI:** [**https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15575077**](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15575077)

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | Author’s Feedback *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **The manuscript is relevant and contributes significantly to the scientific community by addressing rural crime in Africa which is often overlooked in criminology. It provides a historical and contemporary analysis of how rural crime has changed overtime, bridging theoretical frameworks with real-life socio-political and economic dynamics that influence crime in rural and marginalized areas.**  **The study opens new avenue for scientific research and policy by its examination of emerging trends and linking them to rural underdevelopment, gaps in governance and technological evolution. It also adds depth and weight to criminological studies with its focus and recognition of the unique challenges faced by rural communities in Africa.** |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes, the title of the article is suitable. However, it can also be adjusted for concision. (E.g. Rural Criminology in Africa: Historical Evolution and Contemporary Challenges).** |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **The abstract is comprehensive, as it outlines the general focus of the study and introduces key themes such as historical development and emerging trends in rural crime. However, while the abstract claims the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods, the manuscript itself does not provide any evidence of it. There is no methodological section or data collection or analysis, tables, charts or numeric data to support.** |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | **It is largely scientifically correct, particularly in its application of criminological theories and its analysis of rural crime trends within African context. However, the claim of using the mixed method of research is not substantiated in the body of the work. For full scientific rigor, the methodology should be aligned with the actual approach taken.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.**  **-** | **The references are moderately sufficient, but there is room for improvement in both quantity and quality. I recommend incorporating more recent academic journal articles from the last 5-7 years that focus on rural criminology, African security studies or developmental and crime linkages.** |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The language and English quality of the manuscript are generally understandable but not consistently suitable for scholarly communications. Some sections are repetitive and contain awkward phrasing that affect clarity and flow. I recommend a professional language edit to elevate the tone to meet academic publishing standards. |  |
| Optional/General comments | The manuscript addresses a critically underexplored area in criminology. The author(s) made a compelling argument for expanding criminological discourse to include rural realities, particularly in Africa. The manuscript is ambitious in scope, providing a comprehensive historical and contemporary overview of rural crime trends, socio-economic drives, theoretical frameworks and policy implications. |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment | Author’s comment *(if agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Emeka S. Abueme, Nigeria**