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| **Book Name:** | **"RURAL JUSTICE IN AFRICA: RETHINKING CRIME, POLICING, AND COMMUNITY SECURITY IN MARGINALISED SPACES"** |
| **Manuscript Number:** | **Ms\_BPR\_5912.6** |
| **Title of the Manuscript:** | **THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN RESEARCHING RURAL CRIME IN AFRICAN CONTEXTS, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR DECOLONISED AND LOCALLY INFORMED FRAMEWORKS** |
| **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.**

**MRS Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Studies, 2 (6),13-26, 2025.**

**DOI:** [**https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15617554**](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15617554)

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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 minimumof 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **This manuscript holds significant value in the scientific community as it addresses the overlooked issue of rural crime in African contexts through a decolonised criminological lens. It critiques the shortcomings of the Western-centric models and advocates for a framework that will be rooted in African indigenous knowledge systems and traditional justice practices. Furthermore it highlights how rural crimes in Africa- livestock theft, illegal minning, communal violence etc- has been neglected for a long time due to the pre-concieved notion that rural are less prone to crimes and hence the limelight remained towrads urban crimes. It traces the root of such crimes to the colonial era when alien forms of governance by colonial powers disrupted the traditional forms of dispute resolution and law enforcement and consequently exposed the people of African socities to newer forms of crimes. This disregard for traditional forms of dispute resolution was carried forward in the post-independence era as well. The situation has been further aggrandized by informal economies, gloablisation and by the international nature of crime and violence.**  **Methodologically, the manuscript promotes qualitative and participatory research suited to rural realities. The study links rural crime to broader socio-economic issues like poverty, land disputes, and environmental degradation. It provides practical insights for integrating community-based justice with formal policing. By placing restorative justice and context-sensitive policy development at the forefront, it offers solutions that enhance trust and social cohesion. The work contributes to global criminological discourse by challenging epistemic hierarchies. It lays a foundation for interdisciplinary research in postcolonial societies. The manuscript’s relevance extends to law enforcement, governance, and community empowerment. On the whole, it is a vital step toward inclusive, effective, and sustainable crime prevention in Africa.** |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes the title is suitable for the article.** |  |
| 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 well-structured and presents a relevant exploration of rural crime in African contexts. It illustrates the need for a decolonised and locally grounded criminological appraoch. It effectively critiques the limitations of existing Western-centric models and argues for the inclusion of indigenous knowledge and community-based justice systems. However, there has been the issue of repetition, sentence fragments, abrupt transitions, and formatting errors that hinder clarity and professionalism. The methodology, while generally sound, could benefit from greater specificity. Overall, the abstract is strong in purpose and scope but would be significantly improved through tighter editing, clearer structure, and smoother academic expression.** |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | **Yes, the manuscript is scientifically correct and methodologically sound. It identifies a critical gap in criminological research-the neglect of rural crime in African contexts-and effectively argues for the need to decolonise criminology. The study is grounded in well-established theoretical frameworks, which includes decolonised criminology, strain theory, social control theory, and restorative justice, all of which are crucial to the understanding of the complexities of rural African societies. It uses a systematic literature review and thematic content analysis that ensures methodological rigor, while the inclusion of interdisciplinary approach gives an analytical depth.The manuscript’s strength lies in linking rural crime to wider structural issues such as poverty, environmental degradation, informal economies, new markets, globalisation, interanationalization of crime and violence and the legacy of colonialism. It offers context-specific, culturally grounded insights that are both theoretically innovative and practically relevant, especially for policymakers, law enforcement, and community organisations.**  **However, as a literature-based study, it lacks primary empirical data, which should be clearly stated. Besides, more detail on the analytical methods used would improve scientific transparency. By and large, the study presents a vigorous, clearly stated case for rethinking rural crime in Africa and makes a significant contribution to both African criminology and global decolonial scholarship.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.**  **-** | **Yes, the references included in the manuscript are sufficient, and relevant for the scope of the study. However including few empirical case studies would give a boost to the claims of the author and adding sources from East, West and Central Africa will be give it a pan-African nature.** |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | **Yes the language of the article is suitable for scholarly communications.** |  |
| Optional/Generalcomments |  |  |

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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:**

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