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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 minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **This manuscript makes a significant contribution to criminology by addressing the underexplored area of rural crime in Africa through a decolonised lens. It critiques Western-centric frameworks and advocates for integrating indigenous knowledge systems, traditional justice mechanisms, and socio-economic realities into criminological research. Also, its interdisciplinary approach (bridging criminology, anthropology, and political economy) enriches academic discourse and offers practical insights for policymakers and law enforcement in rural Africa.** |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?****(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **The title is comprehensive and accurately reflects the manuscript’s focus. However, it could be slightly streamlined for clarity:****Suggested Alternative: Decolonising Rural Criminology in Africa: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Local Realities** |  |
| 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 effectively summarizes the study’s aims, methods, and contributions. However, the author(s) could enhance it by providing a brief mention of the theoretical frameworks used (e.g., decolonised criminology, restorative justice). And the geographical scope (e.g., focusing on Southern and East Africa) to contextualize the literature reviewed.** |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.**  | **The manuscript is scientifically robust, by employing a systematic literature review (2000–2024), critical engagement with Western criminological theories (e.g., Hirschi’s Social Control Theory) and integration of African scholars (e.g., Mbembe, Mamdani) to challenge Eurocentric paradigms. However, there are limited empirical data from Francophone and North African regions and underdeveloped discussion on gender dynamics in rural crime.** |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.****-** | **The references are largely current (2020–2024) and relevant, however, more examples from West Africa (e.g., Ghana, Nigeria) to complement the Southern Africa focus.** |  |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | **The language is scholarly and accessible, but minor edits are needed. The author (s) could replace underexplored with under-researched for precision. Also, avoid redundant phrases (e.g., both historical and contemporary -- historical and contemporary).** |  |
| Optional/General comments | **The research work significantly contributes to the scientific community, however few corrections need to be attended to** |  |

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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:**

**Obeng Charles, Ghana**