

Editors Note

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Journal Aims

The 12 years I spent so far as editor-in-chief of the Journal increased its impact (including its impact factor), enlarged the geographical diversity of its authors—not only Europeans—, developed traditional criminological topics, and introduced new ones, with particular attention to those areas where criminology intersects with political science, psychology and economics.

In the coming years, we want to emphasize these new directions even more: developing the Journal as an open, interdisciplinary platform, where contributors belong to different disciplines and traditions, and where crime issues are related to their socio-psychological and economic context.

Our aim is to continue to strengthen the link between research and policies in the area of crime and justice. This is the vision of the Journal represented by its title, which we want to connect more with advanced methodologies and techniques that could take advantage of the large amount of data available on crime and crime policies.

Structural Changes

Some innovations in the format and organization of the Journal are needed. The first one is having more general issues than special ones, thereby reducing the time lag between submission of the articles, and their publication in an issue. In order to open to a wider group of contributors, we must have a more effective and efficient process for reviewing the articles submitted. The second innovation is that the Editor-in-Chief, with the assistance of the editorial office and in consultation with the members of the Board, will give an initial go/no-go answer to the author who has submitted the manuscript. We will aim to give this initial decision within ten days from the initial article submission. When positive, that does not mean commitment to publication: it means that the article will then go through the referee procedure.

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This innovation should favour interdisciplinary cooperation among different authors, in the case of a special issue; and allow all the authors of the submissions to the general issues to move rapidly to alternative solutions if they receive an initial rejection, and find the right home for their research.

Continuing to improve the Journal is a commitment to its continuation, and the energies we spend in managing it. Once again thanks to the contributors, the referees, the Board members, the editorial office at Transcrime and to Springer, our publisher. All together, they have made the Journal as great as it is today. With them, we hope to do it even better for tomorrow.

Aims and Scope

According to the above goals, we have modified the Aims and Scope statement of the journal, which already appears online on the journal homepage. Please see it here:

The European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research is a peer-reviewed criminology journal, with an international and interdisciplinary focus. It welcomes submissions from Europe and well beyond, from different disciplines and traditions, where crime issues are connected to their socio-psychological and economic contexts.

The focus of its peer-reviewed coverage is on understanding crime trends in different geographical and socio-economic contexts, on presenting innovative crime prevention policies and practices, presenting innovative methodologies, and on following legislative and institutional change. The journal aims to strengthen the link between research and policies in the area of crime and justice, and welcomes submissions with a policy-related component.

Discussion includes the trade-off between security and rights and ways to optimize the effectiveness of criminal justice systems with respect to human and civil rights.

Recognizing that criminal justice systems are not the only method for dealing with crime, the journal also devotes attention to alternative policies and practices.

Its four annual issues include one thematic issue and three that are open to various contributions.
