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*Handbook on*  
**Crime and Deviance**

**Edited by**

**Marvin D. Krohn**

*Department of Sociology and  
Criminology & Law  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL USA*

**and**

**Alan J. Lizotte**

*Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center  
School of Criminal Justice  
University at Albany  
Albany, NY USA*

**and**

**Gina Penly Hall**

*School of Criminal Justice  
University at Albany  
Albany, NY USA*

 **Springer**

*Editors*

Marvin D. Krohn  
Department of Sociology  
and Criminology & Law  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
USA  
mkrohn@ufl.edu

Alan J. Lizotte  
School of Criminal Justice  
University at Albany  
Albany, NY 12222  
USA  
a.lizotte@albany.edu

Gina Penly Hall  
School of Criminal Justice  
University at Albany  
Albany, NY 12222  
USA  
gp5757@albany.edu

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# Preface

The field of crime and deviance is extensive and ever growing. A single collection of articles could not capture the various methods, theories, and issues that comprise the key concerns of the discipline. Faced with the vast array of potential topic areas that could be legitimately included in such a compendium, we decided to use our own lens to focus on areas that we deem to be of continuing importance and those in which important developments have emerged. Although we recognize that much has been excluded from this collection, we think what has been incorporated should be of great interest to scholars working in the field and to those students who are becoming acquainted with it.

The compendium is divided into four major sections: (1) Methodological Issues in Crime Research; (2) Explanations of Crime; (3) Criminal Justice-Related Issues; and (4) Special Topics in Crime. Within each section, we have endeavored to select authors who are major figures in the area on which they write or are among those young scholars who are doing some of the most important work in their areas of expertise. This blend of senior and up-and-coming scholars demonstrates the continuing vitality of the field and we hope that vitality emanates from the selections we have chosen.

Part I titled “Methodological Issues in Crime Research” contains four chapters. The issues that are dealt with range from those that are the source of continuing debate (are longitudinal designs worth the expense and effort, and do the benefits of comparative studies outweigh the difficulties in conducting them) as well as issues that are on the cutting edge of criminological research today (the use of group-based statistical methodology for analyzing developmental trajectories and the use of incident-based reporting systems).

A *Handbook on Crime and Deviance* would certainly not be complete without a Part II titled “Explanations of Crime.” We have not included a chapter on every theoretical perspective that has been part of the disciplinary dialogue. Rather, we have selected some of the theories on which there has been significant development over the past 10 years. The authors who have contributed chapters are clearly among those who are currently doing work to advance either the theoretical development of those perspectives or the research agenda on those theories, or both.

They also were instructed to emphasize the more recent developments of the respective theories in their expositions.

Part III contains chapters addressing “Criminal Justice-Related Issues.” There were a myriad of issues that could have been addressed in this part. We chose to seek contributions on issues that relate theory to practice. Although we separate them from our theory section, these selections could have easily been included there. We also included essays on two issues that continue to be among those that are of continuing concern, capital punishment, and the influence of race and sex in the processing of offenders in the criminal justice system.

Part IV of the *Handbook*, “Special Topics in Crime and Deviance”, is a compilation of issues that continue to be or have become ‘hot topics’ in our field. They range from gangs, guns, peers, and drugs to issues such as child abuse and domestic violence, cybercrime, and hate crime. There are exciting theoretical and research developments in these areas, many of which have been forwarded by the authors of these chapters.

When representatives of Springer asked us to assemble a compendium, they specifically instructed us to select articles based on our vision of what was happening in the field today. We have endeavored to do that. More importantly, in soliciting chapters from the contributing authors, we asked them to rely on their view of what was of particular current interest in their area of expertise. We further encouraged them to incorporate their own work in these areas in order to take full advantage of their expertise. The result is a compendium that includes an up-to-date assessment of the state of the field on a number of extremely important topics in crime and deviance. We think it will be a valuable resource to established scholars as well as students who are being introduced to the field.

**MARVIN D. KROHN**

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# Contributors

**James R. Acker**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Lynn A. Addington**, American University, Washington, DC, USA

**Robert Agnew**, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

**Ronald L. Akers**, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

**Kevin M. Beaver**, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA

**Jón Gunnar Bernburg**, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

**Pauline K. Brennan**, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, USA

**Ronald V. Clarke**, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Newark, NJ, USA

**David E. Duffee**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA and Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA

**Timothy O. Ireland**, Niagara University, Niagara, NY, USA

**Kristina M. Jackson**, Brown University, Providence, RI, USA

**Wesley G. Jennings**, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, USA

**Howard B. Kaplan**, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

**Lila Kazemian**, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, USA

**Ryan D. King**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Charis E. Kubrin**, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA

**Richard L. Legault**, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

**Alan J. Lizotte**, The University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Rolf Loeber**, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA and Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Shadd Maruna**, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, Ireland

**David McDowall**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Steven F. Messner**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Daniel S. Nagin**, Heinz College, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

**Graeme R. Newman**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Dana Peterson**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Alex R. Piquero**, University of Maryland College Park, College Park, MD, USA

**Greg Pogarsky**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Richard Rosenfeld**, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

**Nicole M. Schmidt**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Janet P. Stamatel**, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY, USA

**Anthony Walsh**, Boise State University, Boise, ID, USA

**Mark Warr**, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA

**Helene Raskin White**, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Piscataway, NJ, USA