

Climate Change, Crime and Criminology

Edited by Rob White
To be published by Springer US

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Fundamentally life on planet earth is ever more rapidly being transformed in ways that are profound and for many of us unimaginable. This is due to global warming. Until very recently few criminologists have engaged in analysis of climate change and its consequences. This is starting to change and undoubtedly more work will be undertaken in this area in the coming years.

This book provides the first consolidated exploration of climate change from an explicitly criminological perspective. It not only explores the conventional environmental and non-environmental crimes that are linked with this particular ecological issue, but also asks the question what harm is there associated with climate change, and what can we do about it? The first substantive chapter of this book will provide an overview and description of climate change and map out some of the key concepts and issues of relevance to criminological investigation of the social and political impacts of global warming.

It is intended that the book will discuss a wide variety of topics. These will be reflected in specific chapters, which in turn will be organised into particular topical sections of the book under appropriate sub-headings. The theme of climate change as seen from specifically criminological perspectives will be the core guiding thread. The kinds of issues covered in the book will include all or some of the following:

- **Climate change and social conflicts over natural resources** – struggles over food, water, energy, and questions of national and international security
- **Climate change and the body** – issues surrounding nutrition, the rights of the unborn, effects of reliance upon genetically modified crops, feminisation of nature (e.g., fish) due to pollutants and climate-related processes
- **Climate change and natural disasters** – crime and criminality related to events such as floods, earthquakes, volcanic activity, cyclones/hurricanes that will intensify in the coming years due to climate change
- **Climate change and paradoxical harms** – issues pertaining to present solutions to climate change that, in turn, generate new forms of harm (e.g., mercury content of new energy-efficient light globes)
- **Climate change and carbon emission trading** – how the trading of carbon credits is linked to various kinds of crimes, including for example, fraud and the displacement of local people off their lands (e.g., as has occurred in Africa)

- **Climate change and victimisation** – the ways in which climate change, and climate change policies, have implications for victimisation both at a universal level (i.e., everyone in the world is affected) and differentially (i.e., the poor and marginalised are especially vulnerable to the worst impacts of environmental change)
- **Climate change and injustice** – this relates to who the key perpetrators of global warming are, and to patterns of production and consumption that illustrate the unequal relations upon which climate change has been built
- **Climate change, the law and the precautionary principle** – issues relating to uncertainty and potential hazards, and the ways in which risk of harm and criminal activity might be anticipated in law through the application of the precautionary principle

Authors will be asked to conclude each chapter with suggestions for further research and directions as to where to from here. Other topics that are not listed above are welcome for consideration as well.

As an example of how these topics might be developed, we can consider climate change and disaster. Climate change has been associated with varying types of ‘natural disaster’ which are projected to increase in intensity and frequency in the foreseeable future. These include floods, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic activity, extreme heat spells and so on. Study of disasters (both human-created and natural) has revealed substantial instances of criminality related to both the lead-up (e.g., shoddy building practices) and post-event (e.g., sex trade for aid). Moreover, the scale of recent disasters, such as the floods in Pakistan, suggest other forms of criminality may be associated with such events, for example, the collapse of public order, enforced climate-induced migration and the prevalence of local gang cultures.

The book will include contributors who are working in the broad areas of ‘green criminology’, ‘conservation criminology’ or ‘eco-global criminology’ in different parts of the world. It is intended that the final list of contributors will include individuals who have previously published in this area and (especially) early career academic researchers and, where appropriate, people working in Non-Government Organisations.

The target date for the edited and complete manuscript is end of August 2011.

Potential authors should contact the editor, Rob White [r.d.white@utas.edu.au] before the end of this year (2010). Please provide a **1-page outline** of your possible chapter.

The book will include approximately 10 to 12 chapters, of about 6,000-7,000 words in length. Contributors will be notified of final acceptance by mid-January.