One of the first academics/researchers, albeit as a ‘sociologist’, to look at rural crime per se was Marshall Clinard in the 1940s with his seminal study on rural criminal offenders. Clinard found some specific characteristics associated with rural offenders, namely: their “extensive mobility, resulting in recklessness and irresponsibility”. This perception of themselves as “mobile persons” led to them having an “impersonal conception of the world and emancipation from their home communities” (in other words they most often moved away from their home districts). This perception, Clinard found, led a large proportion of these ‘mobile’ rural offenders to commit their offences outside of their home communities – even if in a neighbouring district or community. Clinard also found that two-thirds of his respondents were alone when first arrested (the ‘loner offender’ not associated with any criminal syndicate or youth gang). Clinard also furthermore established in this early rural crime study that farm offenders did not exhibit the characteristics of a “definite criminal social type”. He ascribed this to the fact that, firstly, their criminal behaviour did not start early on in their lives. Secondly, they exhibited scant knowledge of the more ‘professional’ urban criminal techniques and modus operandi in general. Thirdly, their criminal activities were not their sole means of livelihood. Lastly, that they did not conceive of themselves as criminals since most of the crime they committed fell under property-related offences (Clinard, 1944: 38-45) (for example: stealing fruit or vegetables, poaching of game or stealing livestock – the latter two often for the ‘pot’).

In more recent times researchers have taken to customising Victims of Crime Surveys to rural settings by changing crime types, as well as trying to establish the specific impact (social, economic and otherwise) on self-contained localised rural communities of their specific experiences of crime. Since such communities are often closely-knit, if the crime is perpetrated by ‘insiders’ as opposed to ‘outsiders’, i.e. coming from elsewhere other than the immediate district/community area, such insider-perpetrated crime often impacts negatively for many years thereafter on rural person-to-person, family-to-family and overall community trust relations.

In 2004 Patrick Jobes, Elaine Barclay, Herb Weinand and Joseph Donnermeyer, who analysed rural community structural measures (demographic, economic and social as reported in the various Australian censuses) in New South Wales, Australia and then compared this data with the officially reported crime statistics for these so-called rural local government areas (LGAs). This study used Social Disorganisation Theory to examine variations in crime rates between different kinds of rural communities. They also developed a rural community typology listing six distinct types which all exhibited unique crime characteristics with the structural measures being statistically associated with four types of crime. A further research finding of their study being that generally there was less crime (lower rate) in the rural areas studied than in Australian urban centres. Furthermore, that those rural communities showing greater cohesion and integration of their community structures had even less crime than those rural communities exhibiting poorer co-
ordination of social structures. In other words a highly disorganised rural community would have higher or the highest (relatively speaking to other LGAs) levels of reported crime. Clearly the levels and effectiveness of community and structural responses impacted directly on rural levels of crime being experienced by individual rural communities (Jobes, Barclay, Weinand & Donnermeyer, 2004: 114-140).

Despite this growing interest in rural crime, it remains an under-studied issue being served by a relatively small band of researchers and academics. Research on rural social disorganisation and crime ultimately being limited by a number of factors (in contrast to research on crime rates in urban areas), namely: inconsistent results; reliance on official crime statistics (i.e. the lack of no standard customising of victims of crime surveys for rural areas and applying all variables directly to rural victimisation rates. Neither disaggregating national crime statistics by pulling out crime stats only for rural areas or establishing specific crime categories to cater for the distinctiveness of rural crime); and the non-application in rural areas of the full Social Disorganisation and Crime Model, as developed and largely applied to urban cities (see Kaylen & Pridemore, 2013: for their application of the full model to rural areas in the UK using the British Crime Survey data).

While there has been a slow growth of a cohort of researchers and academics on Rural Criminology, some interesting developments in establishing it as a distinct focus area of criminological research occurred at the recent 2016 American Society of Criminology (ASC) conference held in New Orleans – a criminology conference that has claims to be the biggest of its kind in the world with over 1 200 sessions and more than 4 000 delegates – where steps were taken by interested members and delegates to establish and give formal recognition to ‘Rural Criminology’ as a distinct and separate branch of criminological theory and research. Besides various specialisation themed sessions, members of ASC have, over the years, established a number of interest groups (called ‘divisions’) (other than the standard ones on criminology, penology, victimology and policing) such as Corrections and Sentencing; Developmental Life-course Criminology; Experimental Criminology; International Criminology; Critical Criminology; Division on People of Colour and Crime; Terrorism and Bias Crimes; and Women and Crime. Each division is then responsible for putting together specialisation themes at every annual conference gathering falling under their broad specialisation field. Some of these divisions have also established division-affiliated journals to serve their specialisations, such as: Critical Criminology; Feminist Criminology; International Journal of Comparative & Applied Criminal Justice; Journal of Experimental Criminology; and Race and Justice. The ASC itself manages two journals, namely: Criminology: An interdisciplinary Journal and Criminology & Public Policy Journal. In line with the development of these ASC Divisions, a ‘founding’ meeting of interested persons was held at the ASC New Orleans conference where it was decided to launch a new division on ‘Rural Criminology’, which will hopefully be in place at the 2017 ASC conference to be held in Philadelphia in November 2017. Rural Criminology is already served by an existing specialist criminology journal, namely: the International Journal of Rural Criminology, whose current editor-in-chief is one of the leading academics in the field of rural crime, Prof. Joseph (Joe) Donnermeyer, Professor Emeritus at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University in the US. Prof Donnermeyer has also just edited a publication titled: The Routledge International Handbook of Rural Criminology (which contains 42 chapters on various aspects of crime and policing in rural areas).

It is hoped that these developments will assist in the further growth and focus on rural crime, as well as encouraging young researchers and students to undertake criminological research with a strictly rural emphasis and build some ‘new’ theories to serve this specialisation field of criminology.

The forward is a shorten version (with permission of the Editor and author) of an editorial written by Prof A Minnaar for the Acta Criminologica: Southern African Journal of Criminology 29(1)/2016

The full version is available at https://journals.co.za/content/crim/29/1/EJC198540
Programme

Master of Ceremonies
Dr Danny Titus | Executive Director: Culture, ATKV

08:00 Registration
08:30 Scripture and Prayer  
Past Paradise Mahlangu | Chairman NERPO

08:40 Welcome and Opening
Prof Omphemetse Sibanda | Dean (Acting): UNISA School of Law

08:50 Setting the International Trend
Dr Theo de Jager | President of the International Farmers’ Organisation

09:15 The approach towards Rural Safety in SA?

09:45 TEA AND REFRESHMENTS

Keynote International Speakers
10:15 Dr Joseph Donnermeyer | Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University, America
• The impact of crime on farms

11:00 Dr Elaine Barclay | University of New England, Armidale, Australia
• Crime and crime prevention on farms in Australia

11:40 Mr Emmanuel Bunei | Moi University, Kenya
• Stock theft in Africa: Current challenges and future direction

12:10 Discussions and Questions to Keynote Speakers

12:30 LUNCH

13:30 BREAK AWAY SESSIONS
(Each speaker 20 minutes - with a 20 minute discussion and question session at the end)

15:30 REFRESHMENTS

16:00 Report back from Chairperson’s of breakaway sessions. (5-10 min per Chairperson)

16:30 Summary
Mr Willie Clack | Identify the 4 critical issues to be addressed as a priority

16:40 Acknowledgements and Adjournment
Mr Aggrey Mahanjana
Sponsor | National Red Meat Producers’ Organisation

Venue | Main Conference Hall

Theme | Violent Crimes in Rural Areas

Chairman | Prof Vinesh Basdeo

• **Prof Rudolph Zinn** | *UNISA College of law*
  An overview of serious and violent crime in South Africa.

• **Ms Lorraine Claassen** | *Afriforum*
  Farm Attacks: The role of statistics and crime analysis.

• **Mr Christopher Gumbi** | *University of Limpopo*
  An investigation of the motivational factors of farm attacks and its consequential injurious.

• **Mr Willie Clack** | *UNISA College of law*
  The statistical myths of violent crimes in rural areas.
Programme

BREAK AWAY SESSION 2

Sponsor | African Farmers’ Association of South Africa (AFASA)

Venue | Bondev Thatch

Theme | Theft of agricultural commodities
      (animal husbandry, agronomy, horticulture)

Chairman | Mr Aggrey Mahanjana

• **Prof Johan Prinsloo** | *UNISA College of law*
  Ritualistic mutilation as part of predatory theft of livestock in rural South Africa.

• **Dr Witness Maluleke** | *University of Kwazulu Natal*
  Practical guidelines for integrating conventional and technological methods of combating stock theft in South Africa.

• **Ms Cecili Doorewaard** | *UNISA College of law*
  Not just another Commodity: Livestock theft as an Organised Crime.

• **Mr WA Lombaard** | *University of the Free State*
  Factors affecting livestock theft in the three South African provinces bordering Lesotho.
**Programme**

**Sponsor** | Transvaal Agricultural Union - South Africa (TAU-SA)

**Venue** | Fezorati Room

**Theme** | Challenges and shortcomings of the Criminal Justice System

**Chairman** | Prof Ann-Mari Hesselink

- **Mr Bertus van Heerden** | *Agri Inspect*
  Agriculture: Cross Border Crimes.

- **Dr Jane Buys** | *Free State Agriculture*
  Challenges and shortcomings of the Criminal Justice System in rural areas.

- **Mr Schalk Pienaar** | *Millennium*

- **Dr Hennie Lochner** | *UNISA College of law*
  The lack of Crime Intelligence: The Country can go up in flames.
  *(Note: This paper is presented in Afrikaans)*
Programme

BREAK AWAY SESSION 4

Sponsor | Agri SA
Venue | El Jadida
Theme | Rural Safety Implementation and Effects

Chairman | Prof Michelle Ovens

- **Mr Thembisiwe Sonjani | Master Student UNISA College of law**
  Evaluating implementation of the Rural Safety Plan in the Cacadu District Municipality.

- **Mrs Ina Cilliers | Member Gauteng Provincial Legislator**
  The need to institute specialised rural crime units to deal with the ongoing spate of farm attacks and murders.

- **Mr Uys van der Westhuizen | Agri Western Cape**
  Rural Safety: Foundation for Food Security.

- **Prof Anthony Minnaar | UNISA College of law**
  The impact of wildlife crime on the rural economy in South Africa: a case study of rhino poaching.
Dr Theo de Jager holds a doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Pretoria (1988), where he focused his research on authentic African Philosophy. He has farmed since 1997 in the South African Lowveld region with timber and subtropical fruits (Avo’s, mangoes and macadamia nuts). He is a former Deputy President of Agri SA where he was responsible for land reform, transformation, farmer development and Africa Liaison since 2008.

He also currently holds the Presidency of both the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) as well as of the World Farmers’ Organization. He also is a former President of the Pan African Farmers’ Organization (PAFO). The latter being the apex organisation for organized agriculture in Africa.

Dr de Jager is a founder member and current Chairman of Agri All Africa (AaA) - a solutions based company that serves as a super platform integrating relevant components in the agricultural value chain towards successful commercial farming practices in Africa.

He is a philosopher and a poet, ultimate believer in Africa and its people, keen student of nature. He is married to Karin - a lawyer resides in Tzaneen and has two girls and a boy.
Dr. Joseph F. Donnermeyer is a professor emeritus in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University and an adjunct professor at the Center on Research on Violence at West Virginia University. Dr. Donnermeyer's specialisation is rural criminology. He is the author/co-author of over 100 peer reviewed publications issues related to rural crime and rural societies. He was the editor of *Routledge International Handbook of Rural Criminology* (2016), is currently preparing the *Criminology of Food and Agriculture* (a monograph for Routledge), and was recently selected as editor of the *Routledge Monograph Series in Rural Criminology*.

Dr. Donnermeyer received The Ohio State University Alumni Association Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2004, and the North Central Regional Teaching Award from The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities in 2011. From 2005-2010, he served as Chair of the Executive Council for the OSU Academy of Teaching.

Dr. Donnermeyer is a graduate (with both an M.A. and a Ph.D. degree in Sociology) from the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Donnermeyer continues to teach on The Ohio State University's main campus, and recently developed an online course version of *Introduction to Rural Sociology*.

**Abstract**

Often little appreciated by criminology scholars, law enforcement, and criminal justice policy planners within governments, crimes against agricultural operations is both extensive and serious. The purpose of this keynote address is to discuss the impact of crime on farm operations and farm families from both a global and a local point of view. The seriousness of agricultural crime, including the volume and type, depends on the social, economic, and cultural conditions existing at specific places. Yet, the principles of preventing farm crime are more universal, even though the application of these principles depends on the specific situation of individual farms.
Elaine Barclay is an Associate Professor in criminology and a researcher in rural social issues based within the Institute for Rural Futures, a research centre located on campus at the University of New England, in Armidale in northern New South Wales. She has a degree in Social Science, postgraduate qualifications in Psychology and a PhD in Criminology. Her thesis examined property crime on farms in Australia and drew upon her previous life experience as part of a large family farm operation in western New South Wales. Over the past 23 years, her research conducted in collaboration with a global network of rural criminologists, sociologists and police, has examined crime on farms, crime within rural communities and Aboriginal communities, trespassing and illegal hunting, tourism and crime, farm succession, biosecurity, environmental crime, attitudes to the environment and climate change, and the social impacts of water trading. She has edited two books and authored or co-authored 23 journal articles, 17 book chapters, 23 consultancy reports, and 44 conference papers.

Abstract

The problem of crime on Australian farms is widespread, and can involve serious financial and personal losses for farmers. The isolation of many rural areas, the ease of access to most properties and the portable nature of livestock and equipment, means farms are an inviting target for offenders. This paper provides an overview of several studies of the nature, extent and impact of agricultural crime in Australia conducted over the past 17 years and discusses the implications for crime prevention and the policing of agricultural crime. The research has raised awareness of the significance of agricultural crime which has led to significant policy and legal changes, increased police numbers, and innovative security measures to address agricultural crime.
Meet our International Speakers

Emmanual BUNEI

Emmanuel Bunei holds a PhD in Sociology from the Moi University in Kenya. Currently he is a part time lecturer at the Department of Sociology and Psychology at Moi University. Mr Bunei was also a guest editor for Farm Crime and African Rural crime issues to the International Journal of Rural Criminology and co-edited with Dr Joseph Donnermeyer. Mr Bunei has a number of papers in referred journals with regards to farm and rural crime. A number of papers were also featured in the International Journal of Rural Criminology as well as International Journal of Current Research. Mr Bunei also has submitted a book Chapter in the Routledge International Handbook of Rural Criminology as well as an accepted book chapter in the Pulgrave Handbook of Criminology and Global South.

Mr Bunei is also involved in a number of research projects in Kenya. He also presented a number of papers at International Conferences.

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to analyse the current challenges impeding policing of stock theft in Africa and suggested future ways to tackle it. Though attempts have made to address the menace, it remains one of the dynamic rural crimes in Africa. Specifically, less has been done to critically analyse policing challenges accompanying prevention of stock theft. By use of documentary reviews and in-depth analysis of policy documents – the paper aims to provide critical understanding of the persistence of stock theft in third world countries. What is emerging is stock theft policing challenges. The paper highlights how social-cultural, political, infrastructural and communication development mutually reinforce each other to promote and impede policing of stock theft in Africa and Kenya specifically. The paper concludes by suggesting that there is need for more in-depth inter-disciplinary studies of stock theft that shall inform development of practical and relevant interventions that can address changing dynamics of stock theft in Africa.
Meet our South African Speakers

Ms Lorraine Claassen
AfriForum
Farm Attacks:
The role of statistics and crime analysis

Mr Christopher Gumbi
University of Limpopo
An investigation of the motivational factors of farm attacks and its consequential injuries.

Dr Witness Maluleke
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Practical guidelines for integrating conventional and technological methods of combating stock theft in South Africa

Mr WA Lombard
University of the Free State
Factors affecting livestock theft in the three South African provinces bordering Lesotho

Dr Hennie Lochner
UNISA College of Law
The lack of Crime Intelligence: The Country can go up in flames

Dr Jane Buys
Free State Agriculture
Challenges and shortcomings of the criminal justice system in rural areas

Ms Ina Cilliers
Member Gauteng Provincial Legislator
The need to institute specialised rural crime units to deal with the ongoing spate of farm attacks and murders.

Prof Anthony Minnaar
UNISA College of Law
The impact of wildlife crime on the rural economy in South Africa: A case study of rhino poaching.

Mr Willie Clack
UNISA College of Law
The statistical myths of violent crimes in rural areas

Prof Rudolph Zinn
UNISA College of Law
Overview of serious and violent crime in South Africa

Ms Cecili Doorewaard
UNISA College of Law
Not just another Commodity: Livestock theft as an Organised Crime.

Prof Johan Prinsloo
UNISA College of Law
Ritualistic mutilation as part of predatory theft of livestock in rural South Africa

Mr Schalk Pienaar
Millenium
Together light years ahead – The Millennium Management Rural Community crime risk management solution to crimes affecting agriculture

Mr Bertus van Heerden
Agri Inspec
Agriculture: Cross Border Crimes

Mr Uys van der Westhuijzen
Agri Western Cape
Rural Safety: Foundation for Food Security
A modern farmer faces many challenges and takes on different roles to overcome them. You’re responsible for your farm, your workers, your assets, your home and your family. At Santam we understand just how much a farmer does. That’s why we take an in-depth, scientific approach to protecting your crops and assets on and off the farm. Because we believe you deserve one-of-a-kind insurance. For more information, call your broker or visit www.santam.co.za/products/agriculture. Santam. Insurance good and proper.