ABSTRACT

Private short-term letting via Airbnb has exploded in the last decade, yet little is known about how this affects neighbourhood crime rates. We estimate the association between Airbnb short-term letting activity and six types of police-reported crime in London, as well as an intervening mechanism—the capacity for social control—using data on Airbnb lettings in 4,835 London LSOAs observed for 13 calendar quarters. Our results suggest that active Airbnb activity properties contribute to neighbourhood crime, and these effects are more likely to be attributable to changes in criminal opportunity than the erosion of neighbourhood social control.

BIO

Dr Charles C. Lanfear is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Criminology in the University of Cambridge where he teaches research design, quantitative analysis, and open science practices. His research focuses on how crime, victimization, and social control are related to large-scale changes in communities and society, such as increases in gun carrying in the United States during COVID-19 and the proliferation of short-term lettings in London. He approaches these topics using methods from demography, epidemiology, and econometrics. This work has been published in outlets including *Science Advances*, *JAMA Network Open*, *Criminology*, and the *Annual Review of Criminology*.