

Climate Change, Crime and Criminology



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Abstract

This lecture discusses the importance of and proposed content for a dedicated criminology of climate change. It begins by describing how climate change takes the aspect of a 'slow crisis'. The paper then provides an outline of different kinds of crimes that are associated with climate change and its consequences. The paper argues that, fundamentally, criminology needs to critically examine the consequences of global warming for national security, societal peace, and social and ecological wellbeing. As part of this engagement future research will need to be multi-jurisdictional in scope and transnational in nature. Among the key issues that it needs to address are those pertaining to bio-security and social conflict, compliance and environmental law enforcement relating to carbon emissions strategies, and dealing with the paradoxical harms associated with specific strategies designed to mitigate/adapt to climate change. For criminology there is no doubt that new typologies of harm have to be developed, new methodologies for global research instigated, and new modes of social control devised if we are to adequately address climate change. This demands a re-thinking of basic assumptions concerning "crime," the "state" and "justice."

Rob White is Professor of Criminology in the School of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Tasmania in Australia. He has written extensively in the areas of criminology, youth studies and public policy. He has a particular interest in developing the area of eco-global criminology, which examines the transnational nature of ecological harm, and in enhancing criminological research on issues such as climate change and the international disposal of hazardous waste. Professor White is the author of *Transnational Environmental Crime: Toward An Eco-Global Criminology* and *Crimes Against Nature: Environmental Criminology and Ecological Justice*. He is also the editor of *Climate Change From a Criminological Perspective*, *Controversies in Environmental Sociology*, *Environmental Harm: A Reader* and *Global Environmental Harm: Criminological Perspectives*.