

The Emerald Handbook of Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development

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The Emerald Handbook of Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development

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List of Abbreviations

ACRO	Criminal Records Office, United Kingdom
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AQ	Al-Qaeda
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
AQIS	Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent
AML	Antimoney laundering
APC	Association for Progressive
BAES	BAE Systems
BORs	Beneficial ownership registers
CAA	Clean Air Act, United States of America
CAF	Corporación Andina de Fomento
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEB	Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEPAL	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
CFAs	Company Formation Agents
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CLS	Contrats locaux de sécurité
CoE	Council of Europe
CND	Commission on Narcotic Drugs
CPS	Crown Prosecution Service of England and Wales
CPTED	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
CSI	Communication Citizen Security Initiative

CRP	Cocaine Route Programme
CSSF	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund
CT	Counterterrorism
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
DFID	Department for International Development
DOJ	Department of Justice
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
DSD	Division for Sustainable Development
DVRCV	Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria, Australia
E4J	Education for Justice Initiative
EC	European Commission
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EEA	European Economic Area
EIP	Effective Institutions Platform
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency, United States of America
EU	European Union
EUR	Euros
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, United Kingdom
FCS	Fragile and conflict states
FIE	Friends of the Irish Environment
FPD	Forest Protection Department, Vietnam
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GCTS	Global Counter-terrorism Strategy
GEPA	Gender Equality in Public Administration
GBD	Global Burden of Disease
GFC	Global Financial Crisis
GFI	Global Financial Integrity (think tank), United States

GI	Generation Identity (right-wing extremist organisation), Europe
GI-TOC	Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime
GDP	Gross domestic product
GNI	Gross national income
GWOT	Global War on Terror
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, United Kingdom
HSRP	Human Security Report Project, Canada
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ICAI	Independent Commission on Aid Impact, United Kingdom
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICIJ	International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
ICT	Information and communications technology
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internationally displaced persons
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEP	Institute for Economics and Peace, Australia
IFF	Illicit financial flows
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Islamic State
IUU	Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing

JBTF	Joint Border Task Force, Nigeria
KECOSCE	Kenya Community Support Centre
LDCs	Less developed countries
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
LSIL	Large-scale illegal logging
LtG	Limits to Growth
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOD	Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom
MSIL	Medium-scale illegal logging
MWC	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
NCA	National Crime Agency, United Kingdom
NGO	Nongovernmental organisation
NIEO	New International Economic Order
NNEDV	National Network to End Domestic Violence, United States
NSC	National Security Council, United Kingdom
NSDS	National sustainable development strategies
NTFPs	Nontimber forest products
OAS	Organization of American States
OCCRP	Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights
PCI	Political Corruption Index
PETS	Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys
PPSA	Public Protector South Africa

PVE	Preventing violent extremism
QSDS	Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys
RAMSI	Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands
REA	Rapid Evidence Assessment
RESOLVE	Researching Solutions Against Violent Extremism
RRF	Return and Reintegration Fund, United Kingdom
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAPS	South African Police Service
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SCP	Situational crime prevention
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SOGIE	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression
SPIA	Strategic Planning and Interagency Affairs Unit of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
SRA	Special Rating Areas, South Africa
SSIL	Small-scale illegal logging
SSR	Security Sector Reforms
TCCs	Thuthuzela Care Centres, South Africa
TCSPs	Trust and Company Service Providers
TI	Transparency International
TST	Technical Support Team
TCSPs	Trust and Company Service Providers
UK	United Kingdom
UMYDF	Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCRC	United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations Drug Control Program
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNHCR	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNTOC	United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
USCAP	United States Climate Action Partnership
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
V-Dem	Varieties of Democracy
WB	World Bank

WCED	United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WHO	World Health Organization
WHRD	Women's human rights defenders
WIN	Water Integrity Network
WJP	World Justice Project
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOUGNET	Women of Uganda Network
WTO	World Trade Organization
YPLL	Years of potential life lost

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Foreword

Rt Hon Helen Clark

Foreword to Handbook on Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development

The *Handbook on Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development* presents critical thinking about the bold and visionary agenda embodied in the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how it relates to issues of crime and justice. It examines a range of global challenges which current and future generations must tackle to improve the quality of individual lives and the health of communities and to sustain our planet's ecosystems. It emphasises the importance of international solidarity. The contributions, varied in focus and scope, emphasise the need for tolerance, mutual understanding, inclusion and responsiveness. These values sit at the heart of the SDGs.

It is 48 years since the landmark 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm recognised the importance of holistic approaches to human development and environmental protection. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, recognises not only the progress made but also the dire state of the global commons and of other aspects of life on our planet.

We face major challenges ranging from those of multidimensional poverty to gender and other inequalities and gender-based violence, pandemics, corruption, organised crime, exploitation of migrants and ecosystem degradation, including climate change. Addressing these challenges has become harder as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic which has become a full-blown global health, economic and social crisis.

The 2030 Agenda is comprised of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Taken together, they establish a universal framework for the realisation of human rights, human development and environmental sustainability. This handbook contains contributions from academics, practitioners and policy stakeholders who bring diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives to their examination and issues of justice and crime in the context of the SDGs.

Throughout my career in public life at the national and global levels, my aim has been to contribute to building sustainable, equitable and just societies. My role as, first, Prime Minister of New Zealand and then as United Nations Development Programme Administrator exposed me to the challenges faced by countries around the world as they endeavour to achieve sustainable development. I continue to advocate for tackling long-standing and multidimensional

challenges such as gender inequality, poverty and environmental degradation. Dimensions of these issues are explored and illustrated by evidence-based research in this book.

Acknowledging new challenges while continuing to address known problems

Poverty, marginalisation, discrimination and unequal access to justice, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution impact adversely on people's lives around the world. They obstruct variously access to adequate income shelter, education and health services for all. We must reexamine how we address old challenges and tackle new ones in order to move forward. Doing so requires continued investment in gathering evidence and in good public policy design and implementation which supports all countries to build their capacity for action for sustainable development.

An area of particular concern is the risk of victimisation, which is unevenly distributed across groups in societies. In 2017, the International Labour Organization reported that more than 40 million people are still subjected to modern slavery, 71% of whom are women and girls. This grave human rights violation is exacerbated by poverty, cultural discrimination and a lack of access to legal and social justice. The complexity of these issues, their drivers and the need for evidence-based policy responses to them are tackled in several chapters in the Handbook.

Violence against girls and women is a pernicious blight on the realisation of their rights and on their ability to reach their full potential. The Handbook examines the policy challenges of addressing the high prevalence of violence against women globally and the prevalence of violence in other settings. Intimate partner violence continues to pose a significant threat to the health, well-being and safety of women and children worldwide.

The Handbook also examines the consequences of climate change as it relates to the UN's sustainable development agenda. Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, including those of the poorest peoples and countries who have played no part in causing it. The case for action to adapt to and mitigate climate change is clear and is elaborated on in this book.

The SDGs range across the many challenges facing our world. It is crucial that countries are held accountable to the broad commitments they made when agreeing to the SDGs, including to building secure and peaceful communities which uphold fundamental principles of justice, fairness and equality. Justice systems and their capacity to uphold human rights and act against discrimination need to be improved as part of that endeavour. Gender inequality remains pervasive. Indigenous people continue to be marginalised in many societies. Whole communities suffer disadvantage due to ethnicity and/or faith discrimination. To be LGBTIQ in many societies is to face repression, imprisonment and even death.

A call to action

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be a rallying cry to all nations to realise the vision of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is important to reaffirm that vision and to act against inequality and discrimination

at the global, national and local levels. Furthermore, the overlapping nature of these issues suggests that addressing inequality and promoting social and environmental justice must also provide the basis for sustainable peace and citizen security in our communities.

The focus of the Handbook is on how crime, violence, exploitation and corruption come together to constitute significant challenges to human development and environmental sustainability. The pursuit of security and development should not come at the expense of human rights or social justice.

All societies face challenges in meeting the SDGs. Collaboration between the widest possible range of stakeholders is needed. As countries are increasingly interconnected through trade, migration and information and communications technologies, it is no surprise that policy decisions in one place can have substantial impacts elsewhere. This presents both opportunities and challenges.

The 2030 Agenda requires us to think holistically about ‘development’. That is vital for ensuring the health and well-being of people and our planet. The issues highlighted in this Handbook help us to better understand the steps which could be taken to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve society-wide transformation for sustainable development.

There is a role for the academic community at large to play in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Universities can leverage their strengths in and capacity for cross-disciplinary research and teaching. Academics can help build the evidence base needed to inform sustainable development, as they have through their contributions to this book.

Research also contributes to achieving accountability, which is central to implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Progress on the Agenda should continue to be monitored to inform the development of future national progress reports, national indicators, measurement and evaluation. The Handbook highlights the links between the nature of governance and economic, social and environmental policies.

The challenges our world faces are daunting, but we can’t walk away from them. The 2030 Agenda’s vision of a world without poverty and conflict, where no one is left behind and where we achieve progress within nature’s boundaries is compelling. The contributions to the Handbook contribute to our understanding of both the challenges and the solutions. I commend this publication to readers.

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Part 1
Contextualising the Crime
Development Nexus

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Chapter 1

The Nexus between Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development*

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and Rob White*

Abstract

This chapter introduces the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considers how criminological research, policy and practice can advance this global agenda. It critically accounts for the complex geopolitical, institutional and ideological landscapes that gave rise to this agenda and the challenges this poses for implementing the SDGs today. The chapter also raises important questions about the viability and consequentiality of global efforts to govern the nexus between crime, justice and sustainable development on account of the gravest threat to humanity, climate change. We conclude that all of these issues highlight the need for scholars and practitioners with expertise on crime and justice to approach this agenda from a critical standpoint. At the same time, we acknowledge that the SDGs remain the best global framework that we have for promoting safer and more equitable societies.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals; criminology; climate change; global crime governance; international development; public criminology

Introduction

In the weeks and months directly preceding the completion of this volume, we found ourselves fixated on the Covid-19 global health pandemic. At the time of writing this chapter, April 2020, millions of people around the world have been infected by the virus, hundreds of thousands have died globally and without a

*This chapter expands upon issues and themes originally discussed in our 2018 article in the *British Journal of Criminology* (see [Blaustein et al., 2018](#)).

vaccine the endgame is far from certain. Economies are teetering on the brink, lives and lifelong savings are being lost and millions of people have been cast into unemployment. For many, day-to-day life has changed with countries around the world entering periods of ‘lockdown’ and the notion of social distancing becoming the norm. The present is bleak and the future uncertain. In recent memory, life has not seemed more precarious for billions of humans on Planet Earth.

The pandemic is by no means the focus of this volume and it is certainly not a ‘harmescape’ (Berg & Shearing, 2018) that any of us would have predicted when we first began working on this book. Nevertheless, it would be amiss of us to ignore this significant global challenge and to delve straight into a discussion of the ‘crime-development nexus’ and the history and politics of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without setting the current global context.

In many ways, the post-Covid world will be very different from the one which inspired this volume. The financial and geopolitical impacts will be expansive and unprecedented; however, in other ways the challenges will remain the same and if anything, the need for global strategies to address the sustainable development challenges examined through this volume will be heightened. To this end, we hope that this global crisis may ultimately serve as a reminder of the importance of enlightened and sustainable policies (Jones, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how global problems compound, and are compounded by, existing inequalities and disparities that increase the vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable (van Dorn, Cooney, & Sabin, 2020). These vary depending upon location and circumstance. However, there are also similarities across the globe in the challenges that arise. For example, among women’s groups, advocates and scholars’ recent discourse has centred on the additional harms likely to flow from ‘stay at home’ policies that most negatively impact those subjected to domestic and family violence (Fitz-Gibbon & Meyer, 2020). UN Women (2020) have described violence against women (VAW) as the ‘shadow pandemic’, recognising that the tensions and unease generated by the pandemic, not to mention the huge loss of financial security (income and employment) for many, have combined to heighten the risk of violence for women and children worldwide. Home is not always a safe place to be. It is also a site of gendered labour (Wenham, Smith, & Morgan, 2020), and the disparities between the work we value and the work we pay for have never been so apparent than in countries where millions of children are now requiring home schooling and care from home in attempts to slow the spread of the virus.

Meanwhile, health advice that stresses the importance of ‘physical distancing’ and ‘washing your hands’ finds little purchase in the crowded slums of Brazil, South Africa and India. For these populations, you cannot escape living with too many people in close proximity when housing provision has never been sufficient to do so. Water is scarce for billions of people on the planet – so this preventive health measure simply is not possible in such circumstances (Hausmann, 2020; Kaul, 2020; Noko, 2020).

Housing, water, health, access to finance, poverty, violence, these and many other issues lie at the heart of efforts to stem the impacts of the Covid-19 global health pandemic but of pertinence here they also lie at the heart of the SDGs. In pandemic conditions the SDGs are once again brought into sharp focus. Indigenous people in Australia, the Amazon and North America are faced with dire threats to their communities in ways unmatched in non-Indigenous societies. The poor, the destitute, the refugee, the stateless and the homeless are all especially vulnerable, not only to contracting the virus, but because health systems and preventative health measures expressly and explicitly have not been designed for 'them'. Gross inequalities and injustices are also evident in what [Currie \(2017\)](#) describes as the 'North's Souths'. For example, in the United States, Latino and African Americans are dying at much higher rates than white Americans ([Perry, Harshbarger, & Romer, 2020](#)). Amidst such conditions, victim hierarchies are reproduced and exacerbated as economic and political elites lay claim to the best health care possible, while elsewhere the uninsured are turned away.

The pandemic simultaneously highlights not only the importance of maintaining and investing in effective institutions of global governance and international cooperation but also the significant shortcomings of our existing institutions and systems of governance. The World Health Organisation (WHO) in particular has attracted significant criticism from various circles, world leaders and commentators for its handling of the crisis. Others have come to the defence of the organisation by emphasising that its institutional failures must be understood in relation to the growing crisis of multilateralism and the limited capabilities of international organisations which are, in part, a product of underresourcing ([Hameiri, 2020](#)).

Similarly, as discussed in this chapter and elsewhere throughout the volume, the challenge of promoting and implementing evidence-driven policies that serve the global public interest (an idea not unproblematic in its own right) is complicated by the politics of the international system and the necessitated cooperation underlying nations responses to this global health pandemic. Perhaps even more striking than the failures of global health governance are the evident bias, incompetence and indifference displayed by some national governments which has been breathtaking, both metaphorically and literally. For criminologists, concepts such as 'state-corporate crime' ([Michalowski & Kramer, 2006](#)) and 'ecocide' ([White, 2015](#)) spring to mind and unsurprisingly emerging evidence suggests that many domestic responses were at least initially driven by the political and economic interests of elites rather than the needs of the many.

Political economists have already started to argue that this crisis could potentially lead to significant changes in our global capitalist order; yet the nature of these transformations and their economic, political and social impacts are as yet unclear ([Stiglitz et al., 2020](#)). The same can be said of the criminological implications of this crisis and academic criminologists and international practitioners are already starting to consider what this will hold for the future of our research, policy and practice. We offer no answers or certainties here, nor was it

our intention for this volume to speak to how the SDGs should apply and be realised in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, but rather we stress that Covid-19 is not the only global crisis that our species faces. Once the pandemic is eventually contained, perhaps in a matter of years, and humans and governments adapt to their 'new normal(s)' in a period of global recovery, significant problems including poverty, inequality and most significantly climate change will still need to be addressed.

As this volume demonstrates, all of these issues intersect with the problems of crime and questions of justice. Our values, expectations and capabilities may change as a result of this pandemic but the SDGs, flawed as they may be, remain the best international framework that we have for developing comprehensive, global solutions to these issues.

Understanding the SDGs

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda comprises 17 SDGs that establish a universal framework for the realisation of human rights and environmental sustainability across a range of issue areas (see [Table 1.1](#)). Goals are accompanied by targets and indicators. For example, SDG 1 is 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' and has five specific targets, each with their own indicators, as well as two additional resource and policy-oriented targets. The first Target 1.1 is 'By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day'. The Indicator for this 1.1.1 is 'Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)'. The goals, targets and indicators are ambitious and precise. A cursory examination of the list of the 17 SDGs reveals that they go to the heart of global inequalities and environmental, social, economic and political issues.

In contrast to its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a number of the SDGs address issues relating to crime, justice and security. Most notably, SDG 16 explicitly calls upon members of the international community to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' (General Assembly resolution 70/1: 25). In contrast to the MDGs, which were largely silent on gender-based violence, the SDGs elevate the importance of securing the personal safety of women and children through eliminating men's VAW ([Fitz-Gibbon & Walklate, this volume](#)). Various other SDG targets also either directly or indirectly correspond to criminological issues including trafficking, responding to environmental crimes and preventing the exploitation of migrants.

Although not necessarily framed explicitly as criminological issues, the inclusion of these targets reflects a shared belief amongst members of the international community that crime, violence, exploitation and corruption constitute significant threats to economic growth, human development and environmental

Table 1.1. The Sustainable Development Goals.

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: Adapted from UN General Assembly resolution 70/1.

sustainability (Blaustein, Chodor, & Pino, 2020; Blaustein, Pino, Fitz-Gibbon, & White, 2018). To this effect, a former President of the UN General Assembly Sam Kutesa declared:

...in order to deliver on their promises of sustainable development, Member States must ensure that societies are secure and peaceful, including through the promotion of the rule of law and strengthening of the criminal justice systems that uphold the fundamental principles of justice, fairness and equality. (Kutesa, 2015)

Implicit in the 2030 Agenda then is the assumption that there are serious problems occurring around the world, and that these can only be fixed by the concerted collaborative efforts of different members of the international community which include nation-states, international organisations, regional coordinating bodies, nongovernmental organisations and even private corporations. The idea is that these actors must work together to enhance the capacities of developing countries to combat various forms of crime, address their underlying causes, promote environmental justice and uphold the rule of law. Failure to do so is widely recognised as an obstacle to the realisation of the international community's aspiration to promote a model of sustainable development that 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland, 1987, sec. 3, par. 1).

In response to these developments, the *Emerald Handbook on Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development* interrogates the challenges and ambiguities of various elements of the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of criminology and its aligned disciplines. This project takes as its starting point the view that the SDGs provide an important opportunity, and in some cases starting point, for considering global dimensions of these problems alongside their localised manifestations. We also accept that many of the stakeholders listed above do indeed have important roles to play when it comes to developing effective and ethical responses to these issues. Such responses necessitate greater cooperation and debate and this is something that their inclusion within the SDGs appears to support.

At the same time, we are cognisant of the fact that the framing of the links between crime, justice and sustainable development within the SDGs has been shaped by institutional interests and political agendas alongside expert deliberations or research (Blaustein, Chodor, & Pino, *this volume*). Further to this, we recognise that the causes and consequences of these crimes and injustices are inherently complex and often transcend national borders.

As discussed in this chapter, there has been a historical tendency to frame many of these issues as problems that predominantly affect the 'underdeveloped' or 'developing' world when, in fact, the social and economic pathologies of crime and injustice as they exist today in the Global South are often at least partly attributable to their historical and enduring relations with the Global North. In this regard, globalisation has been described as a driver of transnational crime and global injustices while also creating incentives and opportunities for addressing these problems. The success of past efforts to address these problems by adopting global conventions or promoting 'best practices' in crime prevention and criminal justice is debatable but most would probably agree that the problems of crime and injustice are most pronounced, or at least most visible, in the Global South and the 'North's South' (see Currie, 2017, also *this volume*). In this regard, one might argue that advancing an equitable model of sustainable development is in fact a prerequisite for combating crime, promoting security and addressing injustices.

In our 2018 article titled '*Criminology and the UN Sustainable Development Goals*', we adopted an ambivalent stance towards the 2030 Agenda as a vehicle

for promoting meaningful change (Blaustein et al., 2018). On the one hand, we argued that it provides a valuable framework for promoting wider recognition of these issues at an international level, along with greater consideration of their intersections with other sustainable development problems. At the same time, we suggested that there is a need to recognise that the neutral and benevolent language of the SDGs mask complex and politically contentious issues which, for the reasons discussed above, have no simple or obvious solutions. For example, the issue of ‘trafficking’ that features in SDGs 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 remains contentious and the evidence base which underpins the global antitrafficking agenda is regarded by many scholars as thin and ideologically driven (Chuang, 2010; Goodey, 2008). Nevertheless, the concept is frequently invoked by nation-states and moral entrepreneurs who are keen to promote a law and order agenda that aligns with their particular ideological and political interests (Andreas & Nadelmann, 2008). The concern amongst many academics and civil society actors is therefore that the SDGs will become just another vehicle for these actors to advance their interests and in the process promote ineffective, inappropriate or potentially harmful policies (see Milivojevic, Hedwards, & Segrave, *this volume*).

The SDG negotiation process also necessitated political compromises as the appearance of universal support was essential for legitimising this agenda (see Browne & Weiss, 2015; Dodds, Donoghue, & Roesch, 2017). Because of this, sensitive issues have been framed in such a way so as to avoid potential conflicts or disagreements that could have potentially disrupted the negotiations or limit future buy-in from nation-states. In this regard, it is no coincidence that SDG 5 which focusses on the issue of gender equality includes no explicit reference to the rights, safety or well-being of nonbinary individuals or sexual minorities. As one prominent British LGBT charity has argued, this concession is inconsistent with the SDG’s stated aspiration to ‘leave no one behind’ (Stonewall, 2015).

The politics of the crime-development nexus are also illustrated by the compounding tension between the international community’s enduring addiction to economic growth, the SDG’s intentions to combat poverty and inequality and the urgent mitigation and adaptation efforts needed in regards to climate change. In this regard, green criminologists, political economists and environmental activists have argued that climate change, as both an outcome and a driver of environmental, social and economic injustices, must be understood as a product of our enduring attachment to capitalist development (Kramer, 2020; White, 2018). While the SDGs give us cause to examine these tensions and a set of targets and indicators that can help us to assess our progress towards addressing them, it offers no clear prescriptions for resolving them. Together with concerns about inadequate material resourcing, a lack of political will to implement this agenda and the immeasurability of various targets, this has prompted some critics to dismiss the SDGs as ultimately inconsequential.

We adopt a more optimistic (or at least a more hopeful) stance towards the potential value of the SDGs but acknowledge that all of these issues highlighted above are illustrative of the need for scholars and practitioners to approach this agenda from a critical standpoint. This observation is by no means meant to downplay or deny the status or significance of crime and injustice as sustainable

development issues. Rather, critical engagement with the SDGs necessitates deeper consideration of the discursive and theoretical underpinnings of the issues at stake and of the proposed solutions and frameworks for governance they give rise to. Failure to adopt a critical stance risks undermining the fundamental aspirations of the 2030 Agenda by contributing to the implementation, validation and dissemination of useless, harmful or counterproductive policies and practices. To this effect, this handbook brings together the expertise of a diverse range of scholars and practitioners who set out to explore, theorise and in some cases problematise different criminological aspects of the SDGs.

In the remainder of this chapter, we set out to briefly interrogate the idea of development and consider the importance of this agenda in the context of climate change. We then conclude by providing an overview of the volume's structure, contents and contributors. In doing so, we acknowledge important gaps in the volume's coverage for the purpose of emphasising the need for greater consideration of these issues by scholars and practitioners.

Understanding Development

The SDGs imply that there are serious problems occurring around the world and that these can be fixed by the concerted, collaborative efforts of nation-states. Given the consensus around the SDGs, insofar as they reflect an agreed-upon resolution of the UN General Assembly, questions can be asked regarding the nature and the causes of the problems that have generated this global policy response. For present purposes, we identify three broad approaches to these questions through the lens of development.

The first perspective views development as fundamentally tied to the economic globalisation project. That is, creation of the 'best of all worlds' is viewed through the lens of the market and in particular the capitalist market. Whether through trickle down effects or through niche comparative advantage, the idea is that integration into a global economy will ultimately benefit all. The failures of this approach are evident in heightened inequality within and between states and increasingly belligerent responses to the widely criticised failures of neoliberal policies and practices that have served to deepen the social divides (Babb, 2005; Harvey, 2005; Wade, 2004).

In response to the shortcomings of the 'free market' approach to development, oriented towards productivity and profitability, there emerged the 'capability' approach to development (Lélé, 1991; Robeyns, 2005; Sen, 1999). Here, the emphasis has been on treating socioeconomic development as a means to an end, in particular the enjoyment of individual freedoms and social justice. From this perspective, policy ought to be informed less by top-down imposition than by grassroots participation and collective agency. It requires the mobilisation of people power so that poverty and other issues can be dealt with flexibly and in ways that make sense to people at the local level.

Not surprisingly, given the backlash to the neoliberal model and acknowledgement of its problems from once influential proponents of neoliberal 'shock

therapy' like Jeffrey Sachs (see [Wilson, 2014](#)), it is the latter ideas that have come to dominate international development discourse and practice since the 1990s. The capabilities approach influenced the United Nations Development Programme's first *Human Development Report* ([UNDP, 1990](#)), the MDGs and, most recently, the SDGs. No fewer than 5 of the SDGs explicitly address human development issues and the remaining 12 goals concern them indirectly by addressing issues such as environmental sustainability, gender equality and of particular relevance to criminologists, justice, safety and security.

The enduring influence of the capabilities approach does not mean that it is universally celebrated. From the postdevelopment perspective, the very existence of a global framework for development is problematic and the SDGs as an institutional apparatus surrounding them constitute another form of global domination by the North over the South, of privilege over disadvantage, of elites over the masses. The processes and procedures associated with the formalised acceptance of the 'capabilities' approach is still top-down, and their aspirations are, at best, amelioration of misery and not emancipation of the people ([Escobar, 1992](#)). This viewpoint invites a different reading of the SDGs and the international community's efforts to enact this agenda. Further to this, the pernicious role of transnational corporations, located within a system of global capitalism, for example, is largely ignored in this kind of consensus document. The 'motherhood and apple pie' goals may likewise suggest wide-scale agreement, but they beg the issue of how imperialism, colonialism and the globalised capitalist mode of production have distorted life chances and are intrinsically exploitive of people and environments. If everyone can agree that these goals are laudable, then why is it that the problems identified persist? And why is it that nation-states (and indeed corporations) ostensibly supportive of these goals fail to translate this enthusiasm into concrete action?

Climate Change, Development and the SDGs

Most criminologists and global crime policy experts probably agree that the inclusion of issues relating to crime, justice and security in the SDGs represents a welcome development, if for no other reason than it creates an impetus for further debate and action. Indeed, their inclusion signifies that these are serious problems occurring around the world and that they can only be fixed by the aforementioned concerted and collaborative efforts of state and non-state actors. At the same time, most of us working to understand and address these issues readily acknowledge that they are not the gravest threats to the sustainability of our species or, indeed, our planet. Rather, as discussed in this section, the most significant threat to sustainable development is climate change.

The scientific consensus is that climate change is a problem of human manufacture, although the specific historical forces and social actors responsible for this is still subject to debate ([Holley & Shearing, 2017](#); [Kramer, 2020](#); [White, 2018](#)). The consequences of global warming are evident in climate disruption, extreme weather events, threats to biodiversity and myriad environmental, social and

health-related harms. This does not mean that we should all immediately shift our attention away from persistent criminological problems such as transnational organised crime, gender-based violence and corruption. Rather, it signifies the need for scholars and practitioners to actively consider the intersections between their work and the causes and consequences of climate change. In the years and decades to come, research and practice will be forced by environmental circumstances to shift focus and direction.

Whether the SDGs will contribute to successful modes of adaptation in the spheres of crime, justice and security is debatable. For instance, on the one hand, climate change is explicitly recognised in SDG 13 which calls upon the international community to ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’ (UN General Assembly resolution 70/1). On the other hand, SDG 13 acknowledges that ‘the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change’. In our view, this signifies that the status of climate change within the SDG framework is unclear, perhaps intentionally so.

Meanwhile, scientific analysis of climate change points to two major trends. First, the planet is heating up faster with each passing day, and yet greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise despite scientific warnings and political commitments (UN Environment Programme, 2019). This global heating will continue to have enormous negative consequences, with ramifications that go to the heart of most if not all of the SDGs. Already, things are getting worse for more and more people as climate disruption intensifies existing problems (for example, droughts and water scarcity). Second, each refusal to act decisively and immediately exacerbates global heating. Those failing to act are the hegemonic nation-states, especially the United States, and the big corporates. Delayed cuts in greenhouse gas emissions means deeper cuts are needed, even as we run out of time (UNEP, 2019).

Importantly, the net flow of embodied carbon is from developing to developed countries, such that even as developed countries reduce their territorial emissions this effect is being partially offset by importing embodied carbon. Calculated this way, this implies, for example, that European Union per capita emissions are higher than Chinese when consumption-based emissions are included (UNEP, 2019, p. XV). When it comes to emissions and failures to hit their own carbon emission reduction goals, the United States has the highest per capita territorial and territorial plus consumption-based CO₂ emissions.

The inadequacy of climate action by leading nations in the developed world has negative impacts on those living in developing countries. In the long run, this severely undercuts the possibility of meaningful achievement of the SDG. Yet, analyses of science-based responses to global heating – measures such as reducing polluting industries, provision of public transport and protecting forests – indicate that closing the emissions gap this way could, with proper design, also enhance SDG outcomes. In other words, addressing climate change properly and holistically would have the additional benefit of enhancing the quality of life for people generally (UNEP, 2019). For example, reducing pollution from coal-fired power

stations has obvious health benefits, in the same way that public transportation would advance freedom of movement, including to and from employment.

This returns us to a key theme of the book. Namely, that understanding and responding to the SDGs requires that we see the interconnections between issues, countries and purposes. It also means that we cannot assume that the best strategy or policy will necessarily be accepted or implemented. This, too, is part of the tensions and politics associated with the SDGs. Also, the fulfilment of specific SDGs is contingent upon and shaped by macro-events such as climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. Their success or failure also depends upon the concerted efforts of those who take them seriously and wish to see them concretely achieved. Criminologists form part of those who can potentially make a positive difference, although how they do so is bounded by several important considerations.

Criminological Engagement with the SDGs

As previously argued in our 2018 article in the *British Journal of Criminology*, there are two primary ways that criminologists, and to this we would add practitioners, can support the 2030 Agenda. First, we can actively assist with the design, implementation and evaluation of projects that support safe, just and environmentally sustainable societies. This is not to suggest that our knowledge alone is sufficient for achieving these outcomes but rather that it should be combined with the expertise of development actors and aligned with the interests and knowledge of local stakeholders to inform evidence-based policies and practices (for illustration of this mode of engagement, see [Piquero, 2019](#); [Sherman, 2013](#)).

Second, we can assume a critical role by helping development actors and local stakeholders recognise and resist attempts by international organisations and NGOs, sovereign donors, private corporations and policy entrepreneurs to politicise problems in ways that conflict with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and undermine local needs. This latter role is largely informed by [Stan Cohen's \(1982/1998, p. 30\)](#) identification of 'skepticism' and 'caution' as core values of criminology as an 'intellectual enterprise'. As suggested earlier in this chapter then, critical engagement might therefore help to identify ill-conceived, inappropriate, criminogenic, oppressive, unjust or otherwise harmful crime control policies and practices that might otherwise be promoted in the name of crime control, sustainable development or even social or environmental justice.

Our advocacy of this two-pronged approach is further informed by southern epistemologies that value local perspectives on crime, security and development without succumbing to the moral pitfalls of a purely relativistic stance towards these issues. In this regard, we acknowledge that globally, the most influential ways of thinking about and addressing the problem of crime have overwhelmingly been Anglocentric and universalising. Today this is increasingly being challenged by perspectives, approaches and orientations that take to task the politics of the North, the ongoing legacies of colonialism and the less than subtle Orientalism of

mainstream criminology (Blagg & Anthony, 2019; Carrington, Hogg, & Sozzo, 2016; Iturralde, *this volume*).

This poses a number of issues for the doing of criminology in a global environment. While a full discussion of these is beyond the scope of this chapter, we can say that, fundamentally, it means we need to be aware that harms and crimes are interconnected and intertwined in various ways on a worldwide scale. When it comes to the crime-development nexus, for instance, situations are complex and multifaceted, reflecting vastly different circumstances and yet simultaneously embodying shared aspects of the human condition (and, indeed, the non-human condition). An informed and empowering approach to justice demands that we acknowledge the importance of recognising and acting in regards the differences evident in (1) ways of being (ontology), (2) ways of knowing (epistemology), (3) ways of doing (methodology) and (4) ways of valuing (axiology) (White, 2018). Criminological engagement with the SDGs must therefore grapple with the difficulties posed by attempts to be inclusive of voices from the periphery, including the dispossessed, the young and the elderly, and especially those that are critical of the social relations that sustain the epistemological as well as the aforementioned material realities and legacies of colonialism and imperialism. The difficulties are not solely logistical, cultural, linguistic and/or financial. They also include consideration of hard to accept empirical realities (popular support for autocratic leaders) and paradoxical outcomes (denial of health policies that would, in fact, improve one's own health).

Theorising relationships and global interconnections, as well as appreciating the moral and ethical universe within which criminological work takes place, is essential to understanding the world around us (Blaustein, 2016). Acting upon matters and concerns embodied in the SDGs also requires careful consideration of the institutions of the United Nations and our relationship to these. This, too, can be apparently contradictory. For example, many UN programmes are reliant upon donations from regimes that are hardly the epitome of liberalism, human rights and gender equality. The rhetoric of rights and justice may therefore be confounded by the need to accommodate the sensitivities of authoritarian regimes that preclude public and/or official criticism. Yet, this too is part and parcel of the 'ordinary' UN environment and building and maintaining global responses often necessitates compromises that scholars and practitioners find unpalatable. UN agencies thus walk the peculiar tightrope of speaking about and engaging in actions to implement policies and practices associated with the SDGs but being constrained in doing so by their political masters. Criminologists together with civil society actors can therefore provide useful outside expertise that can be mobilised by international organisations to assist the movement towards the SDG aspirations. For this to occur, however, they must be afforded either a seat at the table (Sénit, 2019) or, at a minimum, discursive representation (Dryzek, 2011).

In their defence, UN agencies have historically made important contributions to addressing SDG issues and creating opportunities for civil society engagement. Furthermore, without the United Nations, the SDG negotiations could not have occurred and there would be no obvious bureaucratic infrastructure to support and oversee their implementation. Indeed, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) played a key role in advocating for recognition of crime and justice as development issues following their omission from the MDGs in 2000 (Blaustein et al., 2020, also [this volume](#)). Following the adoption of the SDGs, they have also led the implementation of major global initiatives such as the ‘Education for Justice’ programme, which seek to educate future generations in order to promote a ‘culture of lawfulness’ (UNODC, n.d.; see also Watson, Yap, Pino, & Blaustein, [this volume](#)). We do not wish to suggest that these contributions have been inherently uncontroversial but rather that international organisations play an important role when it comes to reconciling and balancing expert knowledge with political interests. Of course, it must be acknowledged that their efforts to do so may also be guided by organisational interests and needs (Barnett & Finnemore, 1999).

More generally, when it comes to the efforts to mobilise the ‘international community’, we must consider that key perpetrators of violence, crimes and harms are often in fact nation-states themselves, in conjunction with other powerful actors such as transnational corporations. Their aforementioned failure to address inequality, environmental degradation and exploitation is indeed symptomatic of this fact. This is especially the case with global warming and the continued rise of carbon emissions, even in the face of decades of scientific evidence that says this is destroying our life on this planet. For example, there is knowledge of what needs to be done – starting with the immediate diminishment and eventual stopping of carbon emissions, especially those emanating from the fossil fuel industries. However, as the UN Human Rights Council recently pointed out, while the problems are epic and urgent, the response has been less than forthcoming. In its summary statement for the Climate Change and Poverty report (A/HRC/41/39-17 July 2019), the Council asserts that

Governments and too many in the human rights community have failed to seriously address climate change for decades. Sombre speeches by government officials have not led to meaningful action and too many countries continue taking short-sighted steps in the wrong direction.

For criminologists, all of these tensions and contradictions raise interesting and important questions of where our voice, our efforts and our interventions should lie. There will be conflict between those perpetrating injustice and those confronting the injustice and under such circumstances, criminologists and practitioners will likewise be forced to walk the precarious line that separates critical support from total exclusion and/or governmental subservience. At a minimum, it requires that we be strategic in our approaches and dialogues involving the SDGs. We need to both be part of the picture and separate from it; hence, the notion of being both supportive and critical of the SDGs. The remainder of the chapter provides an overview of the structure and contents of the Handbook, and in doing so, it reveals how criminologists and scholars from aligned disciplines are already beginning to make an important critical contribution to these debates.

Structure and Contents of the *Handbook*

The opening section of this volume sketches out some contextual, ideological and theoretical contours of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Chapter 2, authored by Jarrett Blaustein, Tom Chodor and Nathan Pino, introduces the history of global crime governance in order to consider how the status of development as thematic element of the international crime policy agenda has evolved since the Second World War. The chapter accounts for how crime came to be recognised as a sustainable development issue and considers a number of enduring features of the UN system that remain an obstacle to governing the nexus between crime and development today. In Chapter 3, Sasha Jespersen locates the origins of the nexus between organised crime and sustainable development in the idea of the ‘security-development nexus’ that preceded it. In doing so, Jespersen highlights the risk of the SDGs being securitised and the neglect of development-focussed approaches to combating organised crime. In Chapter 4, Valeria Vegh Weis and Rob White round-off the section with a Marxist critique of the 2030 Agenda’s ideological underpinnings and developmental aspirations. Their argument is that much of the language of the SDGs, and the notion of their universal application, belies the material inequalities that stem from and underpin contemporary global capitalism, thereby practically inhibiting such international agreements from their inception.

Part 2 of the volume moves beyond contextualisation in order to consider the prospects and challenges inherent to facilitating orderly development in the SDG context. In Chapter 5, Elliott Currie introduces the section by examining the monumental challenge that the international community faces in confronting the global violence divide in its pursuit of SDG 16. He argues that meaningful progress can only be achieved through structural change that addresses the inequities that contribute to higher rates of violent death in the Global South and economically and socially deprived communities of advanced industrial societies. In Chapter 6, Kempe Ronald Hope Sr examines the relationship between corruption and sustainable development with specific reference to SDG Target 16.5. Drawing on his scholarly background and his professional experience as an advisor to multiple economic development agencies, Hope outlines the principle corruption channels that represent an obstacle to sustainable development and three policy areas for developing countries to focus on institution building, development, national anti-corruption strategies and demonstration of political will. Chapter 7 written by Danielle Watson, Ariel Yap, Nathan Pino and Jarrett Blaustein adopts a more critical stance towards the rule of law agenda and its influence over the 2030 Agenda. The chapter accounts for the history of this idea and proceeds to illustrate a number of definitional and methodological challenges inherent to promoting a Western rule of law agenda at the global level.

In Chapter 8, Julie Berg and Clifford Shearing draw on their research on policing in South Africa to consider how polycentric models of security governance might support the realisation of ‘peaceful and inclusive societies’ through SDG 16. Drawing on this case study, they outline key factors and conditions that can help to align plural policing systems with the public or collective good. In

Chapter 9, Manuel Iturralde presents a critical reading of the international community's efforts to prevent crime and violence in the Latin American context through the 2030 Agenda. Adopting a postdevelopment stance, Iturralde argues that the implementation of this regime threatens to reproduce the enduring hegemonic influence of Northern actors and institutions throughout the Global South. Accordingly, Iturralde argues that a meaningful and inclusive programme of change necessitates a transformation of the global political economy. Finally, in Chapter 10, Ana Aliverti and Celine Tan conclude this section by examining how donor countries from the Global North utilise development aid to govern migration from a distance. Their critical analysis highlights important tensions that exist within SDG Target 10.7 along with a concern that international efforts to promote the SDGs may contribute to the transnational extension and exportation of the 'northern penal state'. Collectively, the chapters that comprise this section highlight the complex and contentious visions of social order that sit at the heart of the SDGs.

Part 3 balances the previous section's focus on promoting order and security with the SDG's progressive interest in advancing social justice and human development outcomes. Inclusivity thus represents the unifying theme of this section and this is the explicit focus of Chapter 11 written by Diana Rodriguez-Spahia and Rosemary Barbaret which focusses on the prospects and challenges inherent to promoting safer cities through urban planning and design in relation to SDG 11. They argue that SDG 11 provides a promising global policy framework for promoting inclusion and diversity through such efforts but that the distribution of its benefits once it has been implemented may be uneven and thus requires further consideration. In Chapter 12, Eleanor Gordon considers similar issues in relation to SDG Target 16.7 which focusses on building 'responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative' security and justice institutions. Gordon's analysis highlights a number of important obstacles to justice and security sector reform efforts within and beyond the SDG framework and she encourages practitioners to avoid becoming overly focussed with indicators and measurement. In Chapter 13, Katherine Williams and Heddwen Daniels consider the marginalised status of youth in the SDGs and the implications for youth justice. Drawing on Amartya Sen's conceptualisation of justice and their research in Wales, they highlight the importance of developing policies that treat young people, including those in conflict with the law, as full citizens with fundamental rights. Their chapter addresses the aforementioned fundamental aspiration of the SDGs to 'leave no one behind'. Chapter 14 authored by Bridget Harris, Molly Dragiewicz and Delanie Woodlock examines how technology facilitates international advocacy efforts to end VAW and the importance of such efforts in relation to progress towards achieving SDG 5. At the same time, their balanced analysis highlights both the limitations of technology-facilitated advocacy and the role that technology may play in exacerbating the problem of VAW. In Chapter 12, Kate Fitz-Gibbon and Sandra Walklate conclude the section by considering the definitional and methodological challenges inherent to measuring progress towards 'Eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls' (SDG Target 5.2). By acknowledging the inherent limitations of quantitative measures

of gender-based violence, including femicide, they emphasise the need to supplement these indicators with qualitative assessments which go beyond 'counting deaths' for the purpose of 'making women count'.

Part 4 addresses how sustainable development is impacted by numerous global threats, including transnational crime and terrorism. Many of the chapters indicate that the Goals and Targets that set out to address these threats would benefit from more clarity and direction with regard to operationalisation, measurement and policy implications. In Chapter 16, Sanja Milivojevic, Bodean Hedwards and Marie Segrave examine the SDG's focus on human trafficking and modern slavery. The authors contend that the targets and indicators developed to address these issues are not well operationalised and fail to focus attention on underlying factors impacting human trafficking and modern slavery such as migration policies and the gendered nature of the phenomena adequately. Liz Campbell and Nicholas Lord discuss illicit financial flows in Chapter 17. They discuss how they negatively impact the prospects for sustainable development and how SDG 16.4 suffers from weaknesses in conceptualisations, operationalisation and measurement. Campbell and Lord conclude by arguing for situational interventions as a way to understand and reduce illicit financial flows. In Chapter 18, Summer Walker examines global drug policy and how the international community has separated it from development policy until quite recently. Civil society groups and others in the international community utilised the SDGs (such as SDG 3.5) and the UN General Assembly's Special Session on the world drug problem to promote policy alignment between drug policy and development policy. Walker contends, however, that because of the insistence of numerous countries to maintain a criminal justice approach to drug policy, successful alignment requires more clarity on defining development-driven drug policy and policy activism. In Chapter 19, Imogen Richards evaluates the bridging of development discourses and efforts to reduce terrorism and violent extremism within the context of the global war on terror and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism strategy. Focussing on neo-jihadist and right-wing extremism in both Global North and South contexts, Richards argues that UN counter-terror strategies fail to adequately account for the underlying drivers of violence and community disruption such as environmental and economic inequalities within and between the North and the South. Part 4 ends with Chapter 20, in which Simon Mackenzie, Annette Hübschle and Donna Yates view the theft of culture and nature through the lens of green criminology, elucidating how wildlife poaching and the looting of cultural heritage, as well as efforts to control them, are neocolonial in nature. Cultural and natural resources are extracted from the South to the North, and Northern interests are prioritised in discourses and activities geared towards eradicating these offences. The authors argue, however, that the sustainable development framework represented in the SDGs has the potential to counter the neocolonial hegemony of international criminal markets and responses to them.

Finally, Part 5 of the Handbook addresses the intersection between sustainable development and environmental justice. In Chapter 21, John McDonnell, Helle Abelvik-Lawson and Damien Short interrogate whether there is capacity within the current global capitalist system to reach both SDGs 8 and 12, which when

combined seek economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work while also being committed to sustainable production and consumption patterns. Given that even ‘renewable’ energies require the extraction of nonrenewable resources such as lithium, the authors argue that the capitalist system itself is unsustainable, necessitating a new focus on ecological justice for all life on earth if the SDGs are to be realised. Katja Eman and Gorazd Meško train their focus on Slovenia and SDG 6 on access to clean water and sanitation in Chapter 22. The right to safe and affordable drinking water recently recognised by the United Nations is challenged by the fact that many areas around the world treat water as a tradeable commodity. Slovenia went against this trend by including the right to water in the country’s Constitution in 2017. The authors use the Slovenian case to demonstrate the possibilities for achieving SDG 6 and Target 6.1 in particular. Responses to illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing are analysed through the lens of situational crime prevention in Chapter 23 by Nerea Martaeche, Monique Sosnowski and Gohar Petrossian. The authors discuss 163 interventions to reduce IUU fishing and patterns of their usage around the world. Innovative interventions are highlighted and the authors present some potential ways forward to meet SDG 14 such as examining the supply chain for IUU fishing and favouring targeted responses instead of general approaches. In Chapter 24, Anh Ngoc Cao and Tanya Wyatt examine unsustainable and illegal logging in Vietnam. Illegal and unsustainable logging leads to human insecurity, so in order to meet SDG 15 the authors propose solutions for ending damaging harvesting and logging; incorporating the cultural and economic value of forests into national and local planning and improving the use of international donor funding for forest protection. In Chapter 25, Reece Walters discusses efforts to reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from air pollution and promote renewable energies and clean technologies, sustainably. A number of SDGs are concerned with these efforts. Within the frameworks of green criminology and atmospheric justice, the chapter elucidates the political economy of global air pollution, focussing on international trade and how it exacerbates environmental injustices associated with climate change and air pollution. Finally, in Chapter 26, Ronald Kramer and Rob White examine SDG 13 on climate change from a critical perspective. They outline a broad climate action plan and discuss a range of initiatives taken by activists to pressure States to respond to the ever-growing crisis of global heating. The issue encompasses most if not all of the SDGs and urgent action is needed, now.

Conclusion

The viewpoints and perspectives presented in this volume are unapologetically diverse, as are the topics that the various chapters address. In our view, this breadth is a strength of the volume insofar as it provides scope for readers to consider the interconnectedness, strengths and limitations of the SDGs, their application, implication and measurement. At the same time, we acknowledge that there are glaring gaps in the volume’s topical coverage. For example, we were

unable to include chapters that focus specifically on how the SDGs might support international efforts to combat transnational organised crime, how evidence-based policing might support the implementation of SDG 16 in different contexts and how the rights and vulnerabilities of LGBTQI+ individuals have thus far been invisibilised in the SDG context. These are just a few examples of what are still to be progressed and our hope is that the volume will inspire other academics and practitioners to consider how their expertise aligns with the 2030 Agenda in the years to come.

On the other hand, like this book, many view the SDGs as attempting to do too many things and to appease too many stakeholders. The absence of an overarching vision or programme for promoting structural or ideological change, for instance, calls into question whether the 2030 Agenda can be implemented in ways that generate meaningful impact and address the most significant global threats to a sustainable future. For issues relating to crime and justice specifically, the viability and impacts of this agenda will probably vary across different areas and contexts. The volume identifies what are likely to be the uneven effects of the 2030 Agenda. Perhaps more importantly it indicates how the expertise of researchers and practitioners can support the development of effective and appropriate crime and justice policies and interventions in ways that demonstrate contextual awareness and a deeper understanding of the politics of the crime-development nexus.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that genuine efforts were made in the preparation and collation of this volume to attract and include contributors from around the world. The volume features contributors at different stages of their academic careers with personal and professional ties to every continent on earth. It also includes practitioners with direct knowledge and experience of working in the international development system and global crime policy circles as well as a range of academic experts. Having said this, there are obvious social biases in terms of where our contributors are currently based and educated, with the majority having affiliation with universities in English-speaking countries. This is not surprising given that the book is written and published in English. Nonetheless, we are more than aware of the enduring hegemonic influence of the Anglophone world over international criminological research, policy and practice. In any future edition of this volume, we hope to address these issues – of background, of nationality, of language – directly and more comprehensively. For now, we present the *Emerald Handbook on Crime, Justice and Sustainable Development* as an important starting point for understanding how criminological expertise (and that of its aligned disciplines) can be used to support, propel and critique the international community's efforts to implement the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda.

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