CRIMINOLOGICAL ACTIVITY

VOLUME NN ISSUE NN 2026
P-ISSN 3060-5024
DOI: to be assigned

ARTICLE

OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

Title: Provide a concise, informative, specific, and relevant title that accurately reflects the content of the manuscript. Avoid unnecessary abbreviations and overly general titles.

AUTHOR DETAILS WITHHELD FOR DOUBLE-ANONYMOUS REVIEW

Received: DD Month YYYY ▪ **Revised:** DD Month YYYY ▪ **Accepted:** DD Month YYYY ▪ **Published:** DD Month YYYY

ABSTRACT

The abstract must be presented as a single paragraph and must not exceed 200 words. It should include the following elements:
Background: briefly describe the criminological problem, its relevance to crime prevention, law enforcement or public safety, the knowledge gap, and the objective;
Methods: summarise the research design, setting, study period, data sources, sample or document selection, and analytical methods, as applicable;
Results: present the principal findings and relevant quantitative estimates, confidence intervals or qualitative themes, distinguishing recorded offences from estimates of unreported crime where relevant;
Conclusions: state the main conclusions, original scholarly contribution, practical implications, and conditions limiting their application. The abstract must accurately reflect the manuscript and must not contain citations, footnotes, tables, figures, undefined abbreviations, unsupported causal claims, or information not presented in the main text.

Keywords: keyword 1; keyword 2; keyword 3 (List three to ten relevant keywords that accurately reflect the content of the article and are commonly used within the subject area.)

For reviews, theoretical and methodological articles, and short scientific communications, adapt the section structure to the article type. Include an English title, abstract and keywords, a clear scholarly contribution, the applicable declarations and references. Every research manuscript must include a Data Availability Statement. Submit the anonymised manuscript and confidential title page as separate files; retain the substantive methods and ethical safeguards needed for review.

1 Introduction

Replace this instruction with the Introduction. Explain the criminological problem and its significance for crime prevention, preventive services, law enforcement, public safety, victim protection or social reintegration. Critically assess the relevant literature, identify the specific knowledge or practice gap, and explain why it matters. State the objective, research question or hypothesis and the original theoretical, empirical or methodological contribution. Regional studies should explain their relevance beyond the immediate setting, including the conditions under which findings may inform other countries or regions. Do not include detailed methods, results or conclusions here.

For analyses of legislation or institutional practice, identify the analytical problem and scholarly contribution beyond a descriptive account of rules or activities. For prevention programmes, distinguish implementation outputs, such as the number of meetings or inspections, from outcomes such as changes in victimisation, reoffending or public trust.

2 Methods

Replace these instructions with a reproducible account of the design, setting, study period, data sources, sampling or document selection, measures, procedures and analysis. Justify the chosen approach, cite established methods and describe new or modified methods in detail. State the unit of analysis and inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Quantitative, experimental and quasi-experimental studies: describe recruitment, the sampling frame, sample-size rationale, intervention and comparison conditions, assignment or selection processes, baseline characteristics, follow-up, attrition and outcome measurement. For programme evaluations, report implementation fidelity, plausible alternative explanations and the assumptions supporting causal claims. In non-randomised designs, explain confounding and selection bias; for difference-in-differences, examine the parallel-trends assumption and relevant timing issues.

Qualitative and mixed-methods studies: explain participant selection, the interview or observation setting, the researcher's role and relationship to participants, the data collection instrument, recording and transcription, coding or interpretive approach, and the basis for assessing analytical adequacy. Explain how differing accounts and researcher influence were considered. For mixed methods, specify when and how the strands are integrated.

Theoretical and comparative legal studies: identify the concepts, jurisdictions, legislation, decisions, documents and time periods studied; explain the selection criteria and interpretive or comparative method. Distinguish enacted rules from their implementation. Provide precise citations and the relevant versions or effective dates of legal sources. Explain the contribution to criminological knowledge or practice.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: report the review question, protocol or registration where available, databases and other sources, complete search strategies and search dates, eligibility criteria, screening and extraction procedures, quality or risk-of-bias assessment, and synthesis methods. Explain heterogeneity, dependence between estimates and publication bias where relevant. A narrative review should make its selection and synthesis approach explicit without claiming to be systematic unless those requirements are met.

Administrative, spatial and computational data: identify the data custodian, access conditions, observation period, geographic coverage, offence definitions, denominators, linkage, cleaning, coding, software and versions. Distinguish recorded offences, estimates of unreported crime, self-reported offending and victimisation. Explain changes in law, recording practices or data coverage and their effects on comparisons. Protect individuals and sensitive locations in maps, small cells and linked records.

Artificial intelligence and machine learning: describe data provenance, preprocessing, the separation of training, validation and test data, model specification, hyperparameters, benchmarks and performance metrics. Prevent data leakage; assess external validity, calibration, errors across relevant groups and potential discriminatory effects. Predictive accuracy alone does not establish that an intervention is effective or appropriate.

Statistical analysis and uncertainty: report the number of observations, missing-data handling, exclusions, effect sizes, confidence intervals, relevant significance tests, model assumptions, clustering or repeated measures, weighting, sensitivity analyses and software. State any departures from a preregistered plan. Avoid causal language that the design cannot support.

Ethical safeguards and permissions: describe the approvals or reasoned exemptions, access permissions, voluntary consent, withdrawal arrangements, confidentiality and data protection relevant to the study. Give particular attention to minors, victims, people in custody and participants subject to employment-related dependence. Institutional access permission does not replace individual consent where it is required. Include full approval details in the confidential title page; mask identifying details for peer review without removing the substantive safeguards.

The following figure, equations and tables are formatting examples. Replace or delete them according to the article type. The numbers in the tables are entirely synthetic and must not be reported as findings about any real place or population. Cite Figure 1 and Tables 1–2 in the main text when they are retained.

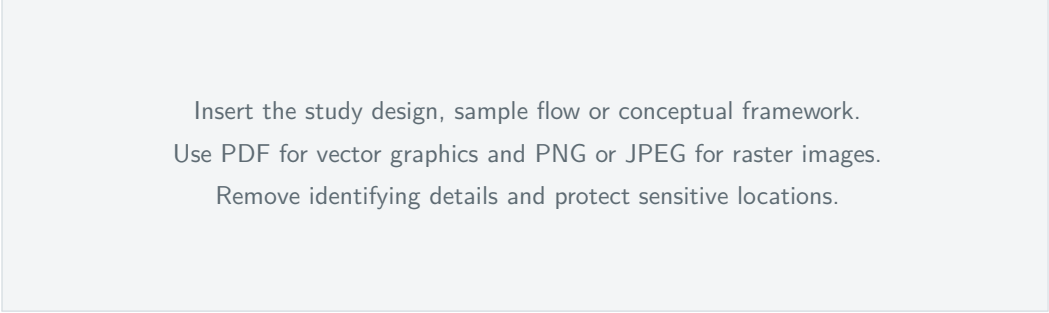


Figure 1. Illustrative placement of a study-design diagram. Define all symbols and abbreviations; state whether any data shown are illustrative.

An illustrative recorded-offence rate per 100,000 population is

$$R = \frac{C}{P} \times 100\,000, \tag{1}$$

where C is the number of recorded offences during the specified period and P is the relevant population denominator. Define the counting rules, period and denominator; a recorded-offence rate is not a direct measure of all crime.

For an appropriate two-group, two-period design, an illustrative difference-in-differences contrast is

$$\widehat{\delta} = (\overline{Y}_{I,\text{post}} - \overline{Y}_{I,\text{pre}}) - (\overline{Y}_{C,\text{post}} - \overline{Y}_{C,\text{pre}}), \tag{2}$$

where I denotes the intervention group and C the comparison group. A causal interpretation requires justified identification assumptions, including parallel trends and no relevant differential concurrent shocks; the equation alone does not establish causality.

An illustrative large-sample 95% Wald confidence interval is

$$\widehat{\theta} \pm 1.96\,\mathrm{SE}(\widehat{\theta}), \tag{3}$$

where $\widehat{\theta}$ is the estimate and SE its standard error. Choose an interval method appropriate to the design, distribution and sample size, and account for clustering or dependence where relevant.

Table 1. Illustrative definitions of outcome measures; replace with the actual study measures.

Measure	Source and denominator	Interpretation limit
Recorded-offence rate	Administrative records; population at risk	Recording and reporting practices
Victimisation prevalence	Survey; eligible respondents	Recall, non-response and coverage
Reoffending proportion	Defined follow-up cohort	Follow-up length and outcome definition

3 Results

Replace this instruction with findings in a logical order corresponding to the research questions and methods. Report sample or document selection, relevant characteristics and principal results. For quantitative studies, provide denominators, effect estimates and uncertainty, distinguishing adjusted and unadjusted analyses. For qualitative studies, explain the themes and supporting evidence, using de-identified quotations where appropriate. For theoretical and legal analyses, present the reasoned findings with precise source references.

Number tables and figures consecutively, cite them in order and place them near their first citation. Table titles appear above tables and figure captions below figures. Define units, periods, groups and abbreviations. Do not repeat the same information in text, tables and figures. Suppress or aggregate data where necessary to prevent identification.

Table 2. Synthetic formatting example: recorded offences per 100,000 population. These values are not research findings.

Group	Before	After	Change
Intervention	120	95	−25
Comparison	100	90	−10

The illustrative difference in changes is −15 recorded offences per 100,000. No confidence interval or causal conclusion can be obtained from these aggregate example values alone.

Report negative, null and unexpected findings. Distinguish evidence from interpretation and avoid claims beyond the study population, observation period, legal setting or data coverage. Changes in police-recorded crime can reflect changes in reporting and recording as well as changes in offending.

4 Discussion

Interpret the findings in relation to the research question and the relevant literature. Explain the contribution to applied criminology, prevention, law enforcement or public safety, and the plausible mechanisms

and alternative explanations. Distinguish conclusions supported by the evidence from hypotheses requiring further study.

Compare studies only where offence definitions, populations, observation periods, methods and institutional settings allow a meaningful comparison. Explain agreements, disagreements and unexpected results. Consider whether changes in legislation, police activity, recording, reporting or population composition could affect the observed outcomes.

Explain how findings from Uzbekistan, Central Asia or another setting inform international knowledge and under what conditions they may be transferable. Discuss legal, social and institutional differences. Avoid treating the absence of a statistically significant result as proof that no meaningful effect exists.

4.1 Limitations and practical implications

Explain the principal limitations and their likely effects: selection, confounding, missing data, underreporting, measurement, recall, researcher influence, small samples, limited follow-up or geographic coverage, access restrictions and model assumptions. State where findings cannot support causal or general claims.

Specify which practitioners or institutions could use the findings, for which populations and under what conditions. Discuss implementation capacity, resources, proportionality, fairness, participant safety, possible unintended effects and monitoring. Recommendations should follow from the evidence; activity counts alone do not establish prevention effectiveness.

5 Conclusions

Answer the research objective directly, summarise the principal findings and identify the original theoretical, empirical or methodological contribution. State only justified implications for prevention, law enforcement, victim protection, rehabilitation or public safety. Include important quantitative results where appropriate.

Do not introduce new data, methods, tables, figures, citations or unsupported claims. Recommendations for further research should address specific limitations or unanswered questions identified in the study.
For double-anonymous review, replace identifying names, initials, grant numbers, approval identifiers, affiliations and repository links in the declarations below with neutral labels as necessary. Retain the substantive safeguards and interests relevant to assessment. Full information is supplied separately in the confidential title page.

Author contributions

For manuscripts with two or more authors, a statement describing each author's individual contributions must be provided using the CRediT Contributor Roles Taxonomy. Authors must be identified by their initials, which must correspond exactly to the names given on the title page. Only the roles that apply to the manuscript should be included.

The following format may be adapted:

Conceptualization, X.X. and Y.Y.; methodology, X.X.; software, X.X.; validation, X.X., Y.Y. and Z.Z.; formal analysis, X.X.; investigation, X.X.; resources, X.X.; data curation, X.X.; writing–original draft, X.X.; writing–review and editing, X.X. and Y.Y.; visualization, X.X.; supervision, X.X.; project administration, X.X.; funding acquisition, Y.Y. All authors have read and approved the submitted version of the manuscript.

Each author may be assigned more than one role, and the same role may be assigned to more than one author. Authors must not claim roles that they did not perform.

For definitions of the contributor roles, authors should consult the CRediT Contributor Roles Taxonomy.

CRediT describes individual contributions but does not by itself determine authorship. Authorship must be limited to individuals who have made substantial contributions to the work, drafted the manuscript or critically revised its intellectual content, approved the submitted manuscript, and accepted responsibility for its content in accordance with the journal's Authorship Principles. Contributors who do not meet the journal's authorship criteria must not be listed as authors and should be named, with their permission, in the Acknowledgments section.

For a single-author manuscript, the statement should be adapted as follows:

Conceptualization, methodology, investigation, formal analysis, data curation, writing–original draft, and writing–review and editing, X.X. The author has read and approved the submitted version of the manuscript. Only the roles actually performed by the author should be retained.

Funding

Replace this instruction with an accurate funding statement. Identify every organization that provided financial support and include the grant or project number where available. If the funder had any role in

the study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, manuscript preparation, or decision to submit the article, that role must be described.
Use one of the following formats and delete the alternatives:

- *This research was supported by [full name of funding organization] under Grant [grant or project number].*
- *This research received no external funding.*

Data availability

Every research manuscript must contain a Data Availability Statement. Replace this instruction with an accurate statement identifying where the data, computer code, analytical models, survey or interview instruments, coding frameworks, protocols, or other resources supporting the findings can be accessed. Provide the repository name and DOI, accession number, or permanent link where available.
Select and adapt the statement that applies to the manuscript, and delete all unused alternatives:

- *The data supporting the findings of this study are available in [repository name] at* `https://doi.org/[DOI]`.
- *The data supporting the findings of this study are included in the article and its supplementary materials.*
- *The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Access is subject to [state the applicable conditions or restrictions].*
- *The data are not publicly available because of [confidentiality, privacy, intellectual-property, commercial, contractual, legal, ethical, security, third-party ownership, or justified technical restrictions]. Requests for access may be submitted to [responsible person or organization], subject to [conditions of access].*
- *The data used in this study were obtained from [third-party source]. Restrictions apply to their availability. Data may be requested directly from [data owner or source] at [permanent link], subject to the applicable conditions.*
- *No new data were created or analysed in this study. Data sharing is therefore not applicable.*

A general statement such as "data are available upon request" should not be used without identifying the responsible contact and explaining any applicable access conditions. Authors must not claim that data are available when legal, ethical, technical, or contractual restrictions prevent their release.

Ethics approval and informed consent

Replace this instruction with all ethics and consent statements applicable to the study. Research involving human participants, personal or restricted data, interviews, surveys, observations, interventions or access to criminal-justice records must receive the approvals and permissions required by the applicable rules before the relevant activities begin. Explain voluntary participation, withdrawal, confidentiality and safeguards for minors, victims, people in custody and participants in dependent relationships. Permission from an institution or superior does not replace individual consent where required.
Where formal approval was obtained, provide the full name of the approving ethics committee or competent institution, the approval or protocol number, and the approval date where available:

> ***Ethics approval:*** *The study was approved by [full name of ethics committee or institution], approval number [number], dated [day month year].*

Where formal approval was not required under the applicable institutional and national rules, use:

> ***Ethics approval:*** *Formal ethics approval was not required under [identify the applicable rule and explain the basis; give the determination by the competent body where available].*

For an analysis limited to publicly available legal texts or published literature, with no human participation or personal data and no applicable approval requirement, adapt:

> ***Ethics approval and informed consent:*** *Not applicable. This study analysed publicly available legal texts or published literature only and did not involve human participants or personal data.*

For research involving human participants, include the applicable statements:

> ***Consent to participate:*** *Voluntary informed consent was obtained from all participants before their participation in the study.*
>
> ***Consent for publication:*** *The participants provided informed consent for the publication of their identifiable information and/or images.*

If the manuscript does not contain identifiable participant information, use:

> ***Consent for publication:*** *Not applicable.*

Authors must not use a "Not applicable" statement where approval or consent was legally or institutionally required. Evidence of approval or consent may be requested confidentially by the Editorial Office. If consent or approval was waived, identify the competent body and the documented basis. Do not publish signed consent forms or identifying approval documents. For minors or participants with limited consent capacity, report the appropriate consent and assent arrangements.

Conflicts of interest

Replace this instruction with an accurate declaration of all financial and non-financial interests that could reasonably be perceived as influencing the research, interpretation of the findings, preparation of the manuscript, or editorial process. Relevant interests may include employment, consultancy, ownership, grants, paid expert work, law-enforcement employment, involvement in the programme being evaluated, institutional or editorial roles, personal relationships, or other professional interests.
If no relevant conflict exists, use:

> *The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to this work.*

If a conflict exists, identify the author concerned, the organization or relationship involved, and the nature of the interest:

> *Author X.X. declares [describe the financial or non-financial interest]. The remaining authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to this work.*

A declared conflict of interest does not automatically prevent publication. Failure to disclose a relevant interest may result in editorial investigation or post-publication action.

Use of artificial intelligence

Replace this instruction with an accurate statement describing any substantive use of generative artificial intelligence or AI-assisted technologies in preparing the manuscript or conducting the research. Identify the tool, version where available, provider, purpose of use, and the parts of the work affected.
If generative AI or an AI-assisted tool was used, adapt the following statement:

> *During the preparation of this manuscript, the authors used [tool name, version, and provider] for [state the specific purpose, such as language assistance, translation, code development, data analysis, or preparation of visual material]. The authors reviewed and verified all generated or modified content and accept full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, integrity, and compliance of the final manuscript.*

If no generative AI or AI-assisted technology was used, use:

> *The authors declare that no generative artificial intelligence or AI-assisted technologies were used in the preparation of this manuscript or in producing its scientific content.*

AI tools must not be listed as authors. Authors remain responsible for all submitted content, including text, references, calculations, data, computer code, images, and translations produced or modified with AI assistance. AI tools must not be used to fabricate references, conceal plagiarism, manipulate data, or misrepresent originality. Confidential manuscripts, personal data, unpublished results, and restricted information must not be entered into an external AI system without appropriate authorization and safeguards.

Acknowledgements

Replace this instruction with the names of individuals or organizations that provided relevant technical, linguistic, administrative, community liaison, fieldwork, data-access, or other assistance but do not meet the journal's authorship criteria. Describe the nature of each acknowledged contribution and obtain permission from every individual named.
Do not use this section to conceal authorship, funding, conflicts of interest, editorial assistance, or substantive use of artificial intelligence. Funding must be reported in the Funding section, and AI use must be reported in the Use of artificial intelligence section.
If there are no acknowledgements, omit this section or use:

> *The authors have no acknowledgements to declare.*

Supplementary materials

Use this section only when supplementary materials accompany the manuscript. List every supplementary file separately using a clear identifier and descriptive title. Each supplementary item must be cited at the appropriate point in the main text, for example, "see Supplementary Table S1" or "see Supplementary File S2."
Use the following format as applicable:

> *Supplementary Figure S1: [descriptive title]; Supplementary Table S1: [descriptive title]; Supplementary File S1: [dataset, computer code, video, appendix, interview guide, coding framework, analysis script, or other material and its description].*

Supplementary materials must comply with the same requirements for research integrity, ethics, confidentiality, copyright, licensing, data protection, and accurate attribution as the main article. Supplementary files must not contain material essential to understanding the principal findings if that material should reasonably appear in the main manuscript. If no supplementary material is provided, omit this section.

Abbreviations

List abbreviations only when several abbreviations are used in the manuscript. Define every abbreviation at its first occurrence in the abstract and again at its first occurrence in the main text. Use each abbreviation consistently and avoid unnecessary abbreviations. Standard SI units and universally recognized mathematical symbols do not normally require inclusion in this list.
Arrange the list alphabetically using the following format:

> *ABC, full term; DEF, full term; XYZ, full term.*

If the manuscript contains only a small number of abbreviations that are already defined in the text, omit this section.

Reference preparation instructions

Instructions to authors (delete before submission): References must be prepared using the journal's numbered citation-order style. References must be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first cited in the main text, tables, or figure captions. Citations must be indicated using square brackets, for example, [1], [2,3], or [4–6]. When a source is cited more than once, its original reference number must be reused. Authors must use the citation commands provided by the template and must not type citation numbers manually.

The reference list must contain only sources cited in the manuscript. References should normally be limited to published works, publicly available preprints, datasets, software, legal instruments, court decisions, standards, institutional reports, or works formally accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished materials should be mentioned only in the main text where appropriate.

Every reference must be relevant, genuine, and verified against the original source. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of author names, titles, journal names, publication years, volume and issue numbers, page ranges or article numbers, DOIs, repository identifiers, and URLs. Fabricated, irrelevant, misleading, or manipulated references are prohibited.

Journal titles must use recognized standard abbreviations in accordance with ISO 4 and the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations where available. If no recognized abbreviation is available, the full journal title should be used. DOIs must be included as active links in the format `https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx`. Access dates must be provided for webpages and other online content that may be updated or changed.

For sources originally published in Cyrillic script, authors must use official Latin-script bibliographic information where available. Otherwise, author names, titles, and source names must be transliterated consistently into the Latin alphabet. The transliterated title should be followed by an English translation in square brackets where appropriate. The original language must be identified at the end of the reference, for example, "(in Russian)" or "(in Uzbek)."

The following examples demonstrate the required reference formats and must be deleted before submission.

Journal article

[1] Author AA, Author BB. Title of the article. *Abbreviated Journal Title.* 2025;12(3):145–152. `https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx`.

Book

[2] Author AA, Author BB. *Book Title.* 3rd ed. Publisher; 2024.

Book chapter

[3] Author AA. Title of the chapter. In: Editor AA, Editor BB, editors. *Book Title.* 2nd ed. Publisher; 2024:32–58.

Conference paper

[4] Author AA, Author BB. Title of the conference paper. In: *Proceedings of the Name of the Conference*; Day–Day Month Year; City, Country. Publisher; 2025:45–52. `https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx`.

Legislation or legal instrument

[5] Jurisdiction or issuing authority. *Official Title of the Legal Instrument.* Instrument number; adoption date; version or amendment date used. Official source and permanent URL. Accessed Month Day, Year.

Technical or institutional report

[6] Author or Organization. *Title of the Report.* Report No. 0000. Publisher; 2025. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Thesis or dissertation

[7] Author AA. *Title of the Thesis or Dissertation*. PhD dissertation. Name of University; 2024.

Dataset

[8] Author AA, Author BB. Title of the dataset. Repository Name; 2025. https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx.

Software or computer code

[9] Author or Developer. *Software Title*. Version 2.0 [computer software]. Publisher or Repository; 2025. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Court decision

[10] Court and jurisdiction. *Case Name or Anonymised Identifier*. Case number; decision date; relevant paragraph or page. Official source and URL. Protect identities subject to reporting restrictions.

Website

[11] Author or Organization. Title of the webpage. Published Month Day, Year. Updated Month Day, Year. Accessed Month Day, Year. URL.

Preprint

[12] Author AA, Author BB. Title of the preprint. Preprint Server. Posted Month Day, Year. https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx.

Article accepted for publication

[13] Author AA, Author BB. Title of the article. *Abbreviated Journal Title*. In press.

Source originally published in Cyrillic

[14] Ivanov II, Petrov PP. Transliterated article title [English translation]. *Transliterated or Official Journal Title*. 2025;9(2):88–94. (in Russian). https://doi.org/10.xxxx/xxxxx.

Citation-format example (delete before submission): applied crime science and research-data stewardship can be cited as separate sources [1, 2]. These examples are not mandatory citations.

References

[1] Marianne Junger, Gloria Laycock, Pieter Hartel, and Jerry Ratcliffe. Crime science: editorial statement. *Crime Science*, 1:1, 2012. https://doi.org/10.1186/2193-7680-1-1.

[2] Mark D. Wilkinson, Michel Dumontier, IJsbrand Jan Aalbersberg, et al. The FAIR guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Scientific Data*, 3:160018, 2016. https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18.

Disclaimer of Liability/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s), and not of the Journal or the editors. The Journal and the editors are not responsible for any damage caused to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products mentioned in the content.