

webinar series 2024

Crime and Place in the Making



Prof Joe Donnermeyer
Ohio State University, USA



Dr Tarah Hodgkinson
Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada



Dr Kreseda Smith
Harper Adams University, UK



Dr Emmanuel Bunnei
The University of New England, Australia

Thursday 5 September

17:30 CET / 11:30 EST / 08:30 PST

**The Role of Space and
Place in Rural Criminology**



Crime and place in the making

Note: this webinar is being recorded!

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ORGANIZATION TEAM



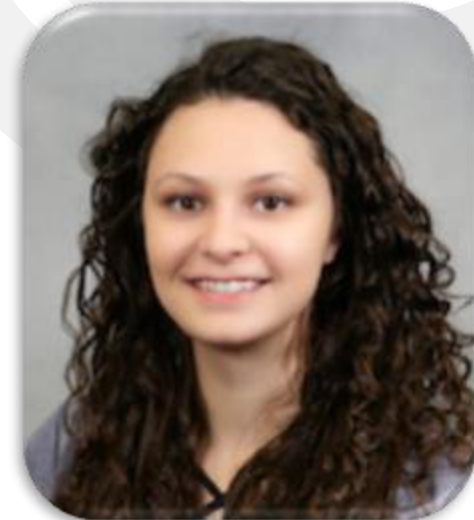
Dr. Vania Ceccato

KTH Royal Institute of
Technology, SE
Network Safe Places



Dr. Corina Graif

The Pennsylvania State
University, USA
Chair Division of Community
and Place



Dr. Jessica Peterson

Southern Oregon University, USA
Co-Chair Division of Rural Criminology,
with Prof Joe Donnermeyer

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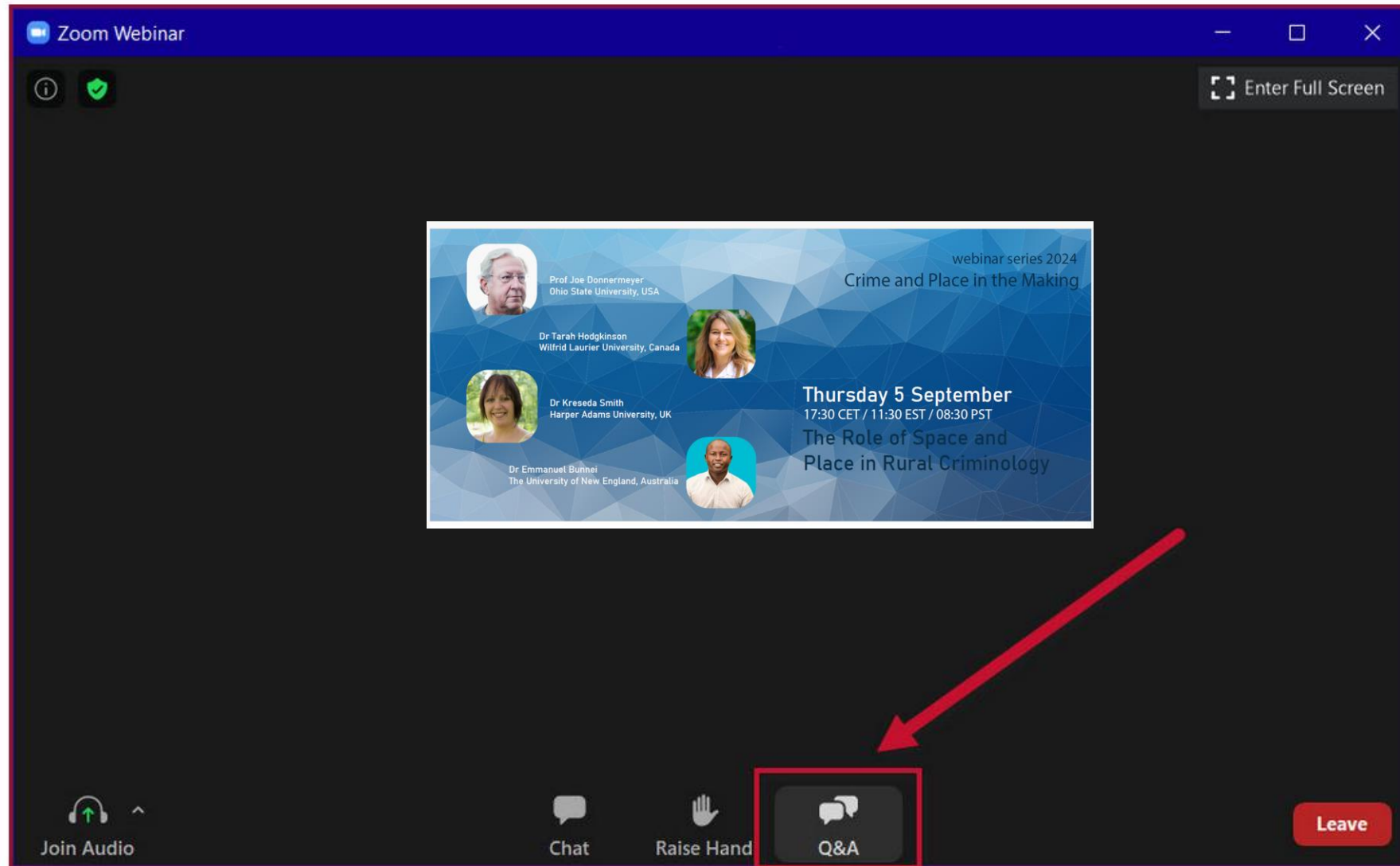
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ENTER YOUR QUESTION USING Q&A FUNCTION



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The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology

The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology



Joseph F. Donnermeyer
Professor Emeritus/Academy Professor
School of Environment and Natural Resources
The Ohio State University

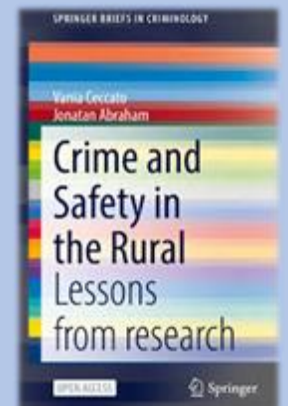
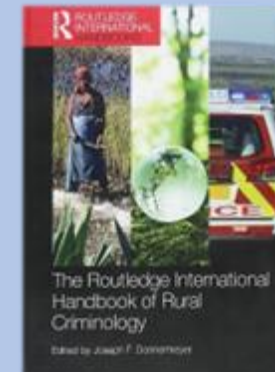
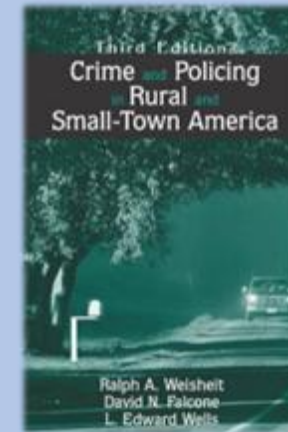


The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology

***rural criminology has developed quite rapidly after a long period when it lacked cohesion in either its research traditions or its criminological theories (Bristol, Routledge, Int. J. of Rural Criminology, European Rural Crime Working Group of ESC, Division of Rural Criminology of ASC, International Society for the Study of Rural Crime)**

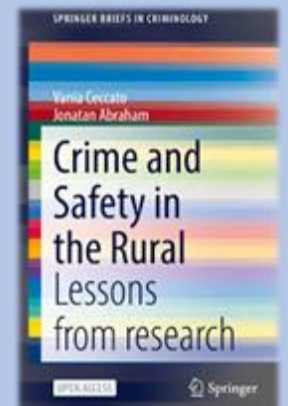
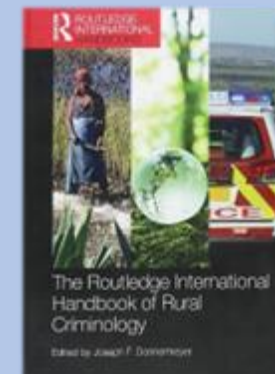
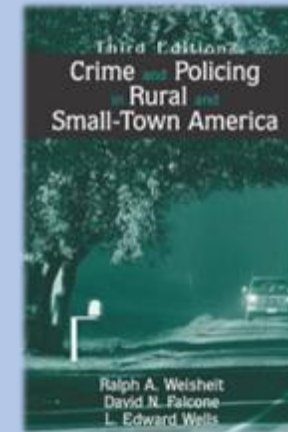


<https://ruralcriminology.org/index.php/IJRC>



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- *why rural is important – about 43% of world population (about 15% in USA, which is nearly 50 million), living in millions of places with great social, cultural, and economic diversity**



The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology

- *continue to argue against “false idylls”
- *continue to argue against dichotomies (rural-urban, *gemeinschaft* -*gessellschaft*) for obfuscating diversity of rural place and space (urban, as well)
- *continue to argue against the concept and logic of social disorganization theory
example: *Farm Crime: An International Perspective* (Routledge)

The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology

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example: *Farm Crime: An International Perspective* (Routledge)
- *continue to debate definitions of rural – I prefer a minimalist definition –
population size/density + not next to a larger place as the only necessary traits,
with all else variable (social, cultural and economic dimensions)
- *FINALLY, continue to develop middle-range theories suitable for rural
contexts, especially in terms of theories that see expressions of crime as forms of
rural social organization (three examples of current rural indigenous theories
– male-peer support for violence against women, civic community theory,
and primary socialization theory)

The Role of Space and Place in Rural Community Confidence in the Police

Dr Kreseda Smith, Harper Adams University
Co-Chair, ESC European Rural Criminology Working Group

Rural Community Confidence

- Despite some recognition of the specific nature of rural crime, police forces in the UK and Europe often struggle to appropriately engage with rural communities
- Recognised that low levels of specialist rural policing teams can lead to poor confidence among rural residents
- Two-way communication is key – but despite increasing technology, this remains problematic for some police forces due to poor funding
- Low levels of confidence = low reporting, easy concealment of criminal activity, increased organised nature of crime

Rural Policing & Wider CJS

- Adequate resourcing of rural policing teams is difficult across Europe
- Population levels or crime hot spots often determine how central funding is allocated
- Wider Criminal Justice System continues to show poor understanding of the true impact of criminality in the rural space and the long-term impact it has on communities
- This is reflected in the sentences being handed down to some rural offenders – those that are detected

Future Needs

- Fairer funding for rural police forces
- More dedicated, specialist Rural Crime Teams
- Recognition that rural crime is not just about property theft
- Better communications between Police and Rural Communities
- Better understanding of the true impact of rural crime among the wider CJS

Any Questions?

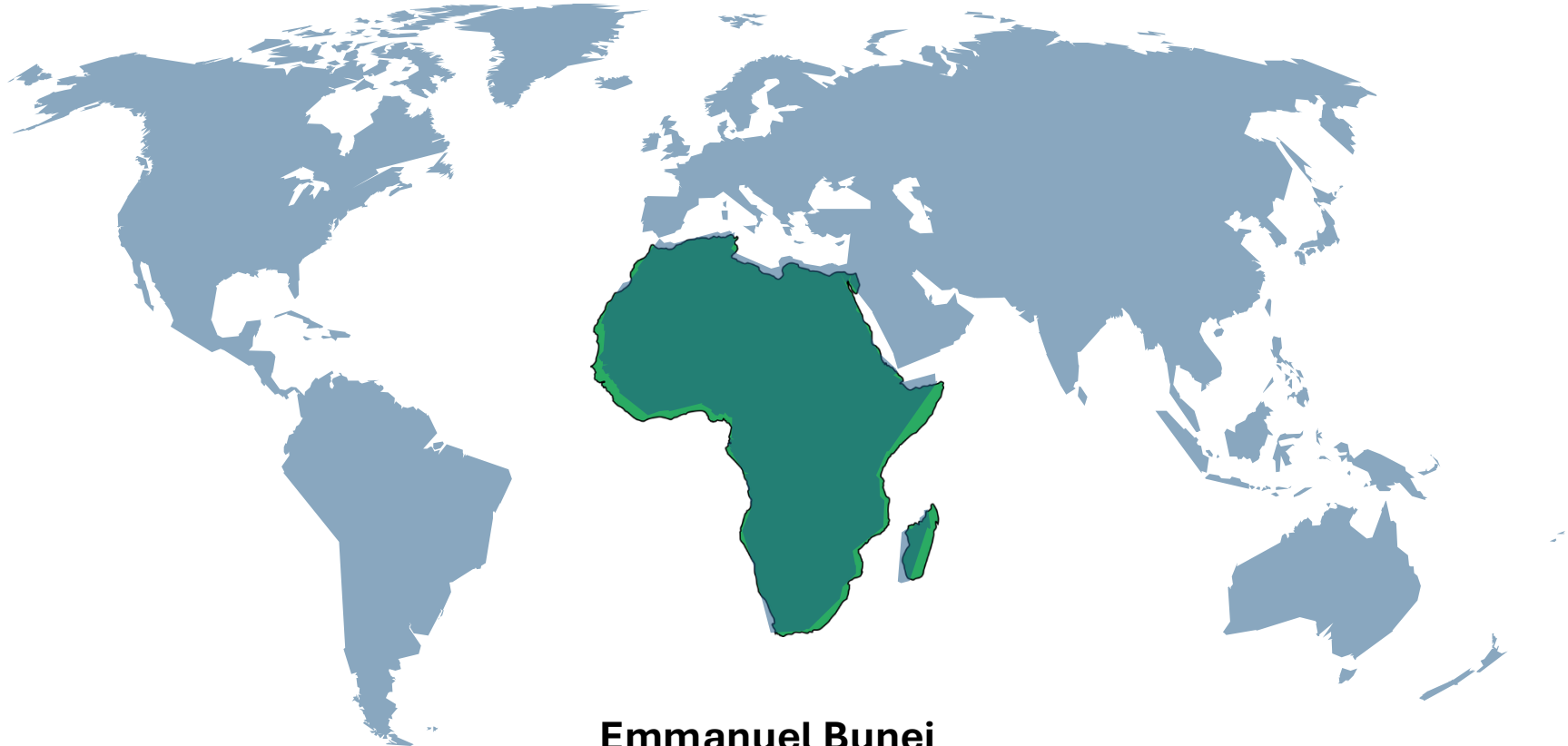
Thank you for your time.

farmcrime@harper-adams.ac.uk;

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Rural crime and place: Perspectives from Africa



Emmanuel Bunei
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University of New England, Australia
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Introduction

- Africa is the second-largest continent and the second-most populated
- 52.13per cent live in rural areas, the highest rural population was in Burundi, 85.94per cent
- By 2050, a **quarter** of the global population will reside in Africa
- **Existences of ubuntuism:** An African perspective that describes how human beings are expected to relate with each other, their families, community, society, the environment and the spiritual world (Nabudere, 2005).
- Africa is both a **victim** and **beneficiary** of global rural crime problems such as poaching of wildlife, traffic of illegal firearms, farm machinery theft
- Perhaps, unique to Africa: farm attacks/murder
- Unique environment to know about crime and place in the making



Some unique issues about place and rural crimes in Africa



- High population, class divides and black-market rural crimes: elephant tusks, coffee, avocado, sandalwood
- Rural-urban connected (From bush to butchery)
- Increasingly becoming highly organized rural crime: cattle theft, poaching
- From cultural to entrepreneurial crime: Cattle theft
- Cultural to criminalization and then resistance, underground – FGM, alcohol laws
- Globally connected (victim vs beneficiary) e.g., agricultural property theft, poaching etc.
- The place of technology /worsening rural crimes e.g., cattle theft
- Multipurpose e.g., cattle theft: population displacement, resource conflict
- Interconnectedness of rural crimes: e.g., cattle theft, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and religious extremism
- The place of corruption especially among law enforcers
- Connectedness to politics: exploitation of natural resources

Place and rural policing in Africa



- Policing strategies are a blend of **informal and formal policing**
- The impact of "ubuntu" practises: non-reporting, non-reporting of crimes, uncooperative residents, preference for informal policing and victimisation local administrators
- Problem of political instability and corruption
- Increasingly organized criminal networks
- Emergence of informal policing some which are illegal because of the ineffectiveness of state police, and poor political leadership



Rural crime in Africa: Some challenges



- Establishing a clear and meaningful definition of the case or concept under study.
 - "rural", "farmer", "cattle theft" and "violence against women" exhibit variations across regions, cultures, and communities.
- Many countries lack consistent and comprehensive criminal statistics.
- Inadequate internet infrastructure and unreliable postal addresses
- Strong cultural ties among populace – incidence of resistance to new law or reporting of rural crimes

Opportunities for rural criminological studies in Africa

- **Expand beyond the dominant countries** (namely South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya). It will be interesting to investigate rural crime in countries in Central Africa (e.g., **South Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic**), far West (e.g., **Senegal, Gambia** etc.) and North Africa (e.g., **Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria**).
- **Cross-national studies** to enhance the understanding of rural crimes that transcend borders, such as wildlife and biodiversity trafficking, illegal community organisation, and cattle rustling.
- Research on **rural communities in multiple jurisdictions** or countries is necessary to gain insights into the experiences of culturally similar communities subjected to varying legal frameworks, as exemplified by the Masai in Kenya and Tanzania.
- **Further exploration on presence of armed forces**, whether legal or illegal and the escalation of rural crimes such as human kidnapping, wildlife and cattle theft.
- **Interdisciplinary research methods** to rural crime rather than isolated.



Thank you for your attention



For more information
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A person is standing on a rocky peak in the background, silhouetted against a sunset sky. The foreground is filled with large, rounded, reddish-brown rocks.

The Role of Space and Place in Rural Criminology: Understanding the Data

Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson

Assistant Professor/Adjunct Senior Lecturer

Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada/University of New England, Australia

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Understanding rural crime

- Many rural communities across the globe experience higher rates of crime and victimisation than their urban counterparts.
- This is especially true in Australia and Canada, where rural areas have some of the highest crime rates in the country.
- Many have critiqued these rates, claiming they are a product of a denominator effect
- First, we need to understand how to best compare crime trends in rural and remote areas before we can begin to address them



How to measure crime in rural vs urban areas

Crime is typically compared across communities by using crime rates

To calculate a crime rate, you must divide the total amount of crime by the population (and then standardize - typically by 100,000 people)

However, this creates a denominator effect in which areas with small populations (such as rural and remote communities) appear to have large crime rates

For example, 1 homicide in a community of 14,000 vs 1 homicide in a community of 270,000 creates a crime rate of 7.14 and 0.37 respectively

The crime location quotient – specialization

- An additional measure that is useful is a crime location quotient.
- The crime location quotient calculates an area's crime specialization, compared to surrounding areas.
- LQs emerged out of economic geography and have gained traction in criminology to address the limitations of crime rates (Brantingham and Brantingham 1998; Andresen 2007; Wuschke et al. 2021).
- In 2014, Carleton et al. used the LQ to determine that rural areas specialized in violent crime (while urban areas specialized in property crime) in British Columbia
- However, until recently, we had not tested these trends in other Canadian provinces or countries

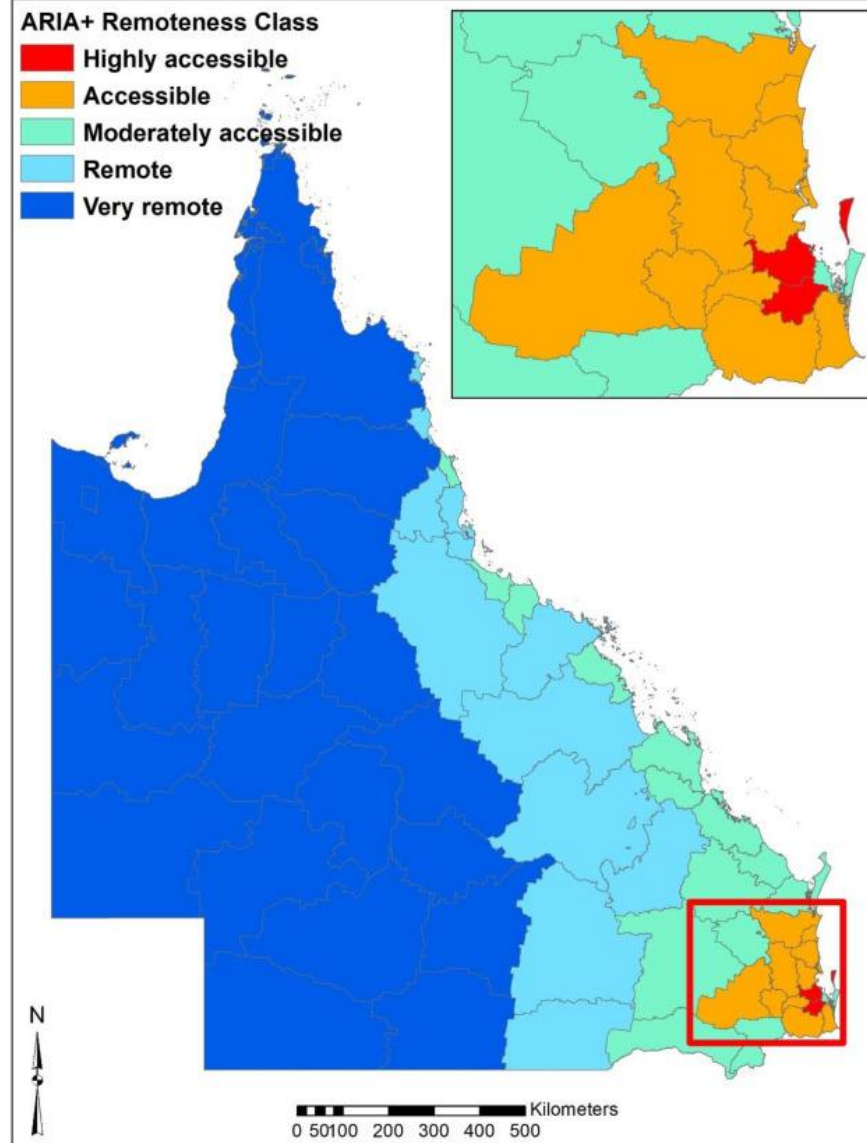
Location Quotients

- > 1.30 is a very over-represented area,
- > 1.10 to 1.30 is a moderately over-represented area,
- > 0.90 to 1.10 is average representation,
- > 0.70 to 0.90 is an under-represented area, and
- 0.00 to 0.70 is a very under-represented area.

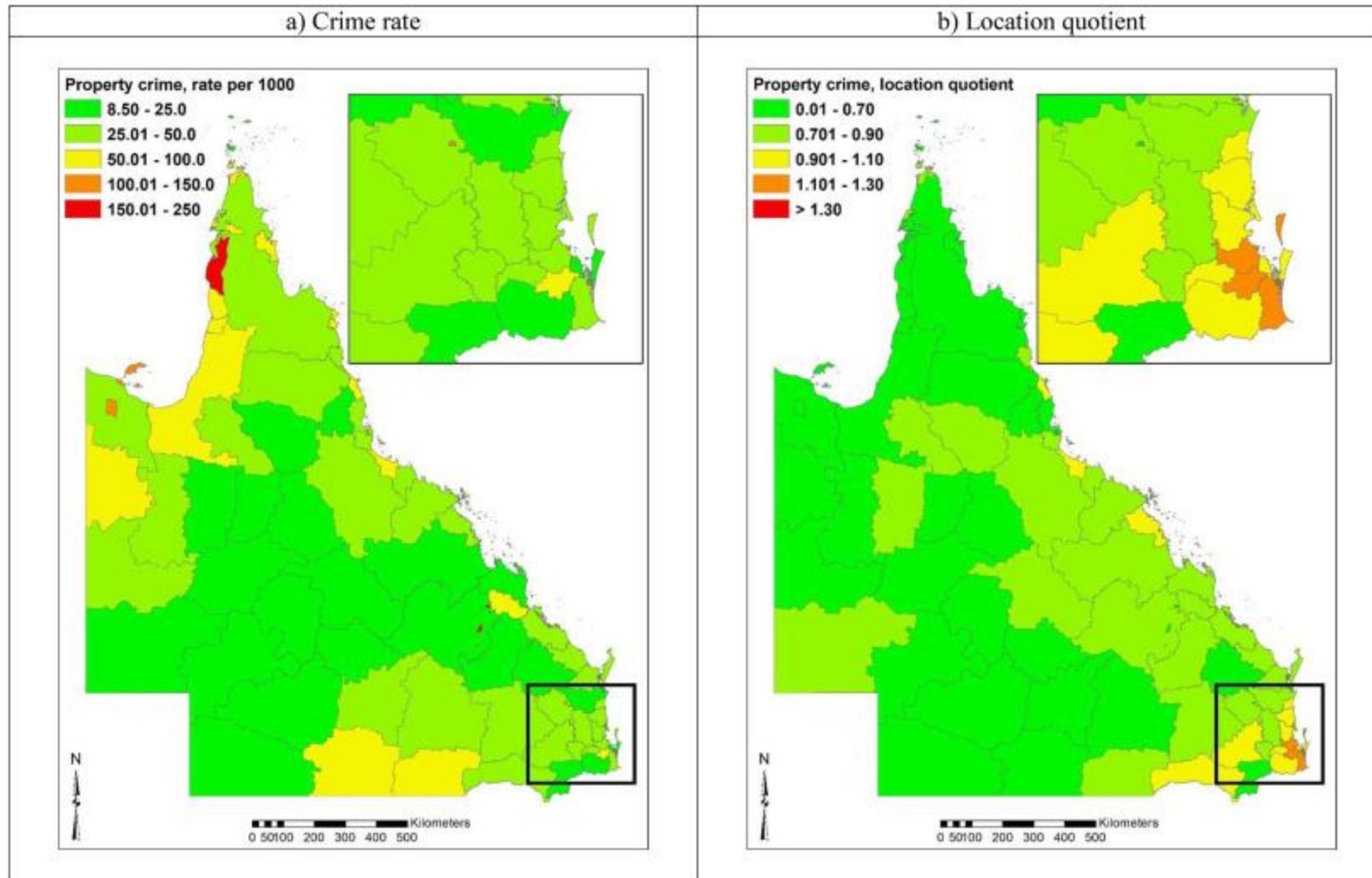
$$• LQ_{in} = \frac{C_{in}/C_{tn}}{\sum_{n=1}^N C_{in} / \sum_{n=1}^N C_{tn}},$$

ARIA+ Remoteness Class

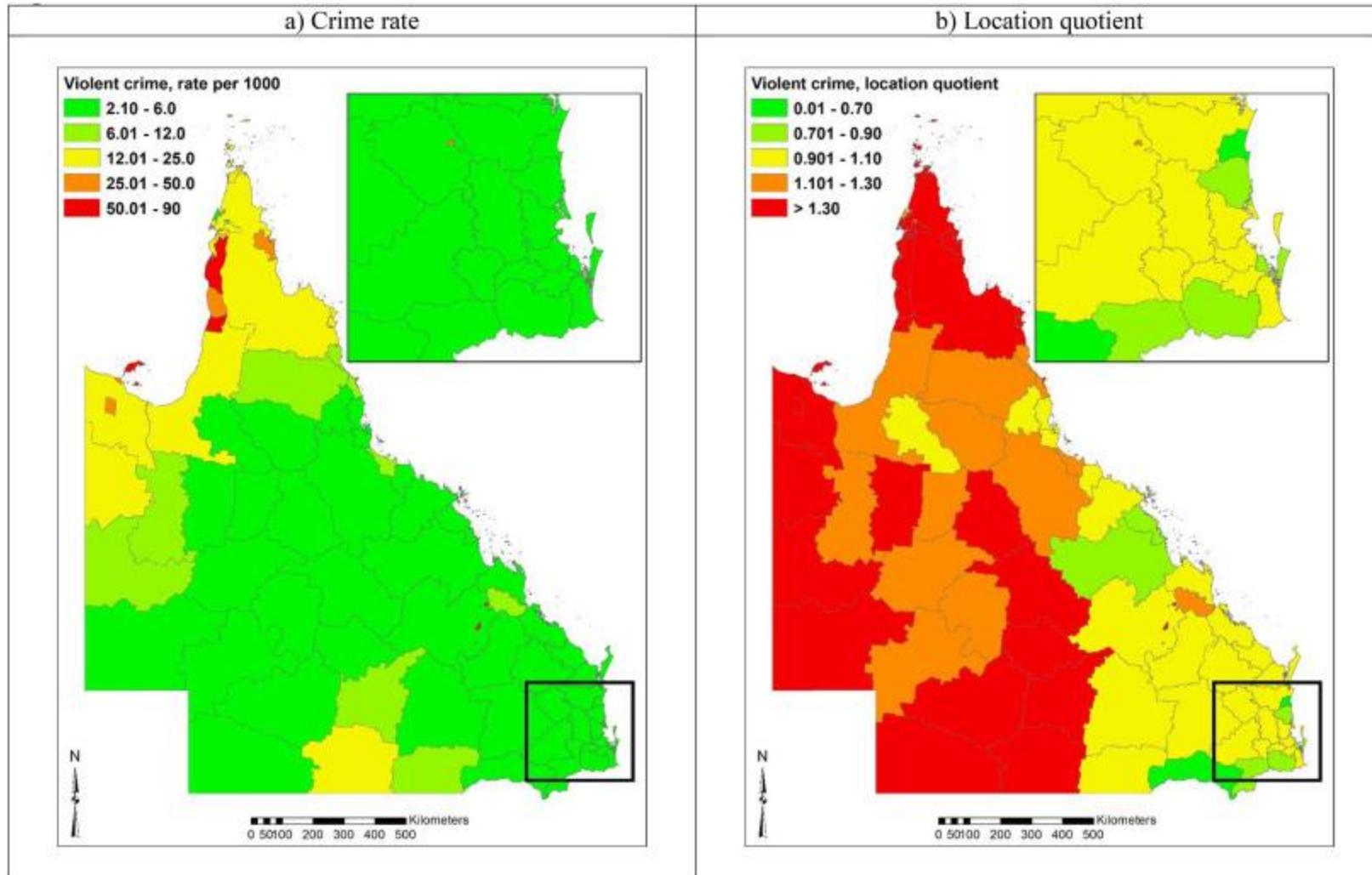
- Highly accessible
- Accessible
- Moderately accessible
- Remote
- Very remote



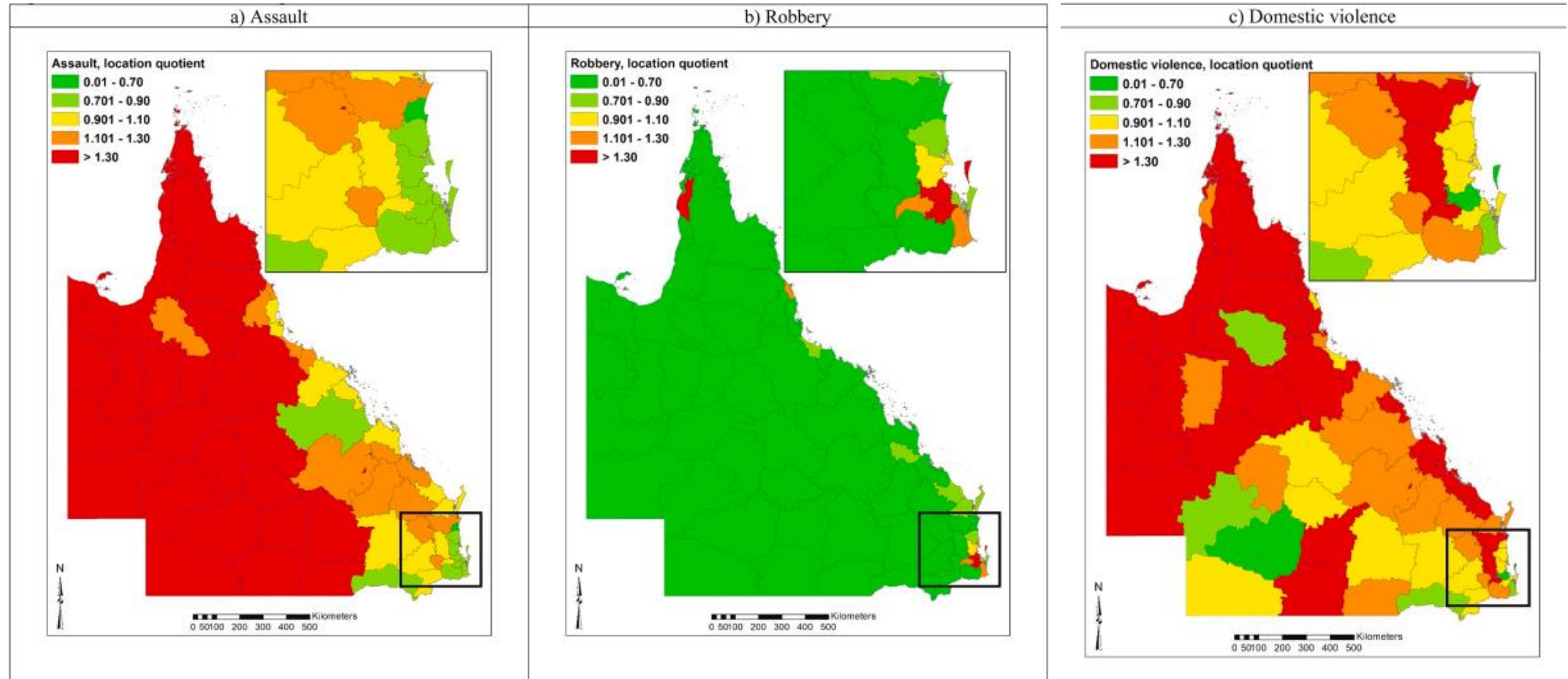
Property crime



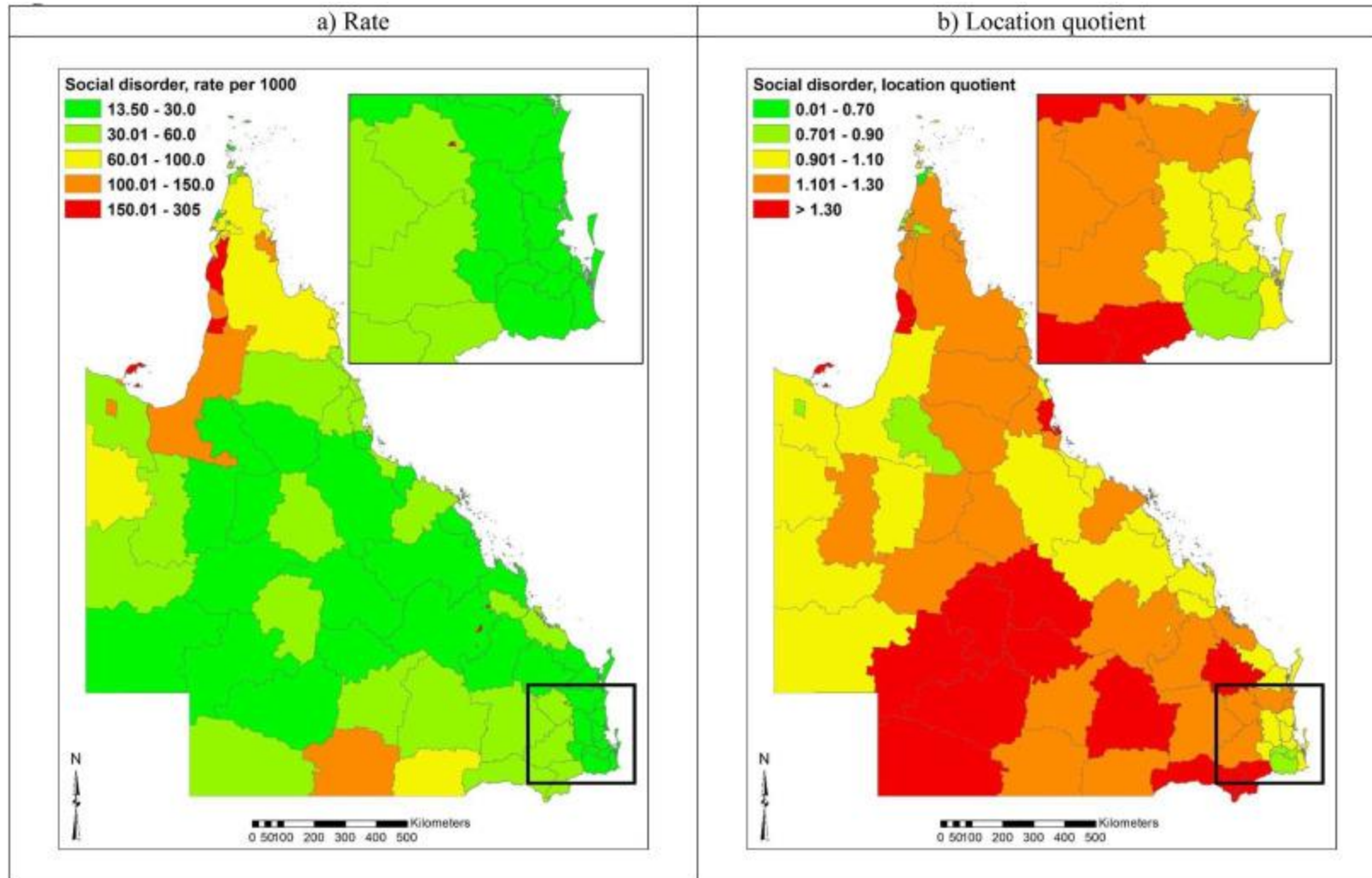
Violent crime



Violent crime types

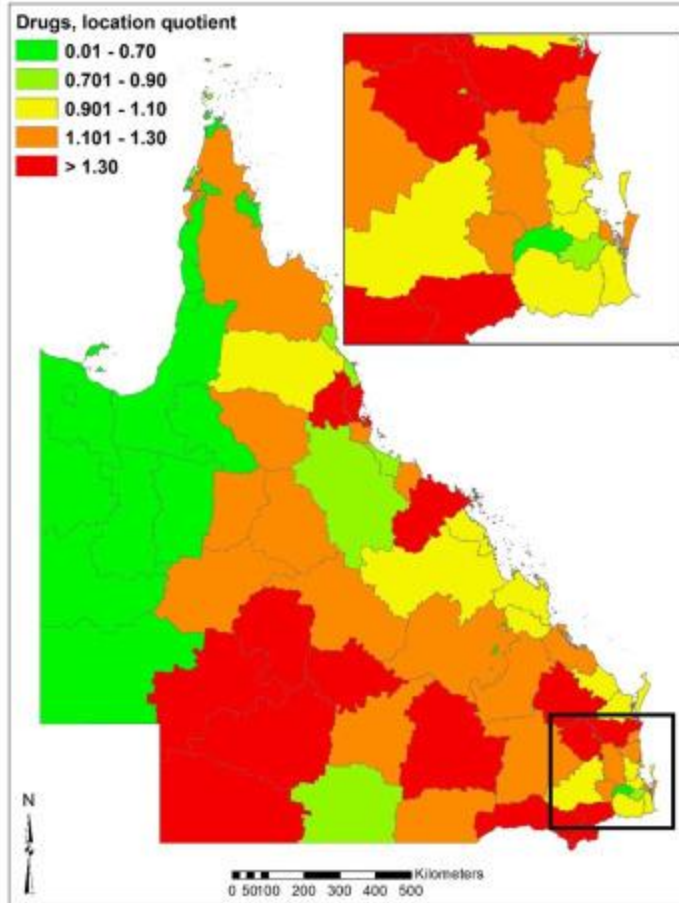


Social disorder

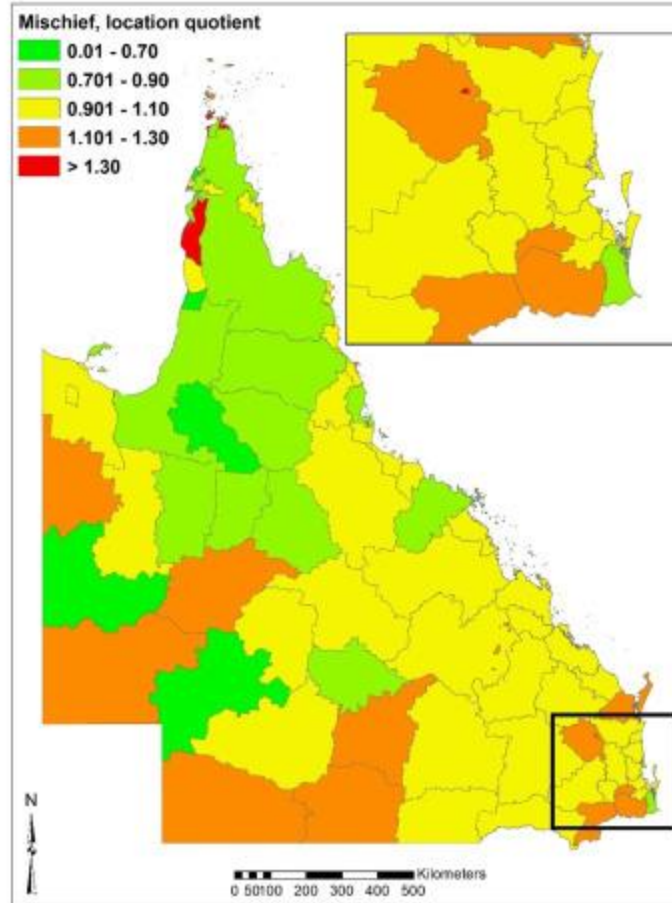


Social disorder by crime type

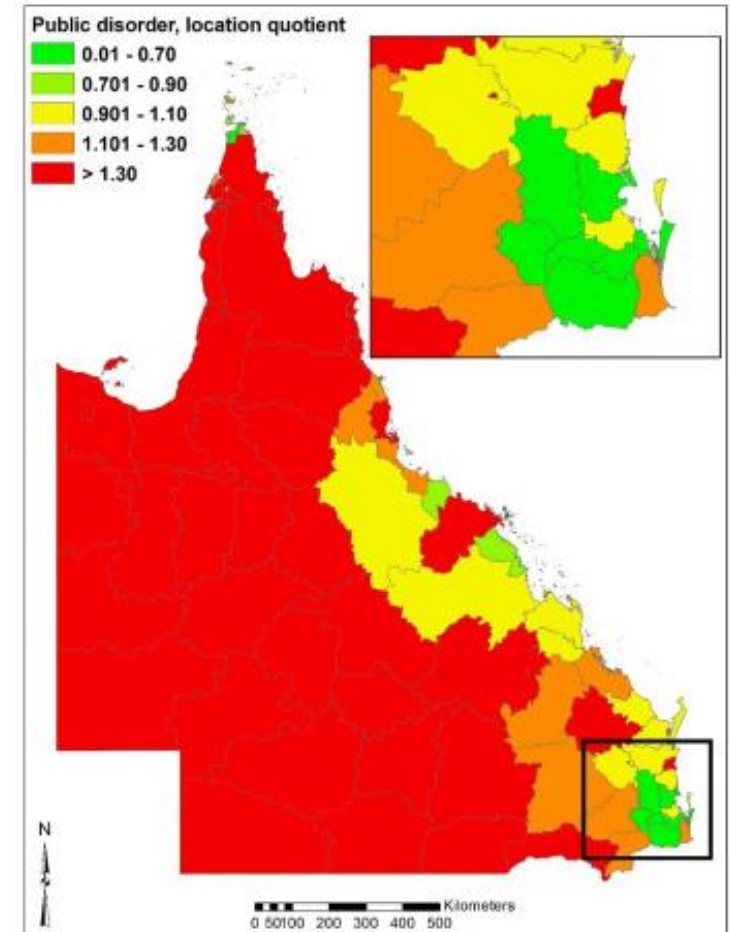
a) Drugs



b) Mischief



c) Public disorder



What does this kind of specialization mean?

One of the concerns that was raised when this offence was introduced was that it could potentially negatively impact Indigenous peoples.

The vagueness of the law could create a “catch-all” crime type (Queensland Legislative Assembly, Clark, 2003)

These kinds of anti-social behaviour laws have proven a means to more punitive policies in areas like England and Wales (Wooff, 2016)

In Canada, a similar catch-all (mischief) has been shown to account for 30% of all crime in Indigenous communities as compared to 11% in non-Indigenous communities (Allen, 2020)

Thank you.

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une
University of
New England

**THE RECORDING OF THIS
WEBINAR WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON**

THANKS

Speakers & all participants

KTH – Safeplaces Team

Gabriel Gliori (Network Safeplaces Communicator)

Ioannis Ioannidis, Jonatan Abraham, Duan Vilela (Safeplaces team)