

Foreword: Technology, the Hybrid, and Sherlock Holmes

Surely Sherlock would have appreciated the computer, given his thirst for knowledge about everything, ranging from rare tobaccos to Amazonian tribal customs. The articles in this issue certainly demonstrate how criminology, in at least some ways, has been quietly annexed by Apple and IBM. For years now we have accepted internet citations without the slightest hesitation, and indeed we often access our academic journals online.

With all that keyboarding, has come the potential for computer crime, and burglary by bits and bytes is all too common. So, while the use of the web has helped the good guys, it has also aided the bad guys. The battlefield has changed, but the protagonists are still slugging it out, just with better equipment.

In keeping with this evidence of the inevitability of change and primacy of the computer, we have been reworking the annual International Criminology Conference in connection with this journal. The pandemic chaos meant that unfortunately there will be no 2020 conference, but there certainly will be one in 2021 as a hybrid event. Hybrid is the new description for academic conferences that make a point to include both online and person to person presenters. We have had occasional online presenters at meetings of the Policy Studies Organization, but our 2021 programs will be much more committed to integrating those afar with those here in Washington.

We very much hope that participation on panels will seem comfortable regardless of where you are in the world. We note that some restaurants that are trying to make patrons at ease despite having to distance their tables and sharply reduce their seating, and have hired store mannequins, who are scattered around the premises and contemplating menus or a half consumed plastic fish. Rest assured all our participants will be real people, even if on the screen if not on a seat. Please follow updates at: <http://www.ipsonet.org/conferences/crim-conf>

We hope you and your friends and family are keeping safe, if understandably not always happy, as we gingerly navigate the shoals of these strange days. On behalf of the able Editor-in-Chief, Alain Bauer, and all of the staff, we send you good wishes across the miles. Stay secure, and come see us in Washington when the crisis is over.

Sincerely,

Paul Rich

President, Policy Studies Organization