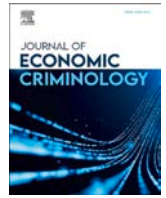


Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

Journal of Economic Criminology

journal homepage: www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-economic-criminology

Economic Criminology: Bridging disciplinary and professional silos in countering economic crime

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Economic criminology
Economic crime
Interdisciplinarity
Policing
Research

ABSTRACT

The Journal of Economic Criminology aims to facilitate discussion among different academic disciplines and practice areas on how people should work together to better understand and address economic crime problems. In this editorial to the very first volume of the journal, Editors in Chief discuss their view of the economic criminology framework and how to make it a living concept. The framework is about an interface between disciplines studying economic crime. Economic criminology requires people, called 'economic criminologists', to be open to experiment and reflect upon the value of other disciplines in their own research and policing practice. This also requires a reflection upon different styles of undertaking research and writing academic works

The Journal of Economic Criminology (JEC) aims to facilitate discussion among different academic disciplines and practice areas on how people should work together to better understand and address economic crime problems. It is well documented that economic crime raises serious moral and political concerns, undermines economic, physical, social and psychological well-being, and distorts the well-functioning of competitive markets (Button et al., 2023).

Yet, criminologists, lawyers, and other social scientists explaining law, crime, and societal responses to harms have marginalised economic crime for decades (Lord and Levi, 2023). Economic crime has also been marginalised in practice, being dominated by policing of traditional crimes (Button et al., 2022). Furthermore, a majority of social scientists have largely neglected computer science, business studies and other disciplines which, by a substantial margin, much more engaged in robust, practical, 'what works' research (Button and Shepherd, 2023). Working in disciplinary silos alongside the marginalisation of economic crime offer only a limited potential to say something useful about complex reality of economic crime problems and mitigate their harms.

The JEC is a space to develop and apply the 'economic criminology' framework to overcome economic crime marginalisation and disconnect between disciplines. The fundamentals of this discussion are presented in the 'Foundations and Meaning of Economic Criminology' section of this volume. In this very first section of the JEC, Lord and Levi (2023) make a strong case for interdisciplinarity as a key feature of the 'economic criminology' framework. This framework is not strictly speaking part of a 'criminological perspective' as some earlier works have argued (see Button et al., 2022). Indeed, the framework is rather about an interface between disciplines, attempting to bring together the many disciplinary silos studying economic crime (Button and Shepherd,

2023). Furthermore, other contributors in this introductory discussion explored more specific boundaries of the economic criminology framework, being it the role of organized crime in it (Zabyelina, 2023) and private sector (Meerts, 2023).

As Co-Editor's in Chiefs of the JEC, we realise how challenging it is to make the economic criminology framework a living concept. It requires people, we call them 'economic criminologists', to be able to interlace different academic disciplines and practice in the area of economic crime. Or authors should be at least open to experiment and reflect upon the value of other disciplines in their own research and policing practice. We have worked hard with the JEC authors to meet this standard. Consider Fig. 1 below, which illustrates the central position of the economic criminologists in the economic criminology framework.

The first results of our effort can be seen in 11 Regular Papers in this first issue of the JEC. Here, interdisciplinary academics and practitioners from five continents explore fraud, money laundering, corruption, insider trading, and other complex problems. It is great to see how economic criminologists from a variety of disciplines, including criminology, business studies, accounting, law, economics, statistics and others, have set the tone for our interdisciplinary discussion on how to better understand and disrupt financially motivated crimes and wrongs.

As for the future, becoming an economic criminologist requires moving outside of one's comfort zones and exploring new areas of research. We need to reflect upon different styles of undertaking research and writing academic works. In other words, we need to take time to experiment and experience challenges of doing research differently. We also need to be geographically diverse in terms of the backgrounds of researchers and practitioners. With some time and patience, this will shape a common language and set boundaries of form and substance of the economic criminology framework.

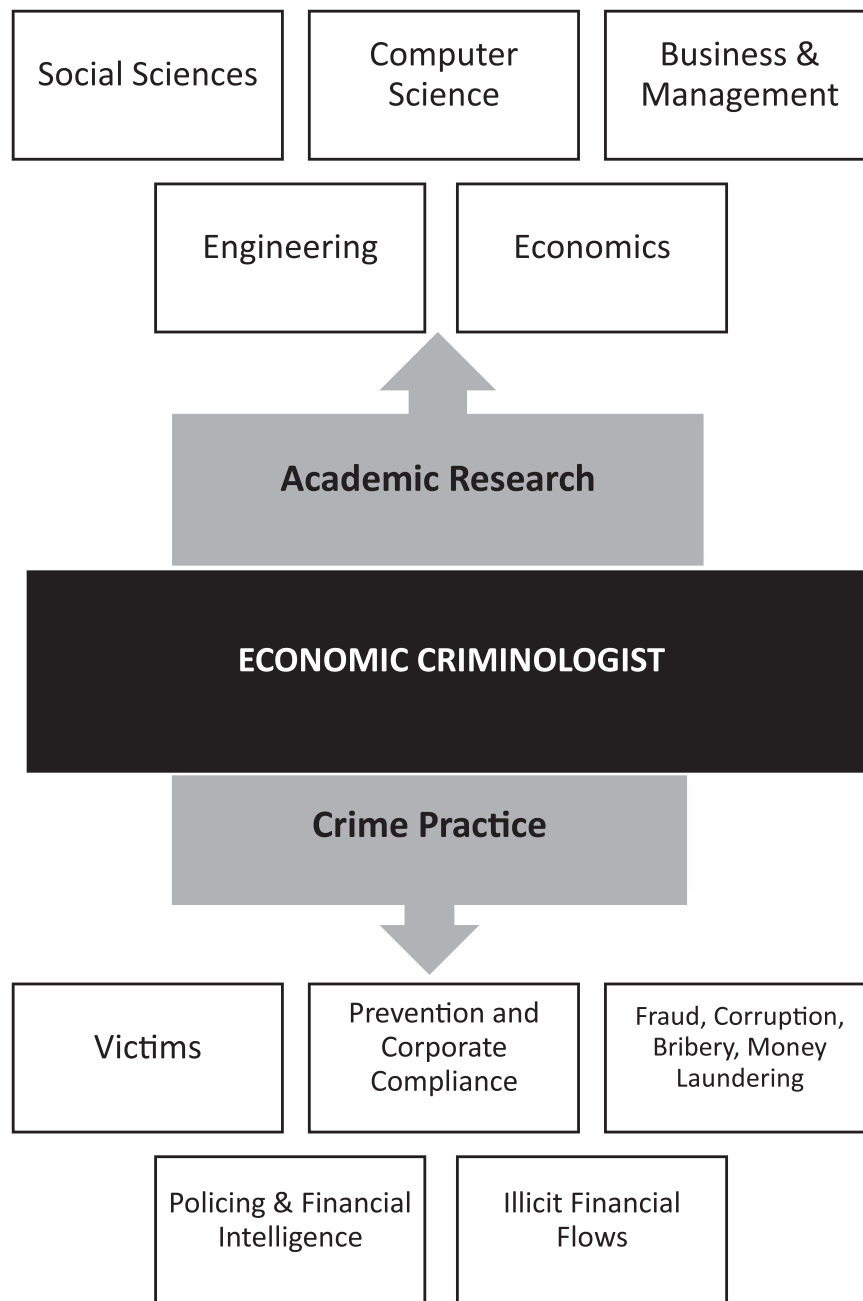


Fig. 1. Economic criminology framework.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: Both authors serve as Co-Editors in Chief for the Journal of Economic Criminology.

References

Button, M., Hock, B., Shepherd, D., 2022. *Economic Crime: From Conception to Response*. Routledge.

Button, M., Shepherd, D.W.J., Hock, B., Gilmour, P., 2023. Understanding the rise of fraud in England and Wales through field theory: blip or flip? [100012]. *J. Econ. Criminol.* 1, 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2023.100012>

Button, M., Shepherd, 2023. The case for economic criminology. [100015]. *J. Econ. Criminol.* 1, 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2023.100015>

Lord, N., Levi, M., 2023. Economic crime, economic criminology, and serious crimes for economic gain: on the conceptual and disciplinary (dis)order of the object of

study. [100014]. *J. Econ. Criminol.* 1, 1–8. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2023.100014>

Meerts, C.A., 2023. The private policing of economic crime – corporate investigations and settlements. [100016]. *J. Econ. Criminol.* 1, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2023.100016>

Zabyelina, Y., 2023. Revisiting the concept of organized crime through the disciplinary lens of economic criminology. [100017]. *J. Econ. Criminol.* 1, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconc.2023.100017>

Branislav Hock*
Centre for Cybercrime and Economic Crime, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Nicholas Ryder
School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University, United Kingdom

*Corresponding author.
 E-mail address: branislav.hock@port.ac.uk (B. Hock)