

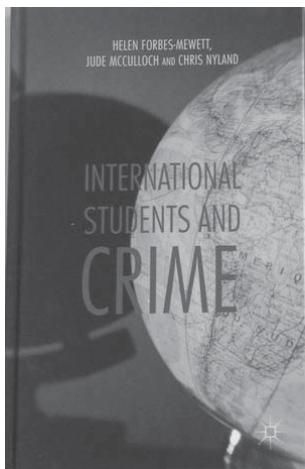
Book Review

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International Students and Crime

Forbes-Mewett, H., McCulloch, J., & Nyland, C. (2015). *International students and crime*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 312; \$ 100 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-137-03496-0

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Knowledge about crime promotes awareness about the existence of a problem and aids in designing appropriate preventive strategies to tackle the problem. The authors promote this awareness throughout their book *International Students and Crime*, which investigates the phenomenon of international student crime using qualitative methodology. The authors compare data from the US, UK and Australia, and present 150 international student experiences along with opinions of industry professionals.

The book comprises the following 11 chapters that systematically explore and describe the phenomenon of crime in all three countries: 1) Introduction, 2) Comparing US, UK and Australian student markets, 3) International students as victims of crime, 4) International students as perpetrators of crime, 5) Non-violent crime, 6) Serious and violent crime, 7) Gendered crime, 8) Organized crime, 9) Staying safe from crime, 10) Responsibility, and 11) Conclusion.

The chapters are independent of each other, which makes it easy to find information on any topic of interest.

Throughout their book, the authors investigate several crucial questions such as: Why is it important to study international student crime?; Why do international students become victims of crime?; Why do international students commit crime?; What are the ways international students can stay safe and prevent themselves from becoming crime victims?; Whose responsibility is international student safety? and; Where do international students feel more safe-in the US, UK or Australia and why? Systematic analysis and reflections on the rich data provided by the participants is reviewed and discussed to showcase answers to these questions and recommendations for consideration.

As leading researchers in crime, the authors make several useful suggestions throughout the book. One of such suggestions is to provide greater levels of planning and infrastructure in terms of employment, transportation and accommodation options in order to decrease the vulnerability of international students and increase their safety. They emphasize the importance of making international students aware of the laws of the host country. Having extensively researched crime, the authors provide reasoning for the vulnerability of international students. For example, the authors highlight that students may be too trusting of foreign strangers and they may provide too much personal information on the internet.

Generally, one of the limitations of qualitative studies is a small sample size. However, the authors used a large sample size to study international students and crime in detail. Like other qualitative studies, the findings of this study are not intended to be generalized. However, the qualitative design emphasizes the human experiences with crime, which adds richness to the data and showcases the importance of better understanding international student experiences with crime.

All of these aspects contribute to the uniqueness of this book and make the book a very interesting and a quick read. Following are some of the excerpts of the interviews presented in the book:

International students as victims of crime - “They don’t realise that there are predators out there.....they’re thinking, ‘oh, how nice, I’m

on a college campus and everything is wonderful' but they don't really understand that everybody is not wonderful. (p. 53, Director Sexual Assault Services, US)"

International students as predators - "They fall in with the wrong crowds. We find that a lot of subcontinent students come here knowing other subcontinent students.....They come in as students but they end up making friends with the wrong crowds. And those sorts of things have generally involved delegations of drug dealing...(p. 77, University Security, Australia)"

International Students and Crime is oriented toward university officials and professionals in crime prevention departments, as well as to international students' and their families. The title may be a little intimidating to a student audience. However, the problem of crime does exist and needs to be directly addressed, not only to prevent international students from being victims, but also to aid the crime prevention departments in finding potential perpetrators. This book allows readers to gather up-to-date information about the topic and develop a clear understanding of how to prevent crimes that impact international students and what to do in the event of a crime. Thus, this book will be very helpful and is a must read for students planning to study in another country, particularly the US, UK and Australia.

This book is available as an e-book as well as hardcover through all popular sites such as Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and the publisher Palgrave Macmillan.

PRASHANTI CHENNAMSETTI holds a PhD in Educational Administration and Human Resources from Texas A&M University. She served as an adjunct faculty at WKU-Owensboro. She is passionate about conducting Needs Assessment using phenomenological methodology. Her research interests also include international student learning and adjustment in higher education, workplace learning, impact of positive thinking, and factors that impact employee satisfaction. She was selected as a Gallup International Positive Psychology fellow with faith in her ability to bring positive change in people's lives, workplaces, schools, and communities.
