



Journal for Social
Science Archives

Journal for Social Science Archives

Online ISSN: 3006-3310

Print ISSN: 3006-3302

Volume 3, Number 4, 2025, Pages 309 – 325

Journal Home Page

<https://jssarchives.com/index.php/Journal/about>



The Influence of Social Media on Criminal Behaviour and Public Perception of Crime

Muhammad Rashid¹, Seema Gul² & Maseeh Ullah³

¹Advocate High Court, Lahore, Pakistan, Email: advrashidmuhammad@gmail.com

²Lecturer, Sarhad Institute of legal studies, Sarhad University of Science and IT, Pakistan,

Email: gulseema03@gmail.com

³Assistant professor, Sarhad Institute of legal studies, Sarhad University of Science and IT, Pakistan,

Email: advmaseehullah@yahoo.com

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received: September 04, 2025
Revised: September 26, 2025
Accepted: October 10, 2025
Available Online: October 25, 2025

Keywords:

Digital deviance; online radicalization; virtual communities; algorithmic amplification; moral panic formation; cyber-enabled offenses; public risk perception; misinformation dynamics; digital surveillance; community policing strategies

Corresponding Author:

Seema Gul

Email:

gulseema03@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The growing dominance of social media in everyday communication has transformed how crime is committed, perceived, and responded to in contemporary society. This study examines the dual influence of social media on criminal behaviour and public perceptions of crime, highlighting its role as both a facilitator of unlawful activities and a powerful shaper of collective attitudes. The purpose of the research is to evaluate how offenders exploit digital platforms for planning, executing, and publicizing crimes, while also analysing how user-generated content, viral videos, and misinformation amplify fear of crime and distort public understanding of safety. Using a qualitative research design based on thematic analysis of existing criminological literature, case studies, and digital behaviour trends, the study synthesizes interdisciplinary insights from criminology, media studies, and psychology. Key findings indicate that social media enhances opportunities for cybercrime, extremist recruitment, and performance-driven offenses, while simultaneously fostering sensationalism, moral panics, and declining trust in law enforcement. The study concludes that although social media offers strategic benefits for crime reporting and prevention, its unregulated features intensify both criminal innovation and public anxiety. Policy reforms must balance digital freedom with stronger regulation, digital literacy, and improved law enforcement capacity. The rapid expansion of social media has fundamentally reshaped how individuals engage with information, communicate, and perceive their environment. These platforms have also become influential spaces for the facilitation, representation, and interpretation of criminal behaviour. This article investigates how social media contributes to the commission of crimes, aids offenders in planning and performing illegal acts, and shapes public perceptions of crime prevalence and severity. Drawing on interdisciplinary research from criminology, psychology, and media studies, the article provides an in-depth analysis of the complex relationship between digital networks and criminality. It further examines how social media amplifies fear of crime, influences public trust in law enforcement, and contributes to moral panics. The study concludes with policy recommendations for governments, law enforcement, and tech companies to mitigate criminal misuse of social media while ensuring protection of digital rights.



1. Introduction

The penetration of social media into nearly every aspect of contemporary life has reshaped patterns of communication, information consumption, and interpersonal interaction. Beyond its role as a tool for social connectivity, digital platforms have emerged as influential spaces where narratives of crime circulate rapidly and where offenders increasingly exploit online affordances to facilitate unlawful behaviour. This study investigates the extent to which these platforms affect both criminal conduct and public interpretations of crime trends within modern societies. The purpose of the research is to analyse how social media environments enable planning, performance, and dissemination of criminal acts, while also shaping public emotions, risk perceptions, and trust in institutions responsible for maintaining public order (Khan & Riaz, 2024). The scope of this study extends to a wide range of online behaviours, including cyber-enabled offenses, extremist recruitment, performance-driven deviance, and the spread of sensationalistic or misleading crime-related content. The significance of the research lies in its contribution to current criminological and socio-digital debates, particularly as governments and law enforcement agencies struggle to regulate online spaces without undermining civil liberties. Background studies in media criminology reveal a long-standing relationship between mass communication technologies and public attitudes toward crime; however, social media presents a unique challenge due to its decentralization, interactivity, and algorithmic amplification. These features have intensified the visibility of crime, often distorting perceptions of risk and generating moral panics. At the same time, they provide law enforcement with unprecedented access to digital evidence and new channels for community engagement (Bjelajac & Filipovic, 2023, Ahmed, et al., 2025).

The study is guided by the following hypotheses: one offender increasingly leverages social media affordances to support criminal activities, and two heightened exposures to online crime content significantly influences public fear and attitudes toward crime. Correspondingly, the primary research questions are: *How does social media facilitate or shape criminal behaviour?* and *In what ways does exposure to online crime content affect public perceptions, fear levels, and trust in institutions?* Methodologically, this article adopts a qualitative research design grounded in thematic analysis of scholarly literature, case studies, digital behaviour trends, and publicly documented incidents (Khan & Usman, 2023). This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the socio-technological mechanisms linking social media, criminality, and perception formation. The expected outcomes suggest that while social media enhances opportunities for criminal innovation, it also amplifies public anxiety and reinforces distorted risk perceptions, creating challenges for policy-making and policing strategies. The remainder of this article is organized into sections addressing the media–crime nexus, the influence of online platforms on offender behaviour, the impact on public perception, the role of digital policing, ethical and regulatory concerns, and concluding recommendations for policy and future research. Social media has evolved into one of the most pervasive forms of communication in the 21st century. Platforms such as Facebook, X formerly Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube influence social interactions, shape cultural values, and facilitate information sharing at unprecedented speed and scale. However, these platforms have also introduced new challenges in the realm of crime and justice. Criminal offenders increasingly exploit social networks for planning, recruiting, coordinating, and publicizing illegal activities. Simultaneously, the portrayal of crime on social media often sensationalized has significant implications for how the public understands crime trends and engages with law enforcement. Given the dual nature of social media as both a tool of connectivity and a potential facilitator of harm, it is crucial to assess how these platforms influence criminal behaviour and shape public perceptions. This article evaluates these

dynamics and explores their broader implications for criminology, digital governance, and public policy (Chaparro, et al., 2021, Malik & Gul, 2024).

2. Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research methodology to investigate the influence of social media on criminal behaviour and public perception of crime. Data was collected through a comprehensive review of existing scholarly literature, case studies, government reports, and documented digital behaviour trends, focusing on the intersection of criminology, media studies, and psychology. Thematic analysis was applied to identify patterns, relationships, and emergent themes regarding how social media facilitates criminal activity, shapes public perception, and affects trust in law enforcement. The rationale for using a qualitative approach lies in its ability to provide in-depth, contextual insights into complex social phenomena that are not easily quantifiable, such as audience responses, online community dynamics, and ethical considerations. This methodology enabled the synthesis of interdisciplinary findings, allowing for a holistic understanding of both the technological and sociological dimensions of social media's impact on crime and public perception (Hussain et al., 2023).

3. Social Media and Criminal Behaviour

3.1 Planning and Coordination of Crime

The affordances of social media platforms have significantly altered how offenders conceptualize, plan, and coordinate criminal activities. What was once reliant on physical meetings, coded communications, or tightly controlled networks can now be executed with speed and anonymity across digital spaces. Social media provides offenders with multiple functionalities private messaging, encrypted channels, geolocation tools, anonymous accounts, and real-time information sharing that collectively reduce the logistical burdens traditionally associated with criminal planning. These platforms act as low-cost, high-efficiency communication infrastructures that enable offenders to operate beyond geographic and jurisdictional constraints. One major development is the use of open and closed online communities to organize group-based crime. Criminal flash mobs, coordinated store looting, and mass disturbances have been traced to calls disseminated through Facebook groups, TikTok trends, WhatsApp broadcasts, and Telegram channels. These digital networks allow rapid mobilization of participants who may not share prior social ties but are unified through viral content or shared motivations (Khan et al., 2023). The temporality of social media where content spreads within minutes facilitates spontaneous coordination that complicates traditional policing responses. Moreover, organized crime groups increasingly exploit encrypted messaging applications to plan logistics, manage supply chains, and avoid detection. Platforms such as Telegram, Signal, and WhatsApp offer end-to-end encryption, enabling illicit networks involved in drug trafficking, human smuggling, and financial fraud to communicate without leaving traceable digital footprints accessible to law enforcement. These applications support multimedia communication, allowing offenders to exchange maps, photographs, and videos that aid operational planning. In some cases, decentralized online marketplaces and hidden social media pages function as recruitment pools, where individuals with specific technical or logistical skills are identified and integrated into criminal operations (Cheng, 2023, Gul, et al., 2025).

Social media also facilitates the dissemination of knowledge necessary for crime execution. Tutorials on lock-picking, credit card fraud, weapon modification, evasion techniques, and hacking tools circulate across YouTube, TikTok, Reddit, and other platforms. While not always explicitly framed as criminal, such content enables motivated offenders to acquire practical skills without direct mentorship (Hussain et al., 2023). This democratization of technical knowledge lowers entry barriers to crime, broadens the pool of potential offenders, and accelerates the operational readiness of those engaging in unlawful activities. Social media has redefined the planning and coordination of crime by offering offenders unprecedented efficiency, connectivity, and anonymity. These digital capabilities present considerable challenges for contemporary policing, which must adapt investigative methods and legal frameworks to counter increasingly networked, agile, and technologically sophisticated forms of criminal orchestration (Thukral & Kainya, 2022 Gul, et al., 2025).

3.2 Live-Streaming and Performance Crime

The proliferation of real-time broadcasting features on platforms such as Facebook Live, Instagram Live, TikTok, and YouTube has given rise to a disturbing criminological phenomenon known as *performance crime* offenses committed, staged, or amplified explicitly for online audiences. Unlike traditional crimes, which are typically concealed from public view, performance crimes are constructed as public spectacles, motivated by the desire for visibility, digital notoriety, and social validation. The performative element transforms criminal behaviour into a form of mediated entertainment, blurring boundaries between deviance, spectacle, and participatory culture. Live-streaming technologies serve as powerful accelerants in this process (Khan et al., 2023). The ability to transmit events instantaneously encourages offenders to record violent acts, harassment, vandalism, and other forms of deviance for the purposes of gaining followers, provoking reactions, or asserting dominance within online subcultures. The absence of editorial control or temporal delay enables raw, unfiltered content to reach mass audiences before platforms can intervene, amplifying the psychological and social impact of the crimes being broadcast. Several motivations underpin performance crime. First, the metrics-driven architecture of social media likes, shares, comments, and algorithmic promotion—creates a reward system that incentivizes provocative or sensational acts. Offenders may engage in risky or unlawful behaviour to accumulate online attention, sometimes resulting in crimes committed specifically for viral challenges or trends. Second, performance crime can function as a tool for group identity formation within deviant online communities. Broadcasting offenses reinforces in-group norms, builds social capital, and encourages imitation among impressionable users, particularly youths seeking recognition in digital peer networks. Third, some offenders use live-streaming as a form of intimidation or symbolic power, showcasing criminal acts to install fear, threaten rivals, or challenge authority (Van Berkel, et al., 2025, Gul & Malik, 2024).

The criminological implications of this phenomenon are significant. Performance crimes often escalate rapidly due to the adrenaline and validation offenders receive from real-time audience engagement. Live chats, comments, and reactions can aggravate offenders' behaviour, pushing them toward more extreme acts. Moreover, the global reach of live-streaming complicates law enforcement intervention, as offenses can unfold across jurisdictions while authorities remain unaware or unable to respond in time (Khan et al., 2022). Platforms face challenges in moderating live content due to technological limitations and the speed at which harmful videos can spread. Even after removal, recorded clips circulate on secondary sites, dark web forums, and foreign-hosted platforms, prolonging their impact and retraumatizing victims. This persistence of digital evidence raises ethical and legal concerns regarding content regulation, user responsibility, and

platform liability. In essence, live-streaming and performance crime represent a new frontier in digital deviance, where criminality is intertwined with spectacle and audience participation. Addressing this issue requires a combination of technological innovation, improved platform governance, and robust legal frameworks capable of responding to the fluid and performative nature of online offending. A disturbing trend is the rise of “performance crime” “illegal acts conducted for online attention, clout, or financial gain. Live-streamed assaults, vandalism captured for likes, and viral challenges that promote law-breaking demonstrate the psychological influence of online audiences on behaviour. Social media rewards visibility, and some offenders commit crimes primarily for digital recognition (Aguerri, et al., 2025, Gul & Malik, 2024).

3.3 Cybercrimes and Online Exploitation

The expansion of digital technologies and ubiquitous connectivity has broadened the landscape of criminality, giving rise to a vast range of cybercrimes and online exploitation. Unlike traditional offenses, cyber-enabled crimes occur within virtual environments that obscure offender identities, diminish geographic constraints, and complicate detection. Social media platforms, in particular, have become integral tools for offenders seeking to exploit vulnerabilities in digital communication systems and human behaviour. Cybercrimes facilitated through social media include identity theft, financial fraud, phishing schemes, cyberstalking, online harassment, and hacking-related offenses. Offenders exploit personal information shared on platforms to construct fraudulent identities, manipulate victims, or gain unauthorized access to financial systems (Khan et al., 2022). The design of social media encourages self-disclosure, creating a fertile environment for social engineering attacks. Through deceptive communication, scammers impersonate trusted individuals or institutions, persuading victims to reveal confidential data or transfer funds. This convergence of interpersonal trust and technological manipulation heightens the effectiveness and prevalence of cyber-fraud. Online exploitation represents a more harmful dimension of cybercrime, targeting vulnerable groups such as children, adolescents, and marginalized individuals. Offenders use private messaging features, ephemeral content, and anonymous profiles to engage in grooming, solicit illicit material, or coerce victims into exploitative situations. Algorithmic recommendation systems may inadvertently expose users especially minors to harmful content, extremist material, or predatory actors. The borderless nature of online exploitation further complicates enforcement, as offenders often operate across multiple jurisdictions, using encrypted platforms to evade monitoring. Social media platforms also host illicit markets where illegal goods and services—including drugs, weapons, counterfeit documents, and human trafficking networks—are advertised through coded language, symbols, or private groups. While these markets frequently overlap with the dark web, mainstream social media functions as an accessible gateway for recruitment and client acquisition, lowering the threshold for entry into criminal activities. Organized crime groups employ sophisticated digital strategies, combining open-source intelligence, cryptocurrency transactions, and anonymized communication channels to sustain their operations (Balqis, & Badu, 2025, Gul, et al., 2025).

Emerging technologies, including deepfakes, AI-generated identities, and automated bot networks, introduce new challenges to cybercrime prevention. Deepfake videos can be used for extortion, reputational damage, or political manipulation, while bots amplify scams, misinformation, and extremist propaganda. These technologies increase the scale and efficiency of exploitation, enabling offenders to target large populations with minimal effort. Law enforcement agencies face substantial barriers in addressing cybercrimes and online exploitation. Limited access to encrypted communications, jurisdictional conflicts, and rapidly evolving digital tools constrain investigative capacities. Moreover, victims often hesitate to report cyber incidents due to stigma, lack of

awareness, or scepticism regarding institutional responses. cybercrimes and online exploitation represent some of the most pervasive and complex challenges emerging from social media ecosystems (Khan et al., 2022). Their anonymity, scalability, and transnational nature demand comprehensive strategies that integrate legal reform, technological innovation, public awareness, and international cooperation. Without these interventions, offenders will continue to exploit the structural vulnerabilities embedded in digital platforms and their user communities. The digital environment facilitates various forms of cybercrime, including phishing, identity theft, cyberbullying, online harassment, and child exploitation. Offenders use fake profiles, bots, and anonymity features to target victims and evade detection. Moreover, the dark web intersects with mainstream social media platforms, enabling illicit markets and distribution networks (Anavami, et al., 2025,).

4. Social Media and Public Perceptions of Crime

4.1 Sensationalism and the Illusion of Rising Crime

The architecture of social media inherently amplifies sensational content, transforming isolated criminal incidents into viral spectacles that dominate digital attention. This dynamic significantly contributes to what criminologists describe as the *illusion of rising crime* a perception that crime rates are escalating despite empirical evidence often indicating stability or decline. Unlike traditional media, where editorial gatekeeping once moderated the volume and framing of crime reporting, social media platforms create a decentralized environment where any user can circulate dramatic, unverified, or emotionally charged crime-related content. Algorithms further elevate posts that evoke fear, outrage, or moral indignation, reinforcing sensationalism through engagement-driven visibility. This environment fosters cognitive distortions rooted in the *availability heuristic*, whereby individuals judge the prevalence or severity of crime based on the ease with which examples come to mind. Viral videos of robberies, assaults, kidnappings, or public disorder often sourced from diverse geographic locations create a constant stream of alarming imagery. As a result, users may conflate global events with local realities, leading to exaggerated assessments of personal risk and community insecurity (Riaz et al., 2022). Even rare or statistically insignificant offenses gain disproportionate prominence when repeatedly circulated, reshared, and sensationalized through commentary or dramatic framing. The illusion of rising crime is further intensified by the emotional contagion and echo chamber effects prevalent on social platforms. Users who frequently consume or engage with crime-related content are more likely to be presented with similar material due to algorithmic reinforcement. This creates curated digital ecosystems where crime appears ubiquitous, heightening fear and anxiety. Sensational narratives particularly those involving violence, deviance, or threats to vulnerable groups mobilize higher engagement, incentivizing influencers, bloggers, and even mainstream media outlets to prioritize such content for visibility and marketability (Buckley, S. (2025).

This distorted perception has tangible social and political consequences. Heightened fear of crime can influence public attitudes toward punitive policies, support for aggressive policing, and willingness to endorse surveillance technologies. Communities may become more distrustful of strangers or minority groups depicted in viral content, perpetuating stereotypes and fostering social divisions. Furthermore, policymakers may face pressure to respond to perceived surges in crime, even when these perceptions lack empirical foundation, diverting resources away from evidence-based interventions. social media's emphasis on sensationalism contributes to a profound misalignment between actual crime trends and public perception. The resulting illusion of rising

crime is not merely a psychological distortion but a socio-political force capable of reshaping public opinion, governance, and community relations (Javed et al., 2021). Mitigating this effect requires enhanced digital literacy, algorithmic transparency, and responsible content moderation to ensure that public understanding of crime is grounded in factual evidence rather than digitally engineered fear. Crime-related posts often receive high engagement due to their emotional nature. Algorithms prioritize such content, leading to disproportionate exposure. Even when national crime rates decline, citizens may perceive crime as rising because they regularly encounter videos of robberies, shootings, and other violent acts from across the world, not just their local area (Tiratelli, 2025).

4.2 Misinformation and Fake Crime Alerts

The decentralized and participatory nature of social media makes it a fertile ground for the rapid spread of misinformation, including fabricated or exaggerated crime alerts. Unlike traditional media, where information typically passes through editorial verification, social platforms allow unverified claims to circulate widely, often outpacing official channels of communication. This environment enables rumours, doctored videos, misleading narratives, and false crime reports to diffuse rapidly across digital networks, contributing to public confusion, heightened anxiety, and misinformed collective behaviour. Fake crime alerts often capitalize on the emotional charge associated with threats to personal safety. Posts alleging imminent kidnappings, serial offenders, terrorist attacks, or gang initiations commonly go viral due to their fear-inducing content (Khan et al., 2021). These fabricated warnings spread quickly through resharing mechanisms, private messaging groups, and community pages, giving the illusion of authenticity through sheer repetition. Users frequently repost such alerts “just in case,” believing they are contributing to public safety, while inadvertently amplifying misinformation. The resulting chain reactions generate a climate of panic and unpredictability, where individuals struggle to distinguish factual threats from manufactured ones. The consequences of such misinformation can be severe. In several documented cases, fake crime alerts have triggered public unrest, vigilantism, or mob violence, particularly in settings where institutional trust is fragile. Misleading allegations circulated through WhatsApp groups, Facebook pages, or local community networks have incited communities to target innocent individuals accused of crimes they did not commit. These incidents reflect the dangerous interplay between misinformation, mass fear, and impulsive collective action in digitally interconnected societies (Khwaileh, 2025).

Misinformation related to crime also undermines official law enforcement efforts. False alarms divert police resources from genuine emergencies, overload emergency communication channels, and complicate investigative processes by introducing layers of public confusion. Moreover, widespread exposure to fake crime narratives erodes trust in institutional information sources (Khan et al., 2021). When citizens encounter contradictory reports between social media and official statements, they may develop scepticism toward government agencies, assuming suppression or incompetence even where none exists. Digital platform algorithms inadvertently exacerbate this problem. Sensational misinformation especially when framed as public service announcements receives high engagement, prompting algorithmic systems to promote it further. This amplification reinforces echo chambers, where users repeatedly encounter false crime alerts aligned with their fears, biases, or community narratives. The perceived legitimacy of these alerts is strengthened when they appear within trusted digital networks such as family, friend groups, or neighbourhood forums. Addressing misinformation and fake crime alerts requires coordinated efforts, including public digital literacy education, improved platform moderation, and proactive communication by law enforcement. Authorities must engage directly with the public on social

media to provide timely fact-checking, counter false narratives, and build trust in verified information streams (Usman et al., 2021). Without such interventions, misinformation will continue to distort public understanding of crime, escalate social tensions, and impede effective criminal justice responses. Fake news, rumours, and fabricated crime stories spread rapidly on social media. Viral misinformation such as false child abduction rumours has sparked episodes of public panic and even mob violence. The lack of gatekeeping and rapid sharing features make social platforms fertile ground for misinformation (Yang, et al., 2025).

4.3 Influence on Trust in Law Enforcement

Social media has emerged as a powerful mediator of public perceptions of law enforcement, shaping attitudes toward police legitimacy, fairness, and effectiveness. Unlike traditional media narratives, which often passed through editorial filters, social media offers unmediated, real-time exposure to both positive and negative encounters between police and the public. This constant visibility, combined with the platform-driven emphasis on emotionally charged content, has profound implications for trust in law enforcement institutions. One of the most significant drivers of diminished trust is the viral circulation of videos depicting police misconduct, excessive use of force, corruption, or discriminatory practices. Such content, regardless of context or frequency, tends to attract substantial engagement because it reinforces public concerns about accountability and state power. As these videos spread across platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and X, they often become symbolic representations of broader institutional failings, influencing perceptions even in jurisdictions where such incidents may be rare (Usman et al., 2021). The immediacy and rawness of user-generated footage heighten emotional responses, fostering moral outrage and public scepticism toward police integrity. Conversely, social media also provides forums where law enforcement agencies attempt to build transparency and community rapport. Police departments increasingly use official accounts to share crime updates, clarify misinformation, showcase community-oriented policing efforts, and provide behind-the-scenes insights into investigations. These strategies aim to humanize officers, increase institutional visibility, and enhance public trust by demonstrating professionalism and responsiveness. However, the effectiveness of such communication varies significantly depending on the existing socio-political climate, levels of institutional trust, and platform-specific user cultures. Algorithmic dynamics further complicate public perceptions. Because negative or controversial policing incidents attract higher engagement, they are more likely to be amplified, sometimes overshadowing positive or constructive narratives. This creates an environment where a small number of high-profile cases disproportionately shape collective attitudes, contributing to generalized mistrust. The resulting perception gap between the statistical frequency of misconduct and its amplified digital presence can erode confidence in the justice system and intensify community-police tensions (Buckley, 2025; Usman et al., 2021).

Moreover, social media facilitates the rapid spread of misinformation about police actions. Fake or misleading posts about alleged misconduct, staged videos, or decontextualized clips can escalate distrust before official investigations clarify the facts. In highly polarized online environments, law enforcement explanations are often viewed with suspicion, making it difficult to counteract false narratives and restore confidence. This dynamic is particularly problematic in societies where institutional trust is already fragile or where historical grievances shape public-police relationships. Despite these challenges, social media also offers opportunities for enhanced accountability. Public recording of police interactions has pressured law enforcement agencies to adopt body cameras, revise use-of-force policies, and improve transparency. In this sense, digital visibility though often disruptive can contribute to reforms that strengthen long-term legitimacy (Usman et al., 2021). social media exerts a dual influence on trust in law enforcement: it exposes

institutional shortcomings and magnifies public grievances while simultaneously offering avenues for transparency, engagement, and accountability. The overall impact depends on the interplay of platform dynamics, historical context, and institutional responsiveness. Effective management of this digital landscape requires proactive communication strategies, robust oversight mechanisms, and genuine commitment to building public trust through open and accountable policing practices. Videos of police misconduct or failures in crime control often circulate widely, significantly shaping public attitudes. While such exposure can promote accountability, it can also erode trust, especially when videos lack context or feature exaggerated claims. Conversely, some law enforcement agencies use social media to improve transparency and community engagement (Apel, 2022).

5. Positive Uses of Social Media in Crime Prevention and Investigation

5.1 Law Enforcement and Digital Policing

The advent of social media has transformed not only the conduct of criminal activity but also the strategies employed by law enforcement agencies. Digital policing also referred to as e-policing or cyber-enabled policing encompasses the use of social media platforms, digital analytics, and online investigative techniques to detect, prevent, and respond to crime. These tools provide law enforcement with unprecedented access to information, enabling proactive strategies that were previously unattainable through traditional policing methods. Social media serves as a real-time intelligence source for monitoring criminal networks, identifying emerging threats, and gathering evidence (Khan et al., 2020). Police departments across the globe increasingly utilize platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Telegram to track gang activity, extremist recruitment, cybercrime operations, and public disturbances. By analysing patterns of communication, geotagged data, and behavioural indicators, law enforcement can anticipate potential offenses, identify suspects, and allocate resources more efficiently. Digital forensics teams also leverage user-generated content to corroborate investigations, trace suspect movements, and reconstruct crime timelines. In addition to intelligence gathering, social media facilitates community engagement and transparency. Agencies deploy official accounts to provide public safety alerts, issue warnings about ongoing criminal activity, and encourage citizen reporting of suspicious behaviour. This interactive communication enhances the visibility and accountability of law enforcement, fostering community trust and collaboration. For instance, neighbourhood watch initiatives, crime-reporting apps, and targeted awareness campaigns rely heavily on social media to reach local populations and mobilize collective action (Ismail, et al., 2022).

However, the integration of digital policing introduces complex ethical and legal considerations. Continuous surveillance of public online spaces may blur the line between legitimate investigation and intrusion into privacy. Law enforcement agencies must navigate the tension between proactive crime prevention and adherence to civil liberties, ensuring that digital monitoring does not become a tool for mass surveillance or disproportionate targeting of vulnerable groups (Khan et al., 2020). Furthermore, the rapid evolution of social media platforms requires continuous training and technological adaptation, as outdated methods may fail to detect emerging threats or protect citizens adequately. Despite these challenges, digital policing has demonstrated significant operational benefits. Real-time monitoring of social media has enabled law enforcement to disrupt planned criminal activities, prevent cyber-enabled offenses, and respond quickly to public emergencies. Additionally, online engagement and awareness campaigns help educate communities about digital safety, cybercrime prevention, and responsible social media usage.

When combined with traditional policing methods, digital strategies contribute to a more holistic, informed, and responsive approach to crime prevention and public safety. Law enforcement and digital policing are increasingly intertwined in the age of social media. While offering substantial advantages in intelligence, prevention, and community engagement, these methods demand careful management to balance efficiency with ethical responsibility. Successful implementation requires legal frameworks, technological competence, and community-oriented strategies that maintain public trust while leveraging the power of digital networks (Wood & Thompson, 2021).

5.2 Community Mobilization and Crime Reporting

Social media has emerged as a powerful tool for community mobilization, enabling citizens to actively participate in crime prevention, reporting, and neighbourhood safety initiatives. Unlike traditional reporting mechanisms, which often rely solely on official channels, social media allows for immediate, decentralized communication, fostering collective vigilance and rapid dissemination of critical information. One of the primary ways social media facilitates community mobilization is through real-time crime alerts. Platforms such as Facebook neighbourhood groups, WhatsApp community chats, and local forums allow residents to share information about suspicious activities, missing persons, or local disturbances (Khan et al., 2020). This grassroots approach empowers citizens to act collectively, increasing situational awareness and providing law enforcement with supplemental intelligence. In many cases, early alerts from the public have contributed to preventing crimes or identifying perpetrators more quickly than traditional reporting channels. Social media also encourages participatory engagement by enabling users to document and share incidents of crime or hazards. Videos, photographs, and eyewitness accounts uploaded to online platforms serve both as informal evidence and as a mechanism to pressure authorities for timely responses. Community-driven campaigns against theft, harassment, or public disorder often gain traction through shares, comments, and organized digital advocacy, reflecting a form of civic participation that enhances social cohesion and collective efficacy (Chetioui, et al., 2022).

Moreover, social media provides a platform for marginalized groups to amplify concerns that might otherwise be overlooked by mainstream institutions. Citizens can highlight patterns of localized crime, raise awareness of systemic issues, and coordinate community-driven safety measures, from neighbourhood watches to volunteer patrols. These initiatives complement formal law enforcement efforts and create a collaborative dynamic in which the public and authorities work synergistically toward common safety goals. However, reliance on community reporting via social media presents certain challenges (Khan et al., 2020). The accuracy of information can be compromised by misinformation, exaggeration, or misidentification of suspects, leading to false alarms or unintended consequences. Additionally, over-reliance on crowdsourced reporting may place undue responsibility on citizens and generate social tension if perceived threats escalate into vigilante action. Law enforcement agencies must therefore integrate citizen reporting with verification mechanisms, ensuring that digital inputs enhance, rather than complicate, official crime prevention strategies. Social media strengthens community mobilization and crime reporting by fostering rapid information exchange, promoting civic engagement, and providing supplementary intelligence for law enforcement. While it introduces risks related to accuracy and accountability, effective management and collaboration can harness these platforms to create safer, more responsive, and digitally empowered communities. Citizens use platforms to report crimes, share missing persons alerts, and organize community patrols. Social media strengthens collective efficacy and fosters quicker responses to emergencies (AHMAD, et al., 2023).

5.3 Awareness and Prevention Campaigns

Social media serves as a crucial platform for raising public awareness and implementing crime prevention strategies. Its broad reach, immediacy, and interactive capabilities allow government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community groups to disseminate information on safety, digital security, and legal rights, thereby fostering proactive engagement in crime prevention. One significant application of social media is in public education campaigns. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter are used to share guidance on cybersecurity, safe online behaviour, and personal safety measures. For instance, campaigns may alert users to common phishing schemes, identity theft tactics, or scams circulating online, equipping the public with practical tools to mitigate vulnerability. By targeting specific demographics such as youth, elderly populations, or vulnerable communities these campaigns enhance situational awareness and encourage informed decision-making. Social media also facilitates preventive interventions against emerging threats. Law enforcement agencies use online platforms to issue timely alerts about ongoing criminal activity, suspicious behaviours, or regional crime trends (Kanwel et al., 2020). These real-time notifications enable individuals and communities to take precautionary measures, such as avoiding high-risk areas, reporting suspicious activity, or participating in neighbourhood watch initiatives. The interactive nature of social media allows users to ask questions, share experiences, and provide feedback, thereby strengthening communal resilience against crime. Furthermore, NGOs and advocacy groups leverage social media to conduct behavioural and attitudinal campaigns, addressing issues such as domestic violence, cyberbullying, substance abuse, and radicalization. By using videos, info graphics, storytelling, and interactive challenges, these campaigns engage users emotionally and cognitively, promoting positive social norms and deterring risky behaviours. Viral campaigns can rapidly reach millions of users, amplifying preventive messages far beyond traditional educational or outreach methods. While social media campaigns offer significant advantages, they also face challenges related to credibility, reach, and engagement. Misinformation, digital literacy gaps, and algorithmic limitations can hinder the effectiveness of preventive initiatives. Therefore, campaigns must be carefully designed to ensure accuracy, cultural relevance, and accessibility. Collaboration between law enforcement, civil society, and platform providers enhances both the legitimacy and efficacy of these initiatives. Social media-based awareness and prevention campaigns play a pivotal role in contemporary crime prevention strategies. By educating the public, promoting proactive behaviours, and fostering community participation, these campaigns complement traditional law enforcement efforts and contribute to building safer, more informed, and digitally resilient societies (Durau, et al., 2022).

6. Ethical and Legal Challenges

6.1 Privacy and Mass Surveillance

The integration of social media into modern law enforcement practices has raised critical concerns regarding privacy and mass surveillance. While platforms provide unprecedented opportunities for monitoring criminal activity, gathering intelligence, and engaging with the public, the extensive collection and analysis of personal data often blur the boundaries between legitimate policing and intrusive observation, creating significant ethical, legal, and social challenges. Social media platforms generate vast amounts of personal information, including geolocation data, communications, behavioural patterns, and social networks. Law enforcement agencies increasingly leverage these digital traces to identify suspects, prevent crimes, and investigate

incidents. Techniques such as predictive policing, network analysis, and algorithmic profiling enable authorities to anticipate criminal activity and allocate resources efficiently. However, these practices often involve monitoring individuals who have not committed any crime, raising questions about presumption of innocence and proportionality. Mass surveillance through social media also amplifies risks of discrimination and bias. Algorithm-driven monitoring can disproportionately target marginalized groups, reinforcing existing inequalities in policing and criminal justice. The use of automated detection systems, facial recognition, and data analytics further heightens the potential for errors, misidentification, and wrongful suspicion, undermining public trust and violating fundamental privacy rights (Siniša, et al., 2024).

Legal frameworks governing surveillance vary across jurisdictions, creating challenges for cross-border policing and data protection. In many cases, laws have struggled to keep pace with rapid technological advancements, leaving gaps in accountability and oversight. Questions arise regarding consent, data retention, transparency, and the limits of law enforcement authority in accessing user-generated content. Social media companies, for their part, face pressures to balance cooperation with authorities while protecting users' privacy and upholding ethical standards. The tension between privacy and security is further complicated by public perception. Citizens may tolerate certain surveillance measures when framed as necessary for crime prevention, yet excessive monitoring or high-profile data breaches can provoke resistance, protests, and erosion of institutional trust. Digital literacy and awareness are essential for enabling users to understand the implications of their online behaviour and the extent of law enforcement monitoring. privacy and mass surveillance represent a critical intersection of technology, law, and ethics in the context of social media and crime. While digital monitoring offers powerful tools for law enforcement, it must be balanced with robust safeguards to protect individual rights, ensure transparency, and maintain public confidence. Policymakers, legal authorities, and social media platforms must collaboratively establish clear guidelines that reconcile security objectives with the preservation of fundamental civil liberties. Monitoring social media for crime prevention raises concerns about surveillance overreach, data protection, and civil liberties. Balancing security and privacy remain a major challenge (Ajala, et al., 2024).

6.2 Platform Responsibility

Social media companies play a central role in shaping the dynamics of crime and public perception, as their platforms serve both as tools for communication and as spaces where criminal activity and misinformation can proliferate. The concept of platform responsibility refers to the ethical, legal, and operational obligations of these companies to regulate content, prevent harm, and balance user freedoms with public safety. Platforms are often criticized for enabling criminal behaviour whether through the dissemination of illegal goods, recruitment for extremist groups, or the amplification of harmful challenges and performance crimes. Their algorithms, designed to maximize engagement, inadvertently prioritize sensational or polarizing content, which can include crime-related material, thereby increasing its visibility. This amplification effect makes companies accountable not only for user behaviour but also for the structural dynamics of the platform itself. social media companies have adopted content moderation strategies, including automated detection systems, human review teams, and community reporting mechanisms. These efforts aim to remove illegal content, reduce the spread of misinformation, and flag potentially harmful material. Nevertheless, challenges persist due to the sheer volume of user-generated content, the speed at which it spreads, and the difficulty of distinguishing harmful from innocuous posts in diverse cultural contexts. Legal frameworks increasingly seek to define the scope of platform responsibility. Jurisdictions worldwide are exploring regulations that impose liability for

failing to moderate illegal content, mandate transparency in algorithmic decision-making, and require timely reporting of criminal activity. However, these measures must navigate the tension between enforcing accountability and preserving freedom of expression. Overly aggressive regulation may suppress legitimate speech, while under-regulation allows harmful content to persist, creating societal risks. Platforms also bear ethical responsibilities beyond legal compliance. Transparency in content moderation, algorithmic operations, and data handling is essential for maintaining public trust. Companies are expected to collaborate with law enforcement, civil society organizations, and communities to address emerging risks while ensuring that privacy and civil liberties are respected. Proactive engagement in digital literacy programs, awareness campaigns, and crime prevention initiatives further extends platform responsibility into the realm of social stewardship. social media platforms occupy a critical position in the intersection of digital communication, criminal activity, and public perception. Their responsibility encompasses legal compliance, ethical governance, and technological accountability. Addressing the challenges of platform moderation, algorithmic amplification, and content regulation is essential for mitigating the misuse of social media while promoting a safe and informed online environment (Ribeiro, et al.,2021).

6.3 Freedom of Expression vs. Harm Prevention

The governance of social media in relation to crime involves a delicate balance between protecting freedom of expression and preventing harm. While digital platforms provide essential spaces for communication, activism, and civic engagement, they are also exploited for the dissemination of misinformation, incitement to violence, cybercrime facilitation, and content that threatens public safety. This duality presents a fundamental challenge for regulators, law enforcement, and platform operators: how to safeguard free speech while mitigating criminal and harmful activity. Freedom of expression is enshrined in international human rights frameworks, ensuring individuals the right to share opinions, access information, and participate in public discourse. Social media has expanded these rights by enabling rapid, global communication and amplifying marginalized voices. However, unregulated speech can produce real-world harm when it contributes to criminal acts, moral panics, or the exploitation of vulnerable populations. Examples include the spread of fake crime alerts, radicalization content, cyberbullying, and the organization of unlawful gatherings or mob violence. Harm prevention mechanisms on social media typically involve content moderation, algorithmic interventions, and user reporting systems. These measures aim to restrict illegal, misleading, or dangerous content without unjustly suppressing legitimate expression. However, determining the boundary between harmful content and protected speech is complex. Cultural norms, legal frameworks, and platform policies vary, making consistent enforcement challenging. Overreach in moderation can lead to censorship, stifling public discourse and undermining democratic participation, while under-enforcement permits continued dissemination of harmful material (Kalliris, 2024).

Legal and ethical frameworks attempt to reconcile these tensions by emphasizing proportionality, transparency, and accountability. Platforms are encouraged to adopt clear content guidelines, provide appeal mechanisms, and engage in regular audits of moderation practices. Similarly, policymakers must craft regulations that respect civil liberties while holding platforms accountable for the foreseeable consequences of amplified harmful content. Public education and digital literacy initiatives further support this balance by equipping users to critically evaluate content and report potential risks., the tension between freedom of expression and harm prevention reflects the broader societal challenge of governing digital spaces. Effective policy and platform governance require nuanced approaches that protect individual rights, promote social responsibility, and

mitigate the real-world consequences of harmful online behaviour. Achieving this balance is essential to maintaining both a safe and open digital environment where crime prevention and civic participation coexist. Efforts to curb misinformation or extremist content must navigate constitutional protections for speech. Over-regulation risks suppressing legitimate expression, while under-regulation allows harm to proliferate (Frau-Meigs, 2021).

7. Conclusion

The influence of social media on criminal behaviour and public perception of crime is profound, multifaceted, and increasingly significant in contemporary society. Digital platforms function both as facilitators of criminal activity and amplifiers of public perceptions, shaping how offenses are planned, executed, and interpreted. Social media enables offenders to coordinate and perform crimes, disseminate harmful content, and exploit technological affordances for cyber-enabled offenses. Simultaneously, the widespread circulation of sensationalized posts, misinformation, and fake crime alerts distorts public understanding of crime prevalence, intensifies fear, and affects trust in law enforcement institutions. Law enforcement and community stakeholders face both opportunities and challenges in this digital landscape. Digital policing, community mobilization, awareness campaigns, and social media engagement can enhance crime prevention, public safety, and civic participation. However, ethical and legal concerns—including privacy violations, mass surveillance, algorithmic bias, and platform accountability—require careful management. Balancing freedom of expression with harm prevention remains a central challenge, highlighting the need for nuanced regulations, transparent governance, and responsible platform practices. Recommendations for practice and policy include strengthening digital literacy programs to equip citizens with skills to critically evaluate online content, developing clear legal frameworks to regulate platform responsibility and digital evidence usage, and enhancing collaboration between law enforcement, social media companies, and civil society. Ethical algorithmic design should also be promoted to mitigate the amplification of harmful content and biases. Future research may explore the role of artificial intelligence in moderating harmful content, cross-border cooperation for cybercrime prevention, and the psychological mechanisms linking social media exposure to criminal behaviour and public fear. Comparative studies across jurisdictions could further clarify the effectiveness of regulatory frameworks and digital policing strategies. Understanding the interplay between social media, crime, and public perception is critical for policymakers, law enforcement, and citizens alike. Addressing the dual challenges of technological facilitation of crime and digitally amplified fear is essential to fostering safer, informed, and digitally resilient societies. Social media exerts a profound influence on both criminal behaviour and public perceptions of crime. While it offers new opportunities for communication and community empowerment, it also facilitates criminal activities and amplifies fear through sensational and often misleading content. Understanding this duality is essential for developing effective policy interventions. Governments should invest in digital literacy programs, strengthen cybercrime legislation, and improve law enforcement's technological capabilities. Social media companies must enhance content moderation and algorithmic transparency, while civil society organizations should promote responsible digital engagement. Future research should explore artificial intelligence's role in moderating harmful content, cross-border regulation of digital crime networks, and the impact of emerging platforms on youth behaviour.

References

1. Aguerri, J. C., Miró-Llinares, F., & Vila-Viñas, D. (2025). When social media feeds classic punitivism on media: The coverage of the glorification of terrorism on XXI. *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, 25(2), 315-334.
2. AHMAD, N., LILIENTHAL, G., & bin ASMAD, A. (2023). The Impact of social media on UK Hate Crime: A Brief Study. *Journal of Internet Social Networking & Virtual Communities*, DOI, 10(2023.989773).
3. Ahmed, F. A., Zafar, S., & Gul, S. (2025). Analyzing PECA amendments: Press freedom, democratic values, and digital regulation in Pakistan. *Traditional Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 4(01), 41-51.
4. Ajala, O. A., Arinze, C. A., Ofodile, O. C., Okoye, C. C., & Daraojimba, O. D. (2024). Reviewing advancements in privacy-enhancing technologies for big data analytics in an era of increased surveillance. *World Journal of Advanced Engineering Technology and Sciences*, 11(1), 294-300.
5. Anavami, A. A., Faith, I., & Aluya, I. (2025). Tweeting the One Chance Uprising in Nigeria: Investigating Discourse Acts in the Social Media. *Journal of Language and Linguistics*, 9(1).
6. Apel, R. (2022). Sanctions, perceptions, and crime. *Annual Review of Criminology*, 5(1), 205-227.
7. Balqis, A. A. A., & Badu, L. W. (2025). The Influence of Digitalization in Encouraging Crime: A Criminological Perspective. *Estudiante Law Journal*, 7(1), 139-148.
8. Bjelajac, Z., & Filipovic, A. M. (2023). Media and Criminal Behavior-Between Social Responsibility and Destruction. *Law Theory & Prac.*, 40, 17.
9. Buckley, S. (2025). *Guns, Policing, and Crime: How the Internet and Social Media Shape Public Opinions* (Master's thesis, University of Arkansas).
10. Buckley, S. (2025). *Guns, Policing, and Crime: How the Internet and Social Media Shape Public Opinions* (Master's thesis, University of Arkansas).
11. Chaparro, L. F., Pulido, C., Rudas, J., Victorino, J., Reyes, A. M., Estrada, C., ... & Gómez, F. (2021). Quantifying perception of security through social media and its relationship with crime. *IEEE Access*, 9, 139201-139213.
12. Cheng, Y. (2023). The impact of social media on deviance and crime. *Journal of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences*, 22, 873-877.
13. Chetioui, K., Bah, B., Alami, A. O., & Bahnasse, A. (2022). Overview of social engineering attacks on social networks. *Procedia Computer Science*, 198, 656-661.
14. Durau, J., Diehl, S., & Terlutter, R. (2022). Motivate me to exercise with you: The effects of social media fitness influencers on users' intentions to engage in physical activity and the role of user gender. *Digital Health*, 8, 20552076221102769.
15. Frau-Meigs, D. (2021). Addressing the Risks of Harms Caused by Disinformation: European vs. US Approaches to Testing the Limits of Dignity and Freedom of Expression Online. *The Handbook of Communication Rights, Law, and Ethics: Seeking Universality, Equality, Freedom and Dignity*, 135-146.
16. Gul, S., & Malik, W. (2024). Cyber Conflict and International Security: Legal Challenges and Strategic Solutions in Cyberspace. *The Journal of Research Review*, 1(04), 305-314.
17. Gul, S., & Malik, W. (2024). Cyber Conflict and International Security: Legal Challenges and Strategic Solutions in Cyberspace. *The Journal of Research Review*, 1(04), 305-314.
18. Gul, S., Ahmad, R., & Rahman, S. U. (2025). Constitutional Dualities: Reconciling Islamic Normativity with Common Law Principles in Hybrid Legal Systems. *Indus Journal of Social Sciences*, 3(2), 674-693.

19. Gul, S., Malik, W., & Qureshi, G. M. (2025). Cybersecurity And Sovereignty: The Role Of International Law In Governing State Behaviour In Cyberspace. *Policy Journal of Social Science Review*, 3(5), 121-135.
20. Gul, S., Saman, A., & Ahmad, F. (2025). The Convergence of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Recalibrating Legal Boundaries in Contemporary Conflict. *The Critical Review of Social Sciences Studies*, 3(2), 1391-1403.
21. Hussain, N., Khan, A., & Chandio, L. A. (2023). Legal Safeguards against Mob Justice: An Analysis of Blasphemy Laws in Pakistan and International Human Rights Norms.
22. Hussain, N., Khan, A., Chandio, L. A., & Oad, S. (2023). Individual criminal responsibility for the crime of aggression: the role of the ICC's Leadership Clause. *Pakistan journal of humanities and social sciences*, 11(1), 223-232.
23. Ismail, N., Noor, S. M., Ahmad, J., & Jamri, M. H. (2022). Understanding factors influencing crime prevention information on social media. *Intellectual Discourse*, 30(2).
24. Javed, K., Jianxin, L., & Khan, A. (2021). Constitutional exceptions of right to speech: Evidence from the apex courts of Pakistan. *Journal of Humanities, Social and Management Sciences (JHMS)*, 2(1), 72-84.
25. Kalliris, K. (2024). Online harm, free speech, and the 'legal but harmful' debate: an interest-based approach. *Journal of Media Law*, 16(2), 390-416.
26. Kanwel, S., KHAN, M. I., Usman, M., & Khan, A. (2020). Navigating Constitutional Challenges: An In-depth Exploration of Pakistan's Constitutional Landscape. *International Review of Social Sciences (IRSS)*, 8(11), 273-279.
27. Khan, A. S. I. F., Amjad, S. O. H. A. I. L., & Usman, M. U. H. A. M. M. A. D. (2020). The Evolution of Human Rights Law in the Age of Globalization. *Pakistan journal of law, analysis and wisdom*.
28. Khan, A. S., Bibi, A., Khan, A., & Ahmad, I. (2023). Responsibility of Sexual Violence Under International Law. *Journal of Social Sciences Review*, 3(1), 29-41.
29. Khan, A., & Usman, M. (2023). The effectiveness of international law: a comparative analysis. *International Journal of Contemporary Issues in Social Sciences*, 2(3), 780-786.
30. Khan, A., Amjad, S., & Usman, M. (2020). The Role of Customary International Law in Contemporary International Relations. *International Review of Social Sciences*, 8(08), 259-265.
31. Khan, A., Bhatti, S. H., & Shah, A. (2021). An overview on individual criminal liability for crime of aggression. *Liberal Arts and Social Sciences International Journal (LASSIJ)*, 5(1), 432-442.
32. Khan, A., Hussain, N., & Oad, S. (2023). The Rome Statute: A Critical Review Of The Role Of The Swgca In Defining The Crime Of Aggression. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 6(1).
33. Khan, A., Iqbal, N., & Ahmad, I. (2022). Human Trafficking in Pakistan: A Qualitative Analysis. *Journal of Social Sciences Review*, 2(3), 257-268.
34. Khan, A., Javed, K., Khan, A. S., & Rizwi, A. (2022). Aggression and individual criminal responsibility in the perspective of Islamic law.
35. Khan, A., Khan, A. S., & Khan, I. (2022). Responsibility Of Killer Robots For Causing Civilian Harm: A Critique Of Ai Application In Warfare Doctrine. *Pakistan Journal of International Affairs*, 5(1), 15-33.
36. Khan, A., Usman, M., & Amjad, S. (2020). Enforcing Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: A Global Imperative. *International Review of Social Sciences (IRSS)*, 8(09).
37. Khan, A., Usman, M., & Amjad, S. (2020). Jurisdictional Challenges in Prosecuting Maritime Crimes: A Comparative Analysis. *International Review of Social Sciences*, 8(11), 376-382.

38. KHAN, A., USMAN, M., & RIAZ, N. (2021). The Intersectionality of Human Rights: Addressing Multiple Discrimination. *Asian Social Studies and Applied Research (ASSAR)*, 2(03), 498-502.
39. Khan, M. I., & Riaz, N. (2024). Blasphemy Laws in Pakistan: A Legal Analysis and Contemporary Discourse. *International Journal of Social Science Archives (IJSSA)*, 7(1).
40. Khwaileh, K. (2025). Public Perceptions of Jordan's Cybercrime Law: Protecting Social Media Data and Aligning with International Standards. *Available at SSRN 5260614*.
41. Malik, W., & Gul, S. (2024). Bridging the Gap: Exploring the Intersection of Cybersecurity and Human Security in the Digital Age. *Competitive Research Journal Archive*, 2(04), 195-202.
42. Riaz, N., Khan, A., & Usman, M. (2022). Legal frameworks for combatting piracy under international law: evolving strategies and challenges. *Asian Social Studies and Applied Research (ASSAR)*, 3(01), 284-291.
43. Ribeiro-Navarrete, S., Saura, J. R., & Palacios-Marqués, D. (2021). Towards a new era of mass data collection: Assessing pandemic surveillance technologies to preserve user privacy. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 167, 120681.
44. Siniša, D., Darko, M. M., & Tatjana, S. (2024). Privacy under threat–The intersection of IoT and mass surveillance.
45. Thukral, P., & Kainya, V. (2022). How social media influence crimes. *Issue 2 Indian JL & Legal Rsch.*, 4, 1.
46. Tiratelli, M. (2025). Attitudes to Crime and Punishment in England and Wales, 1964–2023: A Reinterpretation of the 1980s and a Model of Interactions Between Concern, Punitiveness and Prioritization. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 65(2), 387-404.
47. Usman, M. U. H. A. M. M. A. D., Amjad, S. O. H. A. I. L., & Khan, A. S. I. F. (2021). Human Trafficking and Smuggling: Intersection with Maritime Law and International Cooperation. *International Review of Social Sciences*, 9(01), 504-510.
48. Usman, M. U. H. A. M. M. A. D., Khan, A. S. I. F., & Amjad, S. O. H. A. I. L. (2021). State Responsibility and International Law: Bridging the Gap.
49. Usman, M., KANWEL, S., KHAN, M. I., & Khan, A. (2021). Advancing Gender Equality within the Legal Framework of Pakistan: Navigating Progress and Overcoming Persistent Challenges. *International Review of Social Sciences (IRSS)*, 9(5), 310-316.
50. Usman, M., Khan, A., & Amjad, S. (2021). Implications of transnational crime on maritime jurisdiction and enforcement. *International Review of Social Sciences*, 9(04), 456-462.
51. Van Berkel, S., Kleemans, E., & Mooij, A. (2025). Social media and organizing violent crime against persons and properties: a qualitative analysis of online criminal communication between young offenders based on seized telephone information. *Trends in Organized Crime*, 1-22.
52. Wood, M. A., & Thompson, C. (2021). Crime prevention, swarm intelligence and stigmergy: Understanding the mechanisms of social media-facilitated community crime prevention. *The British journal of criminology*, 61(2), 414-433.
53. Yang, J., Mu, L., & Grigsby-Toussaint, D. S. (2025). Public perceptions and expectations of urban park environments on children's play: A GIS and text mining analysis on children's activity in Atlanta's parks using social media data. *Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, 52(2), 412-429.