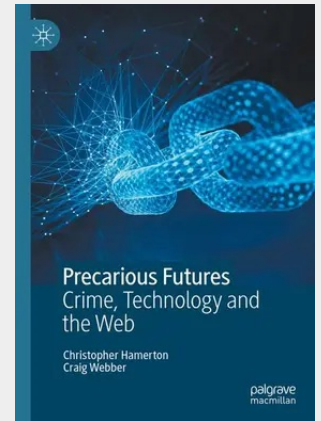


Precarious Futures

Crime, Technology and the Web

Precarious Futures explores the evolving and emerging relationship between crime and technology in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, along with its implications for new perceptions of crime and deviance. It evaluates the rise of the World Wide Web and the model of cybercrime, questions whether existing criminological thought offers relevance and efficacy in current circumstances, conditions and future predictions, and revisits the concept of Relative Deprivation and the underpinning social psychological and socio-political foundations of it. It argues that Relative Deprivation allied to post-industrial precarity provides a central platform for understanding crime and deviance in a hyper-connected and hyper-commercial neoliberal world. The book develops to explore current criminological and security conceptions of artificial intelligence, big data, crime and social control, as well as hacktivism, and how opportunities for crime have become 'democratised' and expanded through the Web. Drawing on empirical data, theoretical narratives and a review of the state of crime now and in a speculative near future, Hamerton and Webber discuss some potential directions for a new transdisciplinary critical criminology. *Precarious Futures* speaks to criminologists, sociologists and social theory scholars and students, as well as academics and professionals in associated technological fields such as cyber-security, computer science and web science.

Precarious Futures: Crime, Technology and the Web explores rapidly changing social relationships within an increasingly interconnected digital world. Challenging conventional understandings of cybercrime and questioning the continued adequacy of established criminological frameworks, it argues, inter alia, that relative deprivation, reworked as a form of post-industrial precarity, provides a powerful foundation for understanding crime and deviance in a hyper-connected, hyper-commercial neoliberal society. Drawing on empirical research, social theory, and contemporary debates on artificial intelligence, big data, surveillance, hacktivism, and digital power, the book examines how the Web has transformed opportunities for crime while reshaping the practices of governance and prediction. In doing so, Hamerton and Webber advance new theoretical models: temporal relative deprivation; the metaopticon; techniques of normalisation; and the precariousness of predictive systems, to explain the dynamics of crime and social control in an age of pervasive surveillance and artificial general intelligence. *Precarious Futures* advances a transdisciplinary critical digital criminology for understanding the uncertainties of the digital age. It will be essential reading for scholars and students of criminology and sociology, as well as researchers and practitioners in cyber security, computer science, artificial intelligence studies, and related fields.



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