



Book

‘Cartographies of Kidnapping. Mapping crimes against (Im)mobility in the XXI Century’

Call for Contributions

Editors

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Background

Kidnapping remains a complex, pervasive, and evolving crime within contemporary societies around the world. Traditionally understood through legalistic frameworks as the unlawful deprivation of liberty, involving force, violence, or coercion, kidnapping is frequently characterised by instrumental motivations, including financial gain or political leverage, or expressive motivations, reflecting grievances or emotional reactions. However, this narrow interpretation limits our full understanding of kidnapping as a multifaceted social phenomenon that is deeply embedded in socio-political, economic, and cultural contexts.

This edited volume, *‘Cartographies of Kidnapping. Mapping crimes against (Im)mobility in the XXI Century’*, seeks to transcend conventional narratives and simplistic representations often reinforced by mass media sensationalism. The book invites contributions that provide rigorous theoretical reflections and empirical analyses to comprehend kidnapping as a socio-cultural phenomenon shaped significantly by political contexts, power dynamics, emotional ontologies, and surveillance practices. The goal is to understand kidnapping as a form of social transaction regulated by economic markets, symbolic capital exchanges, and power relationships, recognising kidnapped persons as carriers of valuable symbolic capital sought by kidnappers. Human life, as a universally valued and inviolable right, constitutes the foundation upon which kidnapping practices thrive.

This collection will also address the idea of kidnapping as a social and performative action characterised by mutual surveillance between kidnappers and kidnappees. Within this dynamic, kidnappers monitor their captives closely, while the captives also engage in surveillance tactics to anticipate and respond to their captors’ behaviours, creating intricate power relationships and emotional intimacies. Such interactions can sometimes reconfigure traditional perceptions of kinship, protection, and control, further complicating the conventional dichotomy between victim and perpetrator.

In addition, this volume aims to critically examine the intersections of kidnapping with broader societal issues, including poverty, inequality, insecurity, and forced immobility. Kidnapping, in this context, is not only a violation of individual liberties but also a significant threat that transcends national boundaries, connecting with other illicit practices like human trafficking, organised crime, terrorism, and illegal migration. This transnational dimension highlights kidnapping as both a global crime phenomenon and a critical security challenge in regions with weak governance structures or ongoing armed conflicts.

Given these gaps, the volume invites scholars worldwide to reflect on kidnapping through novel theoretical and epistemological lenses, emphasising interdisciplinarity by bridging criminological theories, surveillance studies, emotional ontologies, political and economic epistemologies, and transitional justice perspectives. Contributions are encouraged that present both quantitative and

qualitative analyses, including case studies, comparative research, and interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks.

This edited book is an outcome of a collaborative alliance between the University of Huddersfield (United Kingdom), the University of Alberta (Canada), and the Research Committee on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change (RC48) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). Possible contributions topics may include but not limited to:

- *Empirical and theoretical analyses of traditional forms of kidnapping*, including kidnapping for ransom and political kidnapping.
- *Kidnapping and its intersection with transitional justice processes*, particularly in post-conflict societies. Issues regarding reparation, restorative justice, recognition, and support frameworks for victims and survivors of kidnapping.
- *Comparative and transnational studies* addressing different national and regional responses to kidnapping.
- *New technologies, digital platforms, and kidnapping*, transformations in kidnapping methods, and ransom payment in the digital age.
- *Counter-measures against kidnapping*, national and international responses, legal frameworks, policing strategies, and civil society initiatives.
- *The intersection and overlapping of kidnapping with other forms of criminality*, including terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and organised crime.
- *Kidnapping practices carried out or sponsored by states*; state-sponsored abductions, disappearances, and extrajudicial detentions.
- *Novel theoretical and epistemological angles to study kidnapping*, including innovative conceptualisations and interdisciplinary approaches.
- *Prospective analysis and predictions* concerning future types, modalities, and contexts of kidnapping.

If you are interested in proposing a chapter for inclusion in this book on ‘*Cartographies of Kidnapping. Mapping Kidnapping in the XXI*’, please send the following information to Temitope ORIOLA, University of Alberta, Canada, and Camilo TAMAYO GOMEZ, University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom (Book Editors) on or before the end of the day on **15 May 2025** to oriola@ualberta.ca and c.a.tamayogomez@hud.ac.uk

- Your name and details of your institutional affiliation (if applicable).
- A 100-word bio with link to your online profile, website, etc.
- A title and 350-500 word abstract for your proposed chapter contribution.

Please note that the submissions are refereed and subject to editorial review.

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Edited Book Timetable

The timetable for this edited book on ‘*Cartographies of Kidnapping. Mapping Kidnapping in the XXI*’ is as follows:

Deadline for abstracts and expressions of interest in writing for the book: **15 May 2025**

Notification selected proposals: **15 June 2025**

Deadline for submissions of the first draft: **15 October 2025**

Peer review process: **15 October to 15 November 2025**

Submission of final versions: **15 February 2026**

Book in publication process: **Summer 2026**

Please note that the length of chapters should be **5,000-8,000 words**.

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions!

Kind regards,

Temitope ORIOLA, University of Alberta, Canada, and Camilo TAMAYO GOMEZ, University of
Huddersfield, United Kingdom

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