Thank you for reviewing this paper. The next page has information for you to fill in. When you’re done, please email this document to [qualitativecriminology@criminologyopen.com](mailto:qualitativecriminology@criminologyopen.com). Don’t forget to download this paper to save it.

Please note the following bullet-point items. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email the editor at [scottjacques@criminologyopen.com](mailto:scottjacques@criminologyopen.com).

* By submitting this review, you consent to it being published on [CrimRxiv](https://crimrxiv.pubpub.org/) as [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).
* Authors are identified. *QC* trusts that referees will not discriminate—in favor of or against—authors based on their identity. This applies to institutional affiliation, gender, race, rank and basically anything that doesn’t emanate from the paper and it alone. This also applies to interpersonal issues, good and bad. Before submitting your review, ask yourself if any of those factors shaped it. If so, please reconsider your review or recuse yourself.
* We don’t do R&Rs. You vote on whether to publish the paper in its current form, pending minor changes, or reject it.
  + Why? There are many right and good ways to do criminological research. All papers can be better, but we are wasting too much time and energy on revisions that don’t *significantly* improve papers. That is inefficient, makes articles less authentic to authors, and, sometimes, contra innovation and inclusivity. For more info, see the [Letter from the Editor](https://www.qualitativecriminology.com/pub/letter-from-the-editor-of-qc).
* For how to vote, we have the following in mind:
  + *Reject* a paper if (1) it’s not competently executed **or** (2) doesn’t present one or more good ideas.
  + *Accept in its current form* if (1) the paper is competently executed and presents one or more good ideas, **and** (2) doesn’t require minor changes.
  + *Accept pending minor changes* if (1) the paper is competently executed and presents one or more good ideas, **but** (2) there are minor changes that should definitely be done—i.e., more than a subjective preference—and definitely can be “pulled off” by the author (i.e., they are not particularly difficult or elaborate).
* Here is more information on what we have in mind by “minor changes”:
  + Many minor changes do not equal “reject.” I.e., to accept pending minor changes, it makes no difference if there’s few or many minor changes that will take little or much time.
  + Minor changes may concern any of the following:
    - the writing;
    - the topic and relevant literature;
    - how and why the study addresses limitations in that literature;
    - the method, including ethical considerations and practices;
    - specific and general interpretations of the data and whether they are shown to readers;
    - reasonable paths forward in qualitative and quantitative research, policy and practice.
  + By “minor,” we are not including any significant reframing of the theoretical underpinnings or presentation and interpretation of data. Those are major changes.

\*\*\*Writing Below Here to Be Shared with Author(s) and Published\*\*\*

Please your write your full name (and ORCiD, if desired) if you want it published with your review. Otherwise it will be anonymous.

* Name:

For the paper, vote on whether to (1) publish as is, (2) pending minor changes, or (3) reject it.

* Vote:

*For votes to count, referees must reasonably explain why they voted as they did. Thus …*

Please explain your vote. If you voted to publish pending minor changes, specify each change, why it is needed, and, possibly, how it should/could be done.

* Explain:

Please put additional info below, as/if you see fit:

* Additional Info:

\*\*\*Writing Above Here to Be Shared with Author(s) and Published\*\*\*

**Journal’s Preferred Way to Evaluate a Paper**

There are two core criteria: A paper should be published if (1) competently executed and (2) good. If not, it should be rejected, unless minor changes will resolve the problem(s).

* Is the paper competently executed? This means written in a simple, clear fashion. And, properly describes and explains: (1) the topic and relevant literature; (2) how and why the study addresses limitations in that literature; (3) the method, including ethical considerations and practices; (4) specific and general interpretations of the data by showing them to readers; and, (5) reasonable paths forward in qualitative and quantitative research, policy and practice.
* Is the paper good? This means …
  + Provides one or more original ideas created through the analysis of data. “Original” means not conventional or stale. I.e., tells us something we didn’t know, hadn’t thought of, or contrary to what we assumed to be true. Original ideas need not—should not—be disconnected from the literature. Indeed, originality is only discernible in light of prior and current ideas that animate the field.
  + The idea(s) may be conceptual or theoretical. Conceptual ideas are better to the extent they are more elegant, general, powerful, and theoretical. Theoretical ideas are better to the extent they are more elegant, general, testable, and valid.