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# Guns, Gun Violence and Gun Homicides

## Perspectives from the Caribbean, Global South and Beyond

*Edited by*  
Wendell C. Wallace

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Wendell C. Wallace  
Editor

# Guns, Gun Violence and Gun Homicides

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*Editor*

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## Foreword

This book, titled *Guns, Gun Violence and Gun Homicides: Perspectives from the Caribbean, Global South and Beyond* is edited by Dr. Wendell C. Wallace, a Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice at The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine. Dr. Wallace is also a certified mediator and a barrister who is called to bar in both England and Wales and Trinidad and Tobago.

As a sociologist, I have worked collaboratively with Dr. Wallace at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. We share similar interests on migration and crime. Our perspectives cut across disciplines such as sociology, criminology and academic or scientific research. Often times, our exchanges have been informal, but profound and have left an indelible mark on my intellect. Sometimes, they have stirred up my thirst for knowledge and renewed my desire to engage in academic research activity in the fields of sociology and, criminology and criminal justice. Instructively, it was important that I grasped the opportunity to author this foreword as it provided me with the opportunity to emphasize that interdisciplinary collaboration between criminologist (Dr. Wallace) and me (sociologist) is taking place at The UWI.

As a Lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Dr. Wallace has been teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine for more than ten years. Some of the courses taught include Crime, Police and Society, Criminal Justice Systems and Criminal Law and Procedure. This great scholar has been a mentor to many students who have benefitted from his years of experience in criminal justice and academia. Some of them have attained Bachelor's and Master's degrees and sustainable employment at home and abroad in a variety of fields.

Dr. Wallace's passion for academic and scholarly growth activities through research is exemplary. He has published original, empirical and theory-driven research in many subfields of criminology and criminal justice. The list includes individual and collaborative studies on policing, prison conditions, gangs, intimate partner violence and restorative justice. Dr. Wallace has been involved in the cross disciplinary activity (Social Work and Psychology) as he studies current societal problems such as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and, gangs and guns in urban communities particularly 'Hot Spots' or high crime areas along Trinidad's East-West corridor. In addition, his research agenda has resulted in the conduct of field research in other Caribbean territories, namely: Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana.

This book consists of sixteen chapters including an introduction and a conclusion. Each chapter is written by scholars and academics from social science disciplines: criminology, demography and sociology. Each chapter delves into specific aspects of guns, gun violence and gun homicides and others in Australia, the Caribbean, other parts of the global South including Africa, Asia and Brazil. The book makes a significant contribution to criminology and criminal justice by proffering scientific assessments of myriad issues in guns, gun violence, homicide and gun legislation. When readers delve into the chapters of this book, they will encounter scholarly, thought provoking and insightful perspectives on a number of related themes namely mass shootings, peace and security, increasing trends and patterns in gun homicides, gang violence and police use of lethal, deadly or excessive force, declining youth life expectancy, school drop-out and youth unemployment. An interdisciplinary epistemology and ontology are one of the major strengths of this

book. This is evident in the use of theories from criminology and criminal justice and sociology. This book makes for interesting reading. In addition, the history of gun violence in the colonialization of specific parts of the South has been ventilated in a number of chapters.

The social positioning adopted by contributors to this book may be viewed from two major interrelated perspectives: dependency and neo-colonialization. I argue that both perspectives must be couched in constructionist philosophy. First, in regard to gun supply, it is evident that the global South is dependent on largely the Global North. On the whole, it can be argued that the South is a net importer of guns. Some contributors have pointed to a discernible increase in the use of guns to commit chiefly capital and property crimes. This raises serious doubt about the efficacy of governments in the South to provide adequate surveillance of their borders and implement effective border security in order to keep out major suppliers and gun traffickers. Also, this book raises arouses readers' interest in the dependency of governments in the South, on international policing agencies such as Interpol, to reduce the risk of being overrun by gun traffickers from the North and other parts of the South whose main interest is profit-making.

Second, in this book, it is apparent that an emergent neocolonialist philosophy in some parts of the South has emerged over the past fifty years or so. It is characterized by weak government structures, powerful, elite and autonomous police departments and the near absence of justice for families and victims of extrajudicial killings. The overarching ontological standpoint gleaned from book chapters is that the combination of dependency and neo-colonialization has produced increasing crime rates and trends in the South. This may be the case because dependency on guns results from the unequal exchange relationship between gun traffickers who reside outside the South and criminal networks within it. A salient point is that often gun traffickers sell guns without reciprocating purchases. They sell guns, but buy nothing from their clients in return. In essence, the economics of mercantilism of conventional colonialization, from the fifteenth Century onwards, dominates the gun trade as illegitimate guns get into the hands of local. The end result is growth and strengthening of alternative governments (illegitimate structures and institutions) that threaten the hegemony of democratically



elected governments in the South in particular. The globalizing effects of gun and the gun trade parallel those arising from the financialization and commodification of legitimate goods and services traded on the World Market.

This book delves into a number of chapters that illuminate a strengthening of the nexus between dependency and neo-colonization in the Global South. This nexus has evolved and strengthen because of the South's apparent inability to stem the trade in illegal guns and increase in gun crimes within its borders. It is evident that some elites in the alternate government are bred within the South because some governments turn 'a blind eye' to gun traffickers, extrajudicial killings and the social malaise stemming from increasing gun violence and gun-related homicides. This book is worth reading as it provides opportunity for a reassessment of the impact of globalization in the context of guns in the Caribbean, the Global South and Beyond.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and  
Tobago  
July 2021

Dr. Bennie Berkeley

## Preface

I was motivated and inspired to author this edited book due to three separate, yet interconnected factors. The first was the paucity of literature on guns and gun violence emanating from the Global South. The second factor was a personal desire to understand the phenomenon and posit solutions to this pervasive issue. Finally, the third and most nebulous concern was the increased usage of guns in the Caribbean to commit heinous crimes though the Caribbean does not manufacture guns. With the aforementioned in mind, the editor of this book is extremely grateful for the contributions made to this book by the book chapter authors. Indeed, I am heartened by the efforts made by the authors of these chapters as they accessed data, captured thoughts, collated them, and contributed their discourse to this book under extremely trying circumstances. Due to the historic time and condition under which this book was completed (the global pandemic caused by the Covid-19 disease), several book chapter authors were forced to withdraw their participation. Instructively, their efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated as I extend a hearty thank you to these individuals for their noble efforts. This book includes the work of scholars of diverse career stages,

including early, mid- and established career scholars. Further, the scholarship contained in this collective emanated from a diverse range of countries as the career stages of the book chapter authors. For instance, the research sites for the scholarship contained in this edited book range from Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, to Bangladesh in South Asia, Brazil in South Africa to Nigeria and Zimbabwe on the African continent as well as to Australia. Based on the hard work conducted by the book chapter authors, the end result is this riveting and captivating edited book that is a treasure trove of information about guns, gun violence and gun homicides with perspectives from the Caribbean, Global South and Beyond. While the chapters are individualized, the contents are generally linked by to the central theme of the book. Further, primary and secondary data are skilfully interwoven into every book chapter of this collective. A key feature of this book is the preventative tips that are contained in each book chapter as the literature is solutions oriented. Due to the diverse range of book chapter authors, research sites and contents, emanating from jurisdictions in some instances that are traditionally un- and under-researched, *Guns, Gun Violence and Gun Homicides: Perspectives from the Caribbean, Global South and Beyond*, provides much needed scholarship that is not based on Western dicta and adds to the development of criminological literature in the Global South. Additionally, this edited book facilitates the creation of scholarship and the transference of knowledge from the Global South, and thus reorient the traditional colonization of knowledge away from established status quo.

St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago

Wendell C. Wallace

# Acknowledgements

The task of being the editor of a manuscript is never an easy task. On one hand, the job of being the editor may appear to be an exasperating experience for some individuals, however, on the other hand, the experience is a gratifying and satisfying one, despite its arduous nature. Instructively, there are many people and many factors that contribute to the success of a collective effort such as the one undertaken by the editor of this book.

Much of the work that goes into producing a successful edited book takes place behind the scene and involves the process of first convincing the potential publisher of the efficacy and virtue of the book. However, the process does not end with the acceptance of the proposal as the process continues to authoring an academically attractive Call For Paper, accepting and rejecting proposals from book chapter authors, sourcing reviewers and ensuring that the reviews are conducted in a timely and fair manner, ensuring that there is a central theme to the collective, working with book chapter authors and reviewers across different time zones and who possess different work ethos to those of the book editor, and ensuring that the full manuscript gets to the publisher on time.

This book was written in a historic time, under tremendous emotional stress and environmental turmoil of a global pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus. This facilitated a shift away from conventional methods of data collection to what has been globally referred to as the 'new normal'. Indeed, it was no easy feat to complete this collective and it is imperative that every individual who contributed to the success of this book production be acknowledged and thanked.

The editor of this book would like to thank Dr. Bennie Berkeley for agreeing to author the foreword for this book at short notice. The editor is also indebted to the book chapter authors who worked assiduously to collect data in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic when others would have simply given up. To this illustrious team of emerging, mid-career and established academicians, the editor of this book offers a heartfelt thank you. I also extend a significant and well-deserved thank you to those individuals who facilitated requests for data, provided contextual information via the conduct of interviews, and those individuals who took time off from their busy schedules to willingly share knowledge and information on their personal lives with the interviewers, and by extension, the global audience.

To the three specially invited book chapter authors, Professor Tim Prenzler and team, Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard and Luiz Phelipe Dal Santo, thank you for your commitment and contribution to this book. Indeed, I owe the aforementioned individuals a debt of gratitude as their commitment to this book never wavered. The editor notes that the book chapter authors acknowledge one another for their contributions to this collective. Finally, the editor also extends his heartfelt gratitude to the team at Palgrave Macmillan who oversaw the production of this book and who offered constant and invaluable advice and who facilitated my every request. Congratulations, our long deliberations and arduous work is now rewarded. We did it, and we did it together!!

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## Notes on Contributors

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**Lorna E. Grant** is an Associate Professor and Director of the M.Sc. Programme in the Department of Criminal Justice Department, North Carolina Central University. She earned her Doctorate in Juvenile Justice from Prairie View A & M University, Texas, B.Sc. in Social Work and MSW in Social Work Administration from The University of the West Indies, Jamaica. Prior to joining the faculty at North Carolina Central University, she taught at The University of the West Indies, Jamaica and Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta. Dr. Grant is a member of The American Society of Criminology (ASC) and The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS). Her research interest includes, but is not limited to youth gangs, juvenile justice issues, school violence, juvenile sex offenders, policing in Jamaica, community building and project development and implementation. Dr. has recently edited a book with two of her colleagues entitled *Crime and Violence in the Caribbean*. She has published numerous research articles in international peer reviewed journals.

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**Christopher S. Inkpen, Ph.D.** is a Research Sociologist and Demographer in the Division for Applied Justice Research at RTI International. In 2018, he co-directed the project, 'Improving the Data Ecosystem for Governance Decision Making in Belize'. Funded by the USStates

Embassy, this 2-year project is focussed on building capacity among civil society organizations and civil service actors to promote enhanced governance accountability. Dr. Inkpen studies quantitative criminology, specifically the application of machine learning techniques to social science and survey data. His substantive research focuses on public opinion of criminal justice issues, immigration and the intersection of migration and crime, particularly in Central America and the Northern Triangle. His research has been funded by the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the National Institute of Justice.

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with youthful populations as a Guidance Officer in the past. Her training has taken her into the fields of Defence and Security, Restorative Justice, Educational Consultancy, Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis and she has presented her research at several international conferences. Ayinka enjoys culture, especially carnival and is involved in the management of a Children's Carnival Band which gives many young persons from disadvantaged homes an opportunity to participate in this annual festival in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Declan Ihekwoaba Onwudiwe** is a Professor of Administration of Justice at Texas Southern University (TSU). Dr. Onwudiwe received his Ph.D. from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. His research has focussed primarily on community policing, terrorism and homeland security.

**Kyra Paul-L'Homme** is a community animator and cultural enthusiast who firmly believes that community development initiatives and performing arts opportunities influence the socio-economic situation of communities. Through both her professional and personal development pursuits, Dr. Paul continues to inspire many young women to aspire to higher learning and to advocate for equality and justice on all fronts. Her love for social policy led her on a career path that took her from primary education, adult education and skills facilitation, research and programme coordination and gender and development to social and economic planning. At the time of writing, Dr. Paul is the acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security in Dominica.

**Evenson Pierre-Louis** graduated in journalism from the Francophone Institute of Journalism (IFJ). He also holds a certificate in Legal Sciences from the School of Law of Economic Sciences of Hinche (EDSEH) province entity of the UEH. He is currently working on his thesis to obtain the degree of licentiate in Legal Sciences. Evenson is an active member of several organizations namely: Center of Leadership and Excellence (CLE) and the Collective of Young Executives for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (COJECAPH). Evenson is a well-renowned Human Rights activist.

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