CrimRxiv •

Q&A Forum

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This page has questions and answers (Q&A) about using CrimRxiv and related matters (e.g., open access, copyright, licenses, effects on peer-review, etc.).¹ To see all questions at once, click “CONTENTS” near this page’s upper-right corner; you can skip to a question by clicking on it.

There are three ways to submit questions to this forum: best is to use the “COMMENTS” field (at this page’s end) to “Start a Discussion”; you may also [email us](#) or [tweet at us](#).

Additional Q&A resources are found on the page, [How To CrimRxiv](#), and the website, [CriminologyOpen.com](#). Outside our organization, you can learn more about open access at many websites. We recommend the [supplemental page for Suber’s Open Access](#) and the [Open Access Directory](#).

What can I share on CrimRxiv?

Currently, you can share your papers, specifically your [Postprints + Versions of Record](#) and your [Preprints + Working Papers](#). Later, you will be able to share other criminological outputs, such as reviews, data, code, presentations, and educational materials.

What are a “Postprint” and “Version of Record”?

A “Postprint” is a paper that has been accepted for publication in an outlet (e.g., a journal), prior to being formatted or otherwise changed by the publisher.² A “Version of Record” is a paper in its final form, such as published in a journal or as a final report.

What are a “Preprint” and “Working Paper”?

A “Preprint” is a paper that has not been accepted for publication but was, is, or soon will be under review.³ Some people define “Working Paper” the same way. It may also be defined as a paper that is complete, at least as a first draft, but not considered ready for review.

Does CrimRxiv publish (i.e., make public) all submissions?

No. Please refer to our [Moderation Policy](#).

How can I share on CrimRxiv?

There are two ways to share your papers on CrimRxiv: the Imported Way and the Linked Way. The former involves bringing your paper into the PubPub text editor. The latter involves making a “Connection” to an open access paper that was first shared elsewhere. For more information about these issues, see [How To Submit](#).

I already shared my paper on another platform, so should I share it on CrimRxiv, too?

If you want people to find your work by browsing (as compared to searching), then you should share via CrimRxiv. If you already shared your paper elsewhere, we recommended putting it on CrimRxiv using the Linked Way (see above). For more information about choosing between platforms and using multiple ones, see [Whether & How To Share a Single Work Across Multiple Platforms](#).

Does using the Imported Way vs. the Linked Way affect my paper’s visibility or accessibility?

This choice has no effect on how the resultant Pub appears on CrimRxiv or, by extension, its browsability. However, compared to imported papers, linked papers may show lower in search results. That is because search engines will more highly rank pages with more text.

Does sharing a *Preprint* on CrimRxiv jeopardize peer-review or publication elsewhere (e.g., a journal)?

All major criminology publishers expressly permit authors to share Preprints, immediately and most anywhere, including CrimRxiv. However, it is possible that an editor will look down on the practice. It also is possible that by making a paper public on CrimRxiv (or another platform), the peer-review process will be affected. For more information about these issues, see [The Utility of Making Your Preprints Open Access](#). (Note that based on our definition of Working Paper, there is no reason to be concerned about sharing them on CrimRxiv (assuming you own the copyright, use the linked way, or the work is in the public domain).)

When I submit a preprint to a journal, should I notify the editor(s) that it is on CrimRxiv?

It is polite to let the editor(s) know your preprint is on CrimRxiv or elsewhere available. When submitting to some journals, you will see a field to provide this notice.

And/or, you can include something simple in the cover letter, such as “This paper is on CrimRxiv (or wherever) at ‘this DOI or URL.’”

What do I need to know about “copyright” and “licenses” to share my paper on CrimRxiv?

Is it legal to share a *Postprint* on CrimRxiv?

Yes. For some publishers, you can immediately share your Postprint on CrimRxiv. Other publishers require you to wait a specified period, usually 12 to 24 months; for details, see our [List of Criminology Journals](#). There are simple solutions to that problem: share your preprint (see above); share via your personal website with a link to CrimRxiv (for details, see [here](#)); and, to prevent this problem in the future, sign the [Individual Open Access License](#).

When I share a paper on CrimRxiv, does this affect copyright (i.e., my ownership of the paper)?

No. As (co)contributor to the paper, you retain its copyright. You could choose to give your copyright to CrimRxiv, but we do not advise or request that. At the other extreme, you can choose to put the paper in the public domain, which means no one has copyright. Between those extremes (copyright and public domain) are [Creative Commons \(CC\) licenses](#). Putting a license on a paper does not negate your copyright. Rather, a license informs other people of how, if at all, they can share or adapt your paper. As the owner of your work’s copyright, you have the right to decide which license is best.

When I share a paper on CrimRxiv, which license should I use?

Currently, the default license for all papers is [CC BY](#), meaning it is legal for people to share and adapt them. However, we change Postprints to [CC BY NC ND](#) because that is required by publishers, usually. For any Pub, you can choose the license. To help you choose, Creative Commons provides [this resource](#). On CrimRxiv, the other options include [CC BY NC](#) and [CC BY ND](#). You can change the license at the end of a Pub page by clicking the pencil icon to the right of “LICENSE.”

If my paper has one or more coauthors, do I need their permission to share it on CrimRxiv?

Legally, no. But we recommend consulting with your co-contributor(s) before sharing a work on any platform.

What are “PubPub” and a “Pub”?

[PubPub](#) is “[t]he open-source, privacy-respecting, all-in-one collaborative publishing platform for communities small and large.” CrimRxiv is one of many “Communities” on PubPub.

Communities are publishing groups focused on a particular topic, theme, or expertise. They can be a university press or a single monograph; they can be a journal, research group, or conference. You can start your community or browse any of the existing PubPub communities today.⁴

A “Pub” is the webpage on which papers and other scholarly outputs are edited, formatted/styled, and disseminated. To quote PubPub:

Pubs are the core object of PubPub. If you’re a journal, for example, you’ll want to use Pubs to create your articles. If you’re writing a book, Pubs will be your chapters. PubPub’s editor saves in real-time, allows for multi-user editing, and supports everything from images to tables, citations, videos and more.⁵

Footnotes

1. Disclaimer: This page does not constitute legal advice. [↵]
2. For example, you can share the last *.docx file that you submitted to the outlet, but not the “proofs” or even the PDF that is generated by submission systems (e.g., ScholarOne). [↵]
3. Our definition of preprint is shared by some but not all. In our company is the American Psychological Association (e.g., see [here](#)). For others, preprints are defined more narrowly: unpublished papers yet to enter peer review. That definition is untenable because there is not a (widely used) category between pre- and postprint. Imagine, for example, a paper is submitted to a journal, undergoes peer review, and rejected. At that point, per the narrower definition, the paper is neither a preprint or postprint. [↵]
4. Retrieved May 23, 2021, from [here](#). [↵]
5. Retrieved May 23, 2021, from [here](#). [↵]