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An Overview of Fear of Crime and Its Criminological Significance

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ABSTRACT

Fear of crime is a term that refers to an anxious emotional state caused by the belief that one is at risk of criminal victimisation. Before the 1960s, mainstream criminological studies gave inadequate attention to criminal fear. Despite widespread public concern and fear of crime, it was only after early 1960s US crime surveys that the issue gained policy, research, and political attention. Accordingly, it can be identified that the “Fear of crime” is a complex concept that has been debated for an extended period, and it is critical to review its research gaps. The objective of this research is to determine the criminological significance of “fear of crime.” Mixed-method systematic review approaches have been applied for the study: status quo review and rapid review. According to the study, recent research on fear of crime has focused on individual and contextual predictors and the consequences of crime fear; more people have feared crime than become victims. In the most recent research approaches on fear of crime, it is emphasised that perceived risk precedes and causes fear. It has been revealed that the term “fear of victimisation” is more precise than “fear of crime” to clarify criminological studies; most studies and researchers use these terms interchangeably. Furthermore, it is suggested that future research should pay attention to the factors affecting fear of victimisation.

Keywords: Fear of crime; Fear of victimisation; Criminology; Crime Prevention.

INTRODUCTION

Fear of crime develops as a social phenomenon that, in extreme cases, impairs quality of life, causes paranoia, anxiety, and other psychological problems on an individual level, and prejudice and segregation on a social level, to the point where this insecurity has become a significant policy concern. Fear of crime causes wealthier individuals to defend themselves and their possessions, potentially displacing crime to less privileged ones. Fear can also turn some public locations into no-go zones, negatively influencing local economic growth (Curiel and Bishop, 2018). Accordingly, fear of crime refers to an individual's fear of becoming a victim of crime instead of the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime (Hale, 1996). Fear of crime and fear of the streets and youth are said to have been ingrained in Western culture since time immemorial (Pearson, 1983).

While fear of crime can be classified as public feelings, thoughts, and behaviours regarding one's risk of criminal victimization, distinctions can also be made between the proclivity to perceive situations as fearful, experience in those situations, and broader expressions about the cultural and social significance of crime and crime symbols in people's neighbourhoods and throughout the world (Gabriel and Greve, 2003). Notably, depending on the actual risk and people's subjective perceptions of danger, feelings, thoughts, and behaviours, Asadu and Nzuanke (2014) note that these can have various functional and dysfunctional effects on individual and group life as perceived amongst the Igbos of South-eastern Nigeria. On the negative side, they can erode public health and psychological well-being, alter routine activities and habits, contribute to specific locations becoming 'no-go' areas due to community withdrawal, and deplete community cohesion, trust, and neighbourhood stability (Hale, 1996). Some degree of emotional response can be beneficial: psychologists have long emphasized that worry can be a problem-solving activity, motivating care and caution, emphasizing the distinction between low-level anxieties that motivate caution and counter-productive anxieties that harm well-being (Gray, Jackson and Farrall, 2011).

The psychology of risk perception, circulating representations of victimisation (primarily through interpersonal communication and the mass media), public perceptions of neighbourhood stability and breakdown, the influence of neighbourhood context, and broader factors where anxieties about crime express anxieties about Additionally, there are some broader cultural influences. For instance, some have argued that contemporary times have increased people's sensitivity to issues of safety and insecurity (Lee, 2001). Many factors influence fear of crime, the most obvious being actual crime: people who experience more crime are likely to be more fearful, and regions with more crimes are likely to be considered less secure. However, this is rare. Individually, people who are not victimised often report high levels of fear, and in general, more people are afraid than being victimised. Also, places with less crime may be perceived as less secure, and fluctuations in the number of crimes do not lead to increases or decreases in overall regional concerns about crime. For example, demographic (age or gender), regional (dark or crowded street), and media coverage (amount and style) factors may influence the personal perception of crime (Curiel and Bishop, 2018). According to the facts outlined above, it appears as though "fear of crime" has existed since time immemorial. Hence, the prime intention of the study is to identify the criminological significance of "fear of crime."

METHODOLOGY

Mixed-method systematic review approaches have been applied for the study: status quo review and rapid review. According to figure no: 01, twenty-two empirical research studies were analysed for the status quo review; when determining the empirical research, the rapid review strategies were applied and only considered 2016 to 2021.06.30 published scholar journal articles and the characteristics of the reviewed empirical research articles have been indicated on the table no: 01.

Figure No. 01: **Rapid strategy for determining empirical research**

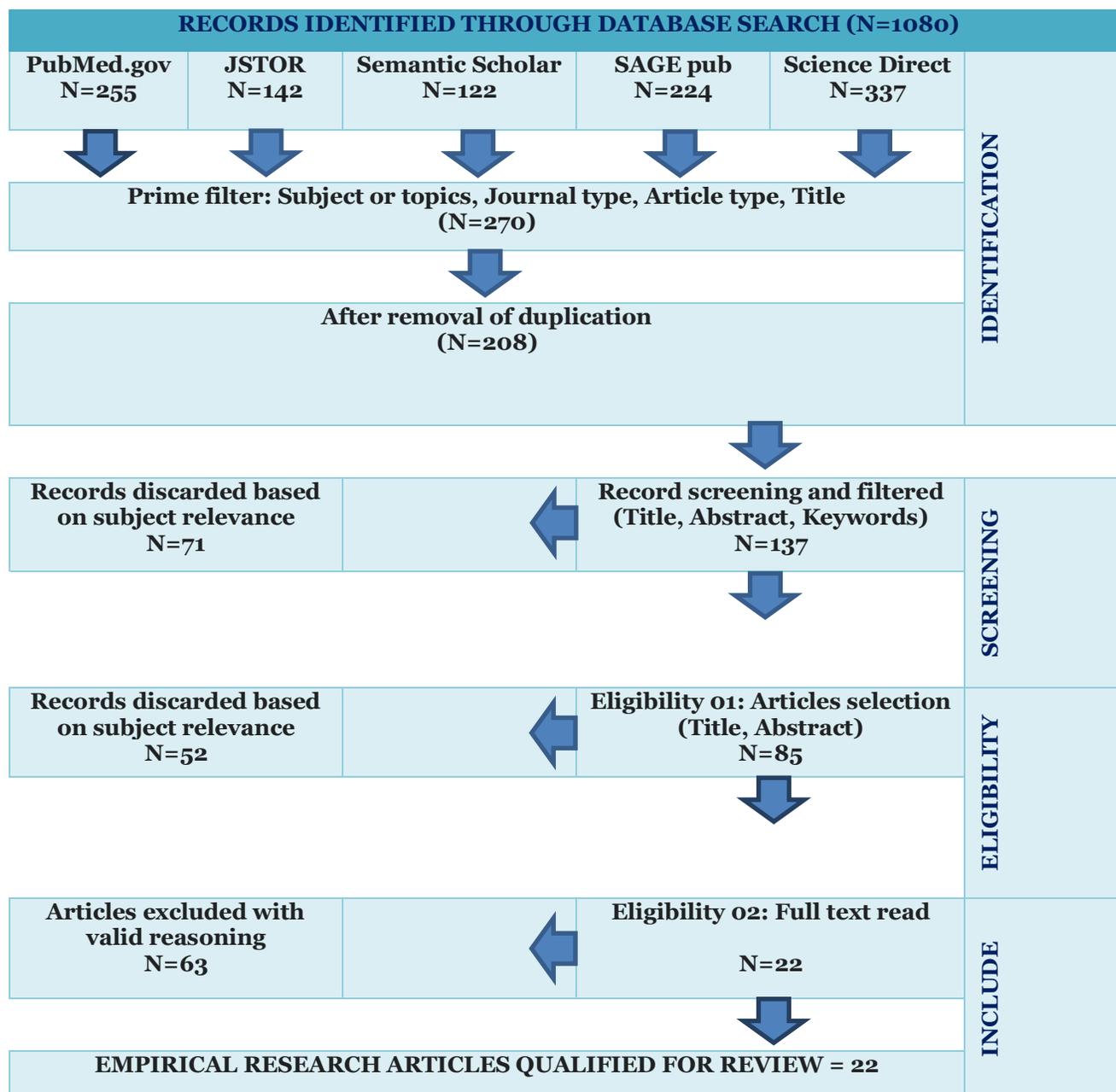


Table No. 01: **Characteristics of the reviewed empirical research articles**

Author(s)	Title	Published year	Article type	Study scope/General objective	Location	Research funding	Conflict of interest
1. Johansson and Haandrikman	Gendered fear of crime in the urban context: A comparative multilevel study of women's and men's fear of crime	2021	Descriptive research	To explain the fear-gender gap in the city of Eindhoven	Researchers and research article location are based on Netherlands	Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences	None
2. Lee et al.	Fear of Crime Out West: Determinants of Fear of Property and Violent Crime in Five States	2020	Descriptive research	examine the effects of vulnerability, disorder/incivilities, social cohesion, prior victimization, and police perceptions on fear of property crime and fear of violent crime	Researchers and research article location are based on USA	None	None
3. Kulachai and Kimsreng	Fear of crime among undergraduate students in Phnom Penh	2020	Descriptive research	Determination of the level of fear of crime and the factors that influence fear of crime among Phnom Penh undergraduate students.	Researchers are based in Thailand; the article is based on Phnom Penh	None	None
4. Erickson et al.	Utility of ecological momentary assessments to collect data on fear of crime	2020	Analytical research	Study the utility of Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs) administered via smartphones as an innovative data collection method to collect real-time	Researchers are based in USA and Pakistan; the article is based on Lahore, Pakistan	The World Bank Group (WBG); Sexual Violence Research Initiative;	None

				and context-dependent data on transit users' fear of crime, perceived victimisation risk, travel experiences, and travel demands at different stages of their journey.		International Development Research Centre (IDRC)		
5.	Curiel et al.	Crime and its fear in social media	2020	Descriptive research	Detect expressions of crime and fear of crime in social media, measure them and compare them with the actual crime suffered.	Researchers are based on Quarter, UK and Italy; article locations are not specified	None	None
6.	Köber et al.	Old age and fear of crime: cross-national evidence for a decreased impact of neighbourhood disadvantage in older age	2020	Descriptive research	Are older adults more susceptible than younger age groups to adverse environmental conditions?	Researchers and the article locations are based on Germany and Australia	None	None
7.	Pryce et al.	Examining the Relationship between Citizen Contact with the Community Prosecutor and Fear of Crime	2020	Descriptive research	examine citizen fear of crime through the lens of contact with a community prosecutor: (1)What is the impact of community prosecution on fear of crime in this sample of U.S. citizens? (2) What are the impacts of age, race, and gender on fear of crime? (3) Do perceptions of physical disorder and	Researchers and the article locations are based in USA	None	None

				social disorder influence fear of crime? (4) Is there an association between knowledge of victims of property/violent crime and fear of crime? (5) Does risk of victimization predict fear of crime?				
8.	Chataway et al.	The social-psychological process of fearing crime: Developing and testing a new momentary model of victimisation worry	2019	Descriptive research	Whether a momentary model sheds additional light on the situated nature of criminal fear and risk perception	Researchers are based in Australia and the USA. Article location is based on Australia	None	None
9.	Oh et al.	Social disorder and residence-based fear of crime: The differential mediating effects of police effectiveness	2019	Descriptive research	Investigating the mediating effects of police effectiveness on the theoretical relationship between social disorder and fear of crime.	Researchers and the article locations are based on America	None	None
10	Singer et al.	Victimization, Fear of Crime, and Trust in Criminal Justice Institutions: A Cross-National Analysis	2018	Analytical research	Filling gaps in the literature on fear of crime and victimization by examining the direct and indirect effects of prior victimization and fear of crime on trust in courts, police, and the overall justice system in the United States and Latin America.	Researchers are based in the USA and the article locations are based in USA and Latin America	None	None
11.	Krulichová	The relationship between fear of	2018	Descriptive research	Examine the relationship between fear of crime and	Researcher is based in Czech	Ministry of Education,	None

	crime and risk perception across Europe			risk perception in 23 European countries.	Republic and the article location is based in Europe	Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic, grant project no. LM2015066	
12	Krulichová and Podaná Adolescent fear of crime: Testing Ferraro's risk interpretation model	2018	Analytical research	Expanding the understanding of the fear of crime by determining whether Ferraro's risk interpretation model of fear of crime holds true for the adolescent population	Researchers are based in Czech Republic and article location is not specified	Czech Science Foundation grant 'Youth victimization : Prevalence, forms, and social context' (GP14-08021P)	None
13	Mellgren et al. Is Women's Fear of Crime Fear of Sexual Assault? A Test of the Shadow of Sexual Assault Hypothesis in a Sample of Swedish University Students	2018	Descriptive research	Testing the shadow of sexual assault hypothesis using a sample of nearly 3,000 Swedish university students.	Researchers and article location are based in Sweden	None	None
14	Guedes et al. Fear of crime, personality and trait emotions: An empirical study	2018	Descriptive research	Examining the relationship between individual variables and abstract fear of crime, perception of victimization risk (cognitive dimension), and behavioural expressions	Researchers and article location are based in Portugal	None	None
15	Kim et al. An analysis of fear	2018	Descriptive	Providing a "safe route"	Researchers and	Ministry of	None

	of crime using multimodal measurement		Research	that would ultimately reduce fear of crime in each pedestrian, thereby reducing stress, improving their mental health, and enhancing their quality of life.	the article location are based on Korea	Science, Korea, ICT and Future Planning (No 2015R1A2A1A10056304)	
16	Chadee et al.	2017	Analytical Research	Investigating the relationship between community concerns and fear of crime, with a particular emphasis on the mediating role of risk of victimisation and pragmatic fear.	Researchers and the article location are based on Trinidad Tobago	Research and Development Impact Fund The University of the West Indies	None
17	Chataway et al.	2017	Descriptive Research	Whether mobile technology can be used to collect meaningful context-dependent data on fear of crime and risk perception formation.	Researchers and the article location are based on Australia	None	None
18	Intravia et al.	2017	Descriptive Research	The relationship between various types of social media consumption and fear of crime, as well as whether these relationships vary by key audience characteristics.	Researchers and the article location are based on the USA	None	None
19	Boessen et al.	2017	Descriptive Research	Examining various spatial scales of distance to alters, including a general measure of distance to	Researchers and the article location are based in the	None	None

		and time of day			alters, a measure of alters isolated to the home, a measure of alters only in the local neighbourhood, and more distant alters located in the broader region.	USA		
20	Chadee et al.	Fear of Crime: The Influence of General Fear, Risk, and Time Perspective	2016	Descriptive research	Studying the relationship between time perspective as a stable personality trait and risk and general fear as mediators of fear of crime levels.	Researchers are based on Trinidad and Tobago, USA and the article location is based on Trinidad	None	None
21	Chataway and Hart	(Re)Assessing contemporary "fear of crime" measures within an Australian context	2016	Descriptive research	Replicating a previous assessment of multiple indicators of fear of crime.	Researchers and the article location are based on Australia	None	None
22	Hooghe and De Vroome	The relation between ethnic diversity and fear of crime: An analysis of police records and survey data in Belgian communities	2016	Descriptive research	Examining the relationship between fear of crime and the actual and perceived presence of immigrant groups and the occurrence of criminal acts.	Researchers are based in Belgium and Netherlands; the article location is based on Belgium	None	None

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The concept of fear of crime can be divided into three main aspects as indicated in figure no: 02.

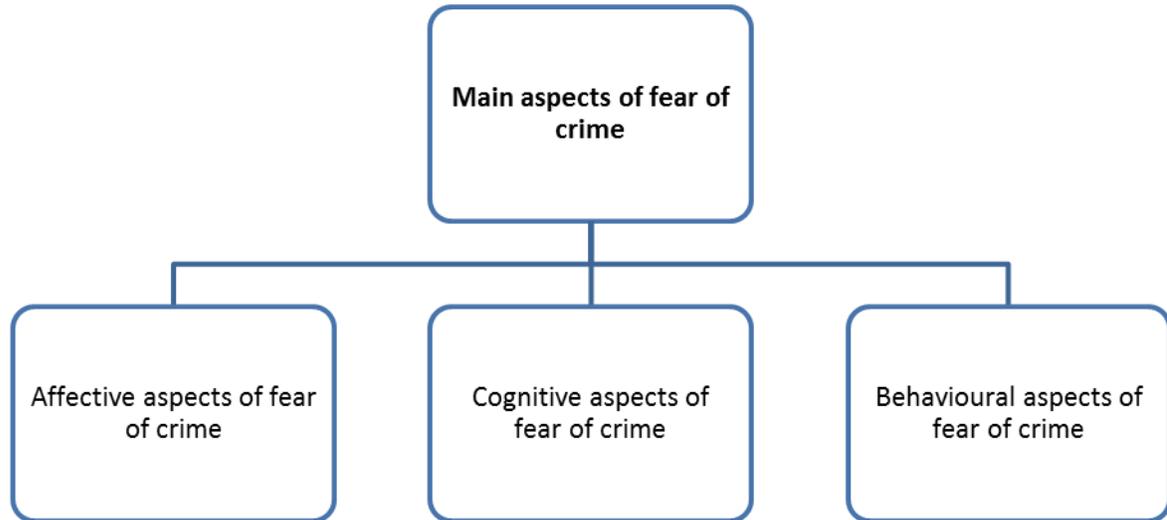


Figure 02: Main aspects of fear of crime
(Source: based on the literature review)

According to figure no: 01 - main aspects of fear of crime are effective aspects of fear of crime, cognitive aspects of fear of crime, and behavioural aspects of fear of crime.

Affective aspects of fear of crime: fear of crime is fundamentally about the range of emotions elicited in citizens by the prospect of victimization. While people may be outraged about the scope and prospect of crime, surveys typically ask respondents “who they are afraid of” and “how concerned they are.” Underpinning the responses are (more often than not) two dimensions of ‘fear’: (a) those everyday moments of worry that occur when one feels personally threatened; and (b) a more diffuse or ambient fear of risk. While standard measures of fear of crime consistently indicate that between 30% and 50% of the population in England and Wales express some level of concern about becoming a victim, further investigation reveals that few individuals regularly express concern for their safety (Gray, Jackson, and Farrall, 2008). Thus, one can differentiate between fear (an emotion, a sense of alarm or dread induced by awareness or expectation of danger) and some other type of anxiety. Specific individuals may be more forthcoming with their concerns and vulnerabilities than others (Sutton and Farrall, 2005; Nzuanke and Ogbadu, 2018).

The cognitive aspects of fear of crime have concerned the need to distinguish crime from personal victimization risk perceptions (Omoregie, 2018). A possible question is whether the crime has increased, decreased, or remained constant over a specified time (a specified area, such as the respondents’ neighbourhood). Between 1972 and 2001, Gallup Poll data indicate that Americans believe a crime has decreased (Vanderveen, 2006). By contrast, the cognitive component of fear of crime encompasses public perceptions of the likelihood of becoming a victim, general senses of control over the possibility, and public assessments of the seriousness of the resulting consequences. Individuals who perceive themselves to be particularly vulnerable to victimization are likely to believe that they are particularly likely to be targeted by criminals, powerless to prevent the possibility (i.e. low self-efficacy), and the consequences would be

particularly severe (Jackson, 2009). Additionally, these three distinct components of risk perception may interact: the effect of perceived likelihood on subsequent emotional responses (suffer, fear, anxiety, etc.) is likely to be particularly strong for those who believe that the consequences are severe, but their self-efficacy is low (Warr, 1987).

Behavioural aspects of fear of crime: fear of crime determines whether the people have ever avoided certain areas, protected specific objects, or taken preventive measures. This way, quantifying fear of crime becomes relatively simple, as the questions probe actual behaviour and 'objective' facts, such as the amount spent on a burglar alarm or additional locks. Although some researchers, such as Omoregie (2018), argue that measuring fear of crime can be challenging due to various confounding variables such as social desirability effects and respondents downplaying or exaggerating their fear, all of which can impair the data's reliability (Omoregie, 2018). A certain amount of 'fear' may be beneficial for some people, as it serves as a 'natural defense' against crime. In short, when the threat of crime is accurate, a certain level of 'fear' may be 'functional': fear of crime may prompt precaution, which makes people feel safe and reduces their risk of crime. Fear of crime is a critical aspect of criminology.

Empirical research studies have been reviewed in the following paragraphs. The primary intention of the research is to ascertain the criminological significance of the "fear of crime"; and twenty-two specific research papers have been reviewed and key findings and recommendations of the research are listed in table no 2.

According to Johansson and Haandrikmans' (2021) study on "gendered fear of crime in the urban context: A comparative multilevel study of women's and men's fear of crime," women generally feel more fearful than men. Johansson and Haandrikman (2021) have investigated this so-called fear-gender divide by contributing to the growing body of feminist-inspired quantitative gender-sensitive research. They have departed from traditional quantitative fear of crime research which neglects to examine how fear of crime determinants affect women and men differently. Moreover, Johansson and Haandrikman (2021) used a Dutch government survey linked to neighbourhood characteristics to conduct multilevel modelling to explain the fear-gender gap in Eindhoven. The findings suggest that the socio-spatial environment and perceived fear can shed light on gendered differences in fear. A key finding is that women's fear of crime is particularly complex (Johansson and Haandrikman, 2021).

Research of fear of crime has existed for decades, with numerous studies examining its scope, nature, and consequences. Lee et al. (2020) built on existing research in "Fear of Crime out West: Determinants of Fear of Property and Violent Crime in Five States" to examine the effects of vulnerability, disorder/incivilities, social cohesion, prior victimization, and police perceptions on fear of property crime and fear of violent crime. The current study examines the determinants of fear of crime among an often-overlooked population of Western United States residents using a random mail survey of residents from five different states. The findings corroborate established theories of fear of crime, demonstrating that women, perceptions of disorder/incivilities, social cohesion, prior victimization, and assessments of police service quality all influence fear of crime. Additionally, the findings suggest that the determinants of fear of crime vary somewhat according to the type of crime (Lee et al., 2020).

Kulachai and Kimsreng (2020) describe the fear of crime as an emotional

response of fear or unease to crime or symbols associated with crime in the research of “fear of crime among undergraduate students in Phnom Penh.” The purpose of the study has been to determine the level of fear of crime and the factors that influence fear of crime among Phnom Penh undergraduate students. Kulachai and Kimsreng (2020) enrolled 384 students for the study; has analyzed the data using descriptive statistics and step-wise multiple regression. The findings indicated that undergraduate students in Phnom Penh had a high fear of crime, indicating their concern for their safety and security in the city. Accordingly, fear of crime has been influenced by four factors: mass media, incivility, social capital, and the effectiveness of law enforcement (Kulachai and Kimsreng, 2020).

Erickson et al. (2020) have stated in the study of the “utility of momentary ecological assessments to collect data on fear of crime” that smartphone technology enables the collection of context-specific data from individuals. Only a few published studies have attempted to collect context-specific data on fear of crime using smartphone technology. Erickson et al. (2020) conducted a pilot study in Lahore, Pakistan, to determine the utility of administering Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs) via smartphone applications to collect real-time and context-dependent data on transit users’ experiences. The findings indicated that EMAs and smartphones offer a unique opportunity to collect context-specific data on individuals’ fear of crime, perceived risk of victimisation, perception of incivility, and suggestions for improving the design and management of public transportation systems (Erickson et al., 2020).

Curiel et al. (2020) indicate in the research of “crime and its fear in social media” that social media posts contain real-time data that has previously been used to forecast social trends. The purpose of the study has been to determine whether such information helps address crime and fear of crime. Over 70 days, many tweets have been collected from the 18 largest Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America. These tweets have been classified as being related to crime or not, and additional information has been extracted, including the type of crime and, where possible, city-level geolocation. According to the analysis of collected data, approximately 15 out of every 1000 tweets contain text referring to a crime or fear of crime. The frequency with which tweets about crime are sent is compared to the number of murders, the murder rate, or the level of fear of crime as measured by surveys. The findings indicate that social media platforms have a strong bias against violent or sexual crimes like traditional mass media outlets such as newspapers. Additionally, social media messages are not strongly associated with crime. Thus, social media is shown to be ineffective at detecting trends in crime but rather a reflection of the level of fear of crime (Curiel et al., 2020).

Köber et al. (2020) state in their study “old age and fear of crime: cross-national evidence for a decreased impact of neighbourhood disadvantage in older age” that fear of crime among older adults has been a frequent topic of research in ageing, criminology, and urban studies. According to the ‘environmental docility hypothesis,’ older adults are more susceptible to adverse neighbourhood conditions than younger age groups. Nonetheless, few studies have been conducted to test this influential hypothesis using representative respondents spanning the entire adult lifespan. Concerning the fear of crime, Köber et al. (2020) have examined the person-environment interaction between age and neighbourhood disadvantage using two independent surveys of 12,620 respondents aged 25–90 years who lived in 435 neighbourhoods across four German and Australian cities; modelled the age-differential

effects of neighbourhood disadvantage on fear using multi-level analysis and cross-level interactions. In contrast to the hypothesis, Köber et al. (2020) observed a diminishing effect of the neighbourhood on fear with age. In both countries, the strong effect of neighbourhood disadvantage on fear of crime decreased by roughly half from the youngest (25 years) to the oldest (90 years). Moreover, In the most impoverished neighbourhoods, younger people have almost been as fearful as older residents, but older residents have significantly been more fearful than younger residents; Köber et al. (2020) found limited empirical support for the hypothesis that older adults' stronger neighbourhood attachment explains this diminished association between neighbourhood disadvantage and fear (Köber et al., 2020).

Fear of crime has been extensively studied in the extant criminological literature, although most studies examined fear of crime from a policing perspective. In other words, the fear of crime literature has primarily focused on the criminal justice system's impact on policing. Thus, the study of "examining the Relationship between Citizen Contact with the Community Prosecutor and Fear of Crime" contributes to the body of knowledge by being the first to examine a citizen's fear of crime through the lens of contact with a community prosecutor. Pryce et al. (2020) discovered that respondents who interacted with the community prosecutor's office were more fearful of crime, using a sample of 325 citizens from a large city in the United States. Additionally, respondents who obtained most of their news from television and perceived physical disorder in their community have been more fearful of crime. Respondents who knew victims of violent/property crime and believed they were at a greater risk of victimization, on the other hand, expressed less fear of crime (Pryce et al., 2020).

The study of "The social-psychological process of fearing crime: Developing and testing a new momentary model of victimisation worry" develops and validates a novel momentary model of victimisation anxiety using data from a smartphone app. Chataway et al. (2019) examined whether a momentary model sheds additional light on the situated nature of criminal fear and risk perception. The data have been gathered from a convenience sample of 72 young adults living in Southeast Queensland, Australia, who completed brief surveys on their fear of crime via their mobile devices. The results indicate that the constructs in the proposed momentary model of victimisation worry fit the data well and that the associations between victimisation worry dimensions are all statistically significant in their expected directions (Chataway et al., 2019).

The purpose of the study of "Social disorder and residence-based fear of crime: The differential mediating effects of police effectiveness" is to determine whether police effectiveness acts as a moderator in the theoretical relationship between social disorder and fear of crime. Oh et al. (2019) have tested hypotheses derived from the Broken Windows Theory of Wilson and Kelling (1982) and Skogan's (2009) Accountability and Reassurance Models. The data were gathered via a random-sample telephone survey of approximately 1100 residents of Houston selected using an address-based sampling frame. Oh et al. (2019) employed structural equation models to test hypotheses based on a combination of survey and geocoded data. Accordingly, except in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, police effectiveness has been a mediating effect in the relationship between perceived social disorder and fear of crime. The findings of this study bolster both Wilson and Kelling's (1982) Broken Windows Theory and Skogan's (2009) Accountability and Reassurance Models. Future research into the relationship between social disorder and fear of crime should consider both the mediating effect of

formal social control mechanisms and the moderating effect of neighbourhood socioeconomic status (Oh et al., 2019).

Singer et al. (2018) stated in the study of “Victimization, Fear of Crime, and Trust in Criminal Justice Institutions: A Cross-National Analysis” that prior research has established that victimization and fear of crime both influence criminal justice attitudes independently, but few studies have examined trust in criminal justice institutions. But, the majority of research has mainly been conducted in the United States. The current study examines the direct and indirect effects of criminal victimization and fear of crime on (a) perceived court fairness, (b) trust in the police, and (c) overall trust in the criminal justice system, using data from the Americas Barometer survey conducted in the United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil. While victimization has varying direct effects across countries and outcomes, fear of crime consistently mediates victimization’s effect on trust in criminal justice institutions (Singer et al., 2018).

Cross-national comparisons of fear of crime have grown in popularity among academics because they enable examining both individual and country-level correlations of this phenomenon. Nonetheless, the role of perceived victimization risk in fostering fear of crime is frequently overlooked, depending on the country. The purpose of the study on “the relationship between fear of crime and risk perception across Europe” has been to examine the relationship between fear of crime and risk perception in 23 European countries using data from the European Social Survey Round five. In all of the countries studied, risk perception is positively correlated with fear of crime, though the magnitude of the relationship varies. Contrary to expectations, countries with a higher victimization rate exhibit a weaker relationship between fear of crime and risk perception, whereas risk perception plays a relatively significant role in shaping fear of crime in countries with a lower victimization rate. Moreover, the unemployment rate, the size of the migrant population, or income inequality have not affected the data (Krucichová, 2018).

The purpose of the study on “Adolescent fear of crime: Testing Ferraro’s risk interpretation model,” is to expand our understanding of the fear of crime by determining whether Ferraro’s risk interpretation model of fear of crime holds true for the adolescent population. Krulichová and Podaná (2018) evaluated three distinct models using data from approximately 1500 Czech students in middle and elementary schools. Krulichová and Podaná (2018) estimated the classic model of fear of crime, which was originally applied to adults. Second, the role of perceived school disorganization is considered, given that adolescents spend a significant portion of their day at school. Finally, Krulichová and Podaná (2018) extended Ferraro’s model by incorporating parental supervision as a factor influencing adolescent fear of crime via risk perception and avoidance behaviour. The findings indicate that Ferraro’s original model of fear of crime applies to adults and adolescents alike. Nonetheless, adolescent risk perception, which remains the most important predictor of individual fear, appears to be influenced by school-based rather than neighborhood-based stimuli. Additionally, the relationship between parental supervision and fear of crime is mediated by avoidance behaviour, as parental supervision has no direct effect on risk perception or fear of crime in the data. (Krucichová and Podaná, 2018)

Prior research indicates that their fear of rape primarily explains women’s greater fear of crime than men. There has been no examination of whether women’s increased fear can also be explained by fear of nonviolent sexual harassment. Mellgren et al.

(2018) tested the shadow of sexual assault hypothesis in the study of “Is Women’s Fear of Crime Fear of Sexual Assault? A Test of the Shadow of Sexual Assault Hypothesis in a Sample of Swedish University Students” using a sample of nearly 3,000 Swedish university students. Findings have been corroborated by previous research on the effect of fear of rape. Furthermore, Mellgren et al. (2018) demonstrated that fear of sexual harassment contributed to the observed differences in fear between men and women; Mellgren et al. (2018) recommend that strategies for reducing sexual violence focus on the entire spectrum of violence against women (Mellgren et al., 2018).

Recent scientific research has overlooked the critical role of personality and trait emotions in explaining the fear of crime. From the study of “Fear of crime, personality and trait emotions: An empirical study”, Guedes et al. (2018) examined the relationship between individual variables and abstract fear of crime, perception of victimization risk (cognitive dimension), and behavioural expressions using a survey administered to 205 individuals. Neuroticism (a personality trait) correlated positively with abstract fear of crime but not with cognitive or behavioural dimensions. Additionally, it has been discovered that trait-fears emotion was associated with only the abstract fear of crime. In men and women alike, social desirability was positively correlated with abstract fear of crime, cognitive dimensions, and behavioural dimensions, contrary to what was hypothesized by Guedes et al. (2018). Finally, regression models have revealed that distinct variables account for each dimension of fear of crime (Guedes et al., 2018).

Fear of crime, which may exist even in the absence of actual crime, can limit one’s daily physical and mental activities, thereby lowering one’s quality of life. Regional surveys were used in previous research to assess fear of crime. While regional surveys help confirm group characteristics, they cannot assess individual characteristics or provide an objective measure of anxiety. Given the highly individual nature of the causes and effects of fear of crime, Kim et al. (2018) developed a protocol for measuring physiological signals in conjunction with existing surveys on the research of “An analysis of fear of crime using multimodal measurement”; this system can validate an individual’s fear of crime characteristics in real-time. Six clips of actual pedestrian environments were shown to subjects (day/night scenes of a commercial street, day/night scenes of a residential street, and day/night scenes of a natural street). Clips have been created from their first-person perspective to facilitate the subjects’ immersion in the scenes. Subjects were divided into two groups (Group 1: N = 14, age 22.66 years; Group 2: N = 13, age 21.35 years) according to their reported fear intensity on pre-recording survey; electroencephalographic (EEG), electrocardiographic (ECG), and galvanic skin response (GSR) signals were compared between groups. They were then evaluated visually for comparison purposes. Findings indicated that the physiological signals were contingent on an individual’s awareness of his or her fear of crime. Kim et al. (2018) discovered significant differences between the two groups in all video clips except the daytime commercial street and the nighttime natural street; these findings suggest that individual characteristics play a role in assessing fear of crime (Kim et al., 2018).

The purpose of the study of “Fear of crime and community concerns: Mediating effect of risk and pragmatic fear” is to examine the relationship between community concerns (i.e., perceived crime, incivility, and infrastructure) and fear of crime, with a particular emphasis on the mediating role of risk of victimisation and pragmatic fear. Additionally, gender and ethnic distinctions have been examined. In 2015, data were

collected from 3,003 participants from a southern Caribbean island using a proportionate multistage random sample. Chadee et al. (2017) used the risk of victimisation and fear of crime scales, a general (noncrime) fear scale to assess pragmatic fear, and a community concern scale. Path analysis, Sobel tests, and multiple group analysis have been used to analyze the data. The findings indicated that perceived crime and incivility were significant predictors of fear of crime, whereas infrastructure was not. Females had a greater fear of crime, and Indo-Trinidadians had a greater fear of crime than Afro-Trinidadians or Mixed participants. Victimization risk and pragmatic fear both had significant mediating effects on community concerns and fear of crime. The findings are discussed in light of social psychology's understanding of social disorganization and prior research (Chadee et al., 2017).

Chataway et al. (2017) investigated whether mobile technology can be used to collect meaningful context-dependent data on fear of crime and risk perception formation in survey research from the pilot study of "The geography of crime fear: A pilot study exploring event-based perceptions of risk using mobile technology." Ecological Momentary Assessments have been administered via a smartphone application to students enrolled at an Australian university (N =20). The analysis of data collected from participants in their daily activity spaces demonstrates that:

1. Multiple measures of crime fear have a high degree of internal consistency,
2. Perceptual measures of social cohesion are significant predictors of victimisation worry,
3. The majority of hypothesised associations between concepts contained in contemporary models of crime fear are supported. Moreover, Chataway et al. (2017) discovered that triggering participant surveys based on their location (rather than time) generated unsuitable data for robust place-based analysis. Despite this limitation, Chataway et al. (2017) proposed an alternative method for assessing the effect of place on fear of crime through the use of mobile devices.

Media effect theories have long established a link between media consumption and crime fear. Previously conducted research has almost exclusively concentrated on traditional forms of media content (e.g., television news) or entertainment media (e.g., crime-related shows). However, little is known about how social media consumption may affect an individual's fear level. The study on "Investigating the relationship between social media consumption and fear of crime: A partial analysis of mostly young adults" has been examined the relationship between various types of social media consumption (overall, general news, and crime-related content) and fear of crime, as well as whether these relationships vary by key audience characteristics. The findings indicate that overall social media consumption is significantly associated with fear of crime, though the relationship varies according to one's perceived level of safety (Intravia et al., 2017).

Boessen et al. (2017) described in the research of "Social fabric and fear of crime: Considering spatial location and time of day" that criminologists have long recognised that social networks influence residents' fear of crime, but their findings regarding the precise nature of that role have been inconsistent. Moreover, increased social ties may be associated with a decreased fear of crime due to their role in collective action, trust, and emotional support, but may also be associated with increased fear of crime due to their role in disseminating information about local crime patterns. Boessen et al. (2017)

have proposed temporal and spatial distinctions in how social ties affect fear of crime concerning these various mechanisms by analysing data from a large-scale egocentric network study in Southern California.

Prior research on fear of crime has concentrated on sociological and demographic factors rather than psychological causes. Nevertheless, the study of “fear of Crime: The Influence of General Fear, Risk, and Time Perspective” introduces time perspective as a critical psychological variable in elucidating fear of crime. The study examines the relationship between time perspective as a stable personality trait and risk and general fear as mediators of fear of crime levels. Chadee et al. (2016) used the following scales to collect data from a sample of 375 respondents using the survey method: the Zimbardo time perspective inventory consists of five-time perspective subscales, as well as Ferraro’s perceived risk of victimization and fear of crime scales, as well as a general fear scale that assesses pragmatic and abstract fear. Accordingly, there are no significant direct relationships between the five-time perspective subscales and fear of crime, as determined by path analysis. However, indirect effects on the past negative time perspective and the present fatalistic time perspective are observed, with general fear and risk of victimization mediating the relationship, with pragmatic fear having the largest significant effect size (Chadee et al., 2016)

Chataway and Hart (2016) used data collected from residents of southeast Queensland, Australia (N = 713) for the research of “(Re) Assessing contemporary fear of crime measures within an Australian context” to replicate a previous assessment of multiple indicators of fear of crime. Confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modelling results corroborate evidence from a UK survey indicating that indicators of worry, belief, control, likelihood, and consequences of victimisation have good scaling properties. Additionally, recent research indicates that these constructs are theoretically distinct. Finally, it is believed that residents’ perceptions of their neighbourhoods influence their attitudes toward crime, which is consistent with social-psychological models of crime fear. Recent findings are discussed regarding their implications for academic and practitioner perspectives on fear of crime (Chataway and Hart, 2016).

According to intergroup threat theory, the presence of immigrant groups in a local community can contribute to the majority population’s fear of crime; this could be explained by a direct correlation between ethnic diversity and certain types of crime, but it is also reasonable to assume that stereotypes about specific population segments contribute to a sense of group threat (Nzuanke and Ajimase, 2014). The study of “The relation between ethnic diversity and fear of crime: An analysis of police records and survey data in Belgian communities” examines the relationship between fear of crime and the actual and perceived presence of immigrant groups and the occurrence of criminal acts. The analysis is based on newly available official police records and survey data for Belgian local governments. The findings have been indicated that there is no statistically significant relationship between reported crime and fear of crime. However, ethnic diversity at the community level is significantly related to fear of crime. The findings suggest that group threat theory applications should not be limited to economic and cultural threats but should also consider the perceived impact of diversity on crime and safety (Hooghe and De Vroome, 2016).

Table 02: Summary of Key Findings from Reviewed Articles

Author(s)	Key findings	Recommendations
Johansson and Haandrikman, 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The socio-spatial environment and the perceptions thereof offer insights into gendered differences in fear. Fear of crime among women is particularly complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The socio-spatial environment and perceived can shed light on gendered differences in fear.
Lee et al., 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established theories of fear of crime demonstrating that women, perceptions of disorder/incivilities, social cohesion, prior victimization, and assessments of police service quality all influence fear of crime. The determinants of fear of crime vary somewhat according to the type of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While existing criminological perspectives on fear of crime do not argue for cultural or regional variation in theoretical effects, this variation is entirely possible, and future research should continue to assess the validity of leading theories of fear in light of these cultural and contextual effects.
Kulachai and Kimsreng, 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undergraduate students in Phnom Penh had a high fear of crime indicating their concern for their safety and security in the city. Fear of crime has been influenced by four factors: mass media, incivility, social capital, and the effectiveness of law enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid inciting public fear of crime, the Ministry of Information and related institutions should pay more attention to mass media outlets such as newspapers, magazines, radio, television, the internet, and social media. To improve journalistic ethics in Cambodia, the government should consider establishing more high-standard institutes. Untrained reporters should continue to receive special ethics training.
Erickson et al., 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs) and smartphones offer a unique opportunity to collect context-specific data on individuals' fear of crime, perceived risk of victimisation, perception of incivility, and suggestions for improving the design and management of public transportation systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In countries or cities where smartphone penetration is high, smartphones can be used to supplement or as an alternative to traditional pen and paper from surveys of fear of crime, perceived risk of victimisation, and victimisation. The more we can learn about the situation-specific triggers of fear and perceived risk of victimisation and locations of actual victimisation experiences, the better equipped we can be to respond to fear, risk, and victimisation incidents to reduce or remove the triggers for these experiences and to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevent victimisation at the community level. We should also promote the use of EMAs, a novel method to collect detailed information on at what stages of their journey transit users become more susceptible to fear and victimisation.
Curiel et al., 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional mass media outlets such as newspapers, social media platforms have a strong bias against violent or sexual crimes. Social media messages are not strongly associated with crime. Thus, social media is shown to be ineffective at detecting trends in crime, but rather a reflection of the level of fear of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social media expressions of fear of crime may be useful for determining people's reactions to a frequently reported crime, or for determining the rate at which that frequently reported crime is mentioned by users.
Köber et al., 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the most impoverished neighbourhoods, younger people have almost as fearful as older residents, but older residents have significantly more fearful than younger residents. Limited empirical support for the hypothesis that older adults' stronger neighbourhood attachment explains this diminished association between neighbourhood disadvantage and fear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical health, specifically activity and mobility patterns, should be considered in future research on the influences of neighborhoods on wellbeing and security perceptions across adult life stages.
Pryce et al., 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The inverse relationship between victimization risk and fear of crime has been explained by individuals at a greater risk of victimization may be more attuned to their surroundings, resulting in lower levels of fear. An individual would make a concerted effort to avoid locations with a higher risk of victimization. This proactive measure would then boost the individual's sense of safety and security, lowering his or her fear of crime; the risk of victimization can also be equated with perceptions of safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be examined whether the respondents who perceive themselves to be safer in their home, neighbourhood during the day and night and community will have lower levels of fear of crime.
Chataway et al., 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructs in the proposed momentary model of victimisation worry fit the data well and that the associations between victimisation worry dimensions are all statistically significant in their expected directions. The current study has significantly advanced the existing measurement, methods, and theory used to capture the fear of crime in time and place. Asking people about their fear of crime in the proximate environment provides a rich understanding of the various factors that may influence momentary fear states, such as risk perception/appraisal of threat, incivilities, social cohesion, and psychological affect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers should make better use of mobile technology and momentary models of fear of crime to better understand what fear of crime is a response to within the immediate environment. More cost-effective and predictive strategies for reducing fear and preventing crime and disorder within communities can be implemented based on empirically valid fear of crime data.

Oh et al., 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilson and Kelling's (1982) Broken Windows Theory and Skogan's (2009) Accountability and Reassurance Models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationship between social disorder and fear of crime should take into account both the mediating effect of formal social control mechanisms and the moderating effect of neighbourhood socioeconomic status.
Singer et al., 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior victimization appears to diminish trust because it heightens fear. Full mediation of the effects of victimization is found only in estimates of trust in certain institutions. Victimization produces fear of crime, prior literature emphasizes that victimization is not the only source of the fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the harmful effects of fear of crime on a broad set of attitudes toward the Criminal Justice System, further research should explore alternative sources of fear of crime, such as diffuse anxieties or racial resentment. This will better capture the alternative factors that may be critical for sustaining the legitimacy of democratic institutions across the world.
Krulichová, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fear of crime risk perception relationship varies in strength and this variation can be partially explained by a country's victimization rate, with a lower victimization rate resulting in a stronger relationship between fear of crime and risk perception. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime prevention alone will not suffice to reduce fear of crime and that efforts aimed at reinforcing a country's perception of safety will be critical in reducing fear of crime across Europe.
Krulichová and Podaná, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ferraro's original model of fear of crime is applicable to adults and adolescents alike Adolescent risk perception, which remains the most important predictor of individual fear, appears to be influenced by school-based rather than neighborhood-based stimuli. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents should recognize that adolescence is a transitory stage of life during which children should gradually develop autonomy and responsibility. Parents must exercise caution not to overprotect their children excessively and for an extended period of time. Without exploring the world independently, they will not develop the necessary strategies to deal with potential dangers or later manage negative emotions, such as fear of crime.
Mellgren et al., 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of sexual harassment contributed to the observed differences in fear between men and women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for reducing sexual violence should be focused on the entire spectrum of violence against women.

Guedes et al., 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neuroticism was found to correlate positively with abstract fear of crime, but not with cognitive or behavioural dimensions. • Trait fears emotion was associated with only the abstract fear of crime. • Social desirability was positively correlated with abstract fear of crime, cognitive dimensions, and behavioural dimensions, contrary to what was hypothesized by the authors. • Regression models have revealed that distinct variables account for each dimension of fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be pertinent to measure and explore the emotional component of fear of crime. • Future research should incorporate neuroticism and trait fear to better understand the psychological processes underlying fear of crime.
Kim et al., 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physiological signals were contingent on an individual's awareness of his or her own fear of crime. • Individual characteristics play a role in assessing fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be necessary to combine the various elements (CCTV, streetlight, big building, graffiti, etc.) that can modulate fear of crime.
Chadee et al., 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceived crime and incivility were significant predictors of fear of crime, whereas infrastructure was not. • Females had a greater fear of crime, and Indo-Trinidadians had a greater fear of crime than Afro-Trinidadians or Mixed participants. • Victimization risk and pragmatic fear both had significant mediating effects on community concerns and fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further research should focus on understanding the various complexities. For instance, studies should explore the impact of recency of victimisation, more in-depth analysis of ethnicity, and multiple measures of community concerns on Fear of crime in the Caribbean context
Chataway et al., 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile devices may be a reliable lternative to measuring fear of crime and some aspects of retrospective worry about crime in particular within the immediate environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers should make use of this relatively cost-effective, and reliable data collection tool for measuring complex social phenomena, such as fear of crime, and disorder perceptions.
Intravia et al., 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall social media consumption is significantly associated with fear of crime, though the relationship varies according to one's perceived level of safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the significant increase in people consuming "modern" technology/mass media such as the Internet and social media, researchers must continue examining how these expanding media platforms influence individuals' attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions. • Social media consumption, in particular, may influence attitudes toward criminal justice

		<p>policies, the criminal justice system (e.g., police), and punitiveness. Scholars should investigate these additional research avenues.</p>
<p>Boessen et al., 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents' fear of crime is significantly influenced by their social networks and their spatial distribution. Fear of crime fluctuates throughout the day, and this pattern appears to be influenced by the spatial location of alters, the number of safety ties, and crime rates in both the ego and alter neighbourhoods. Examining the various contents of ties may aid in the comprehension of individual and neighbourhood processes, as well as the social processes associated with various mechanisms. Numerous dimensions of fear of crime are fundamentally relational in nature and include both spatial and temporal dimensions. Residents' perceptions of their local neighbourhood are not entirely determined by activities in a single neighbourhood or by their daily routines, but rather by their social networks and spatial distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to consider the gender differences
<p>Chadee et al., 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no significant direct relationships between the five-time perspective subscales and fear of crime. Indirect effects on the Past negative time perspective and the present fatalistic time perspective are observed, with general fear and risk of victimization mediating the relationship, with pragmatic fear having the largest significant effect size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers have long been perplexed as to why those who are least likely to be victimized by crime frequently exhibit the highest levels of fear of crime. Theorizing and scholarship on fear of crime can benefit from expanding beyond criminological variables to more subtle psychological variables such as time perspective.
<p>Chataway and Hart, 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents' perceptions of their neighbourhoods influence their attitudes toward crime, which is consistent with social-psychological models of crime fear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions about fear of crime that are contained on surveys should be crime-type specific, as current findings demonstrate that personal crime and property crime reflect distinct domains of fear.
<p>Hooghe and De Vroome, 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no statistically significant relationship between reported crime and fear of crime. However, ethnic diversity at the community level is significantly related to fear of crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group threat theory applications should not be limited to economic and cultural threats but should also consider the perceived impact of diversity on crime and safety

The research has considered the specific online research databases, and the research paper selection method has been done using rapid review strategies; hence, there is a limitation of the secondary resources.

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this study is to identify the criminological significance of the “fear of crime”. It has been revealed that the “fear of crime” is a significant area of study for criminologists and has generated a substantial body of research. Accordingly, decades of research have examined the predictors of crime fear. At present, research continues on this vital social issue; recent research on fear of crime has focused on individual and contextual predictors and the consequences of fear of crime. This emphasis is because many more people fear crime than become victims of crime. The term “fear of crime” has generated some debate, and there is no universally accepted definition. Fear of crime has manifested itself in different emotional states, attitudes, and perceptions; equating fear of crime with perceived risk is more contentious. The most recent approaches of fear of crime (2016 to 2021.06.30) clearly distinguish these two constructs, emphasising that perceived risk comes before and causes fear. To increase clarity in the criminological field of “fear of crime” studies, some researchers have advocated for the more precise term “fear of victimisation” in addition to “fear of crime”; the majority of researchers and studies use these terms interchangeably. Furthermore, it is recommended to concern about the criminological factors affecting fear of victimisation in future research.

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