

Policing Cyber Fraud in China: Challenges, Responses, and Crime Displacement

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Moderator : Prof. Rebecca Wong (Associate Professor)
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Abstract

Cyber fraud, a prevalent form of cybercrime, has proliferated exponentially over the decades, causing immense societal harm worldwide. Despite its global prevalence, the theoretical and practical understanding of cyber fraud policing remains relatively underdeveloped, particularly in Global South contexts. Situated in one of the most heavily victimised regions—Mainland China—this study explores the challenges, responses, and implications of cyber fraud policing.

Drawing on semi-structured interviews with 21 police officers, the research highlights the transnational and organisational nature of the crime, which gives rise to multi-dimensional policing challenges. In response, Chinese police have employed various networked and proactive policing approaches (e.g. police-industry partnerships, problem-oriented policing, and situational crime prevention), which have been found effective in increasing the costs and risks associated with cyber fraud. Nevertheless, these policing strategies have also led to unintended consequences, such as crime displacement in different forms.

By offering insights from a Global South perspective, this study contributes to a comparative understanding of cyber fraud policing and informs future crime prevention strategies in global contexts.

Biography

You Zhou is a PhD Candidate (thesis submitted) in the School of Social Sciences at Monash University with a cross-disciplinary research trajectory. His work integrates insights from psychology, criminology, sociology, and digital media. Before pursuing his PhD, he collaborated with a social work research team at Nanjing University on a project examining substance abuse and mental health.

His PhD research focuses on policing cyber fraud in mainland China, contributing to broader discussions on fraud, technology, and law enforcement. His current research interests include cybercrime, future crimes, youth violence, criminological theories, and mixed-methods research. Since 2024, his studies have been published in top and leading journals, including *Computers in Human Behavior*, *British Accounting Review*, *Asian Journal of Criminology*, *Crime & Delinquency*, and *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*.

ALL ARE WELCOME