

'In this timely and wide-ranging book, one of realist criminology's most respected pioneers argues forcefully for a criminology that is honest, engaged, and socially responsible—a criminology that both takes the human toll of crime seriously and supports interventions that advance public safety, human emancipation and social justice. This is a vision that should help to shape debates about the tools and aims of the study of crime for many years to come.'

— **Elliott Currie**, *University of California, Irvine, USA*

'Roger Matthews, a pioneer of realist criminology, is one of the most interesting and important criminological theorists in Britain today. In this exciting new work, he sets out the stall for critical realism - a sophisticated appraisal of and provocative challenge to mainstream criminology. It is just the stimulus to fresh debate that the discipline needs. *Realist Criminology* is essential reading for all serious students and scholars of criminology.'

— **Lucia Zedner**, *University of Oxford, UK*

'We can learn from critical criminology as we sustain a commitment to working on a realist construction site. This means taking crime seriously, struggling for crime prevention through creating a more just society. In this book, Roger Matthews re-joins that tradition in a way that is contemporarily responsive to competing traditions.'

— **John Braithwaite**, *Australian National University, Australia*

Criminology has expanded significantly as an academic discipline, but critics argue that its social and political relevance is decreasing. This book addresses this charge by rethinking criminology's theoretical and methodological underpinnings, in order to make it more critical, engaged and useful.

The left-realist approach to criminology has changed considerably since the 1990s, yet it continues to make an important contribution not just to the theoretical study of crime but to crime prevention, policing, prisons, community safety and social justice. In *Realist Criminology*, Roger Matthews, a pioneer of the realist approach, presents a coherent overview of its development and continued relevance.

Providing a critique of some of the dominant approaches in criminology and in so doing setting a new agenda for theoretical and political engagement, this book will appeal to all those interested in making sense of contemporary forms of crime control and in developing forms of intervention designed to produce a criminal justice system that is at once more effective and more just.

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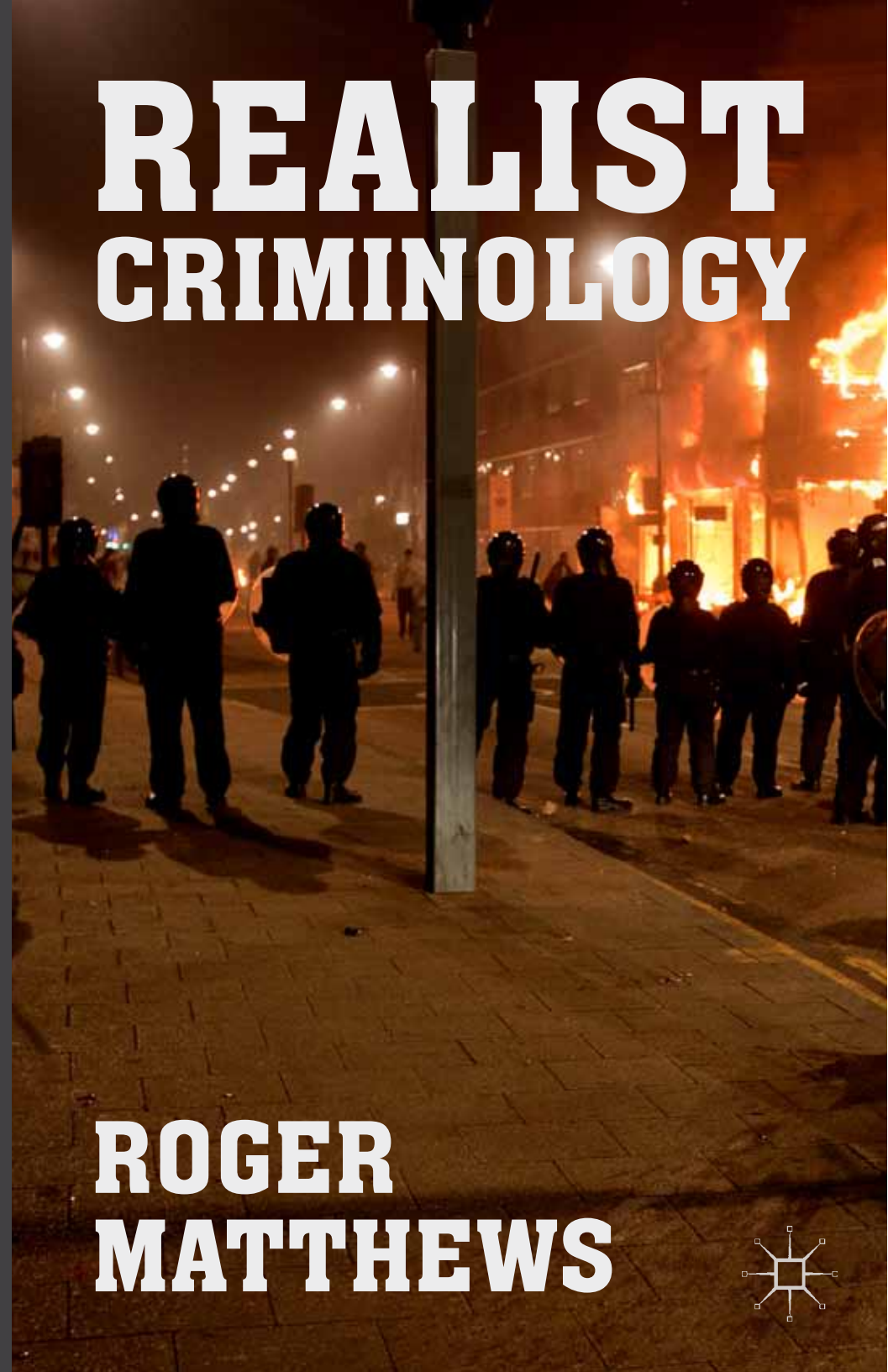
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