

'I'm a detainee get me out of here': Legal advice, length of police detention and the law

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For the last decade, police detention has been a neglected area of research in the UK. Yet, the context of police detention has changed dramatically. For example, 'workforce modernization' has meant that there are a growing number of non-sworn officers employed by either the police or private security companies to perform key tasks in the police custody process. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) (PACE) has also been under review since March 2007. In this seminar, I explore some of the findings from my recent empirical research on the police custody process, including on two aspects of PACE: (i) access to free and independent legal advice and (ii) length of detention. I also explore whether changes to the police custody process and the wider socio-political context mean that PACE is no longer fit for its purpose.

Dr Layla Skinns is the Adrian Socio-Legal Research Fellow at Darwin College and Affiliated Lecturer at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge as well as a part-time Research Fellow at the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, King's College London. She recently completed an ESRC-funded study of the police custody process, examining detainees' access to their due process rights and the impact of workforce modernization on the custody process. She is currently engaged in writing a book on this topic.

Wednesday 26th November 2008, 5.30pm – 7.00pm

B3, Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Research and LLM Students welcome