English criminal procedure law and practice are currently undergoing major changes with potentially far-reaching practical and philosophical implications. Human rights norms and discourse are significant ingredients in this ongoing realignment of English criminal procedure. Drawing on concrete illustrations relating, for example, to methods of criminal investigation, the presumption of innocence, and trial procedures for presenting and challenging witness testimony, this lecture presents a preliminary sketch of the principal contours of the ‘human rights revolution’ in English criminal procedures, and articulates questions for further discussion. Where are we now? How did we get here? Where are we going? And what does it all amount to, within the broader contexts of criminal justice policymaking and criminal procedure reform?

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