Hate crime’ is a politically and socially significant term that cuts across disciplines, across communities and across borders. However, while significant progress has been made in terms of improving levels of awareness of hate crimes and their associated harms, a number of conceptual and operational challenges remain which can constrain the ‘real-life’ value of empirical research and policy development. This seminar addresses those challenges and considers a series of important questions that form a central part of debates around hate crime victimisation. What does the term ‘hate crime’ refer to and is there a single universal definition? Which people are at greatest risk of being victims of hate crime? Why do particular groups of hate crime victims remain under-researched and under-protected, and what can be done to dismantle barriers to reporting, engagement and justice?

Neil Chakraborti is a Professor of Criminology and Director of the Centre for Hate Studies at the University of Leicester. He has published extensively within the field of hate crime and has been commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and a range of other funding bodies to conduct studies of targeted hostility, victimisation and diversity. Neil is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ontario, Chair of Research for the Board of Trustees of the Howard League for Penal Reform, and sits on the Advisory Board of Tell MAMA, a national body which records and measures anti-Muslim attacks in the UK.