



*On Probation: Helping, holding
and hurting offenders*

Professor Fergus McNeill

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

Thursday 18th February 2010, 5.30pm
Seminar Room B3, Institute of Criminology,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

In recent years, systems of punishment in the UK have been sites of change unprecedented in its pace and scale. Independent prison commissions in both Scotland and England and Wales have raised fundamental questions about these systems, their purposes, their practices and their effects.

But, as we plan, debate and implement new penal futures, to what extent have we learned the lessons of penal history? In this seminar, Professor Fergus McNeill presents findings from a British Academy funded research study of oral histories of Scottish probation in the 1960s - the forgotten but significant period immediately before an earlier period of significant structural reforms which included the introduction of the Children's Hearings system and the integration of Scottish probation services within generic social work departments. In offering an analysis of the stories of people who were subject to probation at that time, this seminar aims to challenge common conceptions of criminal sanctions and of how they help, hold and hurt those who are subject to them, in so doing providing an important and fresh perspective on key contemporary debates.

Fergus McNeill is Professor of Criminology and Social Work at the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research at Glasgow University.

This seminar is part of the IoC Public Seminar Series, and is open to all interested in attending.
If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on:

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