



Neurocriminology: Neuroethical and Neurolegal Implications

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Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

Thursday 5th May 2011, 5.30pm

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

A drinks reception in the basement foyer will follow this seminar for attendees

The very rapid developments taking place in brain imaging science are creating an uncomfortable tension between our concepts of responsibility and retribution on the one hand, and understanding and mercy on the other. Neurocriminology is a new subfield of criminology which is documenting structural and functional brain impairments not just in antisocial, violent, and psychopathic individuals, but also in spouse abusers and white collar criminals. Recent research is also suggesting a neurodevelopmental contribution to crime causation. Furthermore, the brain circuits found to be impaired in offenders parallel the brain circuits found to underlie moral decision-making in controls. This talk presents recent research in neurocriminology, outlining implications not just for the field of criminology, but also for our concepts of moral responsibility, free will, and punishment. If the neural circuitry underling morality is compromised in offenders, is it morally wrong of us to punish prisoners as much as we do?

This seminar is free, and is open to all interested in attending, with no ticket required.

If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: Joanne Garner, on: jf225@cam.ac.uk

For full listing of IoC Seminars: <http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/> For directions: <http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/where.html>