



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology

Public Guest Seminar Series

'Contemporary Issues in Sentencing'

Julian Roberts

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University of Oxford

Executive Director of the Sentencing Academy



Thursday 28th October 2021, 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

CRIMINOLOGY

This presentation discusses two key issues: *sentencing ethnic minorities* and *deferred sentencing*. In Part I explore the approaches to sentencing ethnic minorities taken in different jurisdictions. The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines explicitly disregard race as a factor to be considered at sentencing. In Canada, courts have imposed significantly mitigated sentences in recognition of systemic racism. Canada has also introduced 'Impact of Race and Culture Assessments' – pre-sentence reports which provide judges with a fuller appreciation of the defendant's background. In England and Wales, the Sentencing Council has taken a middle ground on the issue: courts are reminded of the over-representation of BAME individuals in the justice system, but no guidance is given regarding the sentencing of BAME offenders. Part II addresses a little-known element of English sentencing law: *Deferred Sentencing*. Courts have the power to defer sentence for up to six months. This provides the offender with an opportunity to demonstrate progress towards rehabilitation and may result in the court imposing a noncustodial sentence when imprisonment was likely prior to deferral. I explore the promise and perils of deferring sentencing.

This seminar is open to all interested, but limited to 40 attendees, to attend in person please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/public-seminar-series-with-professor-julian-roberts-tickets-191747200037>

Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Ave, Cambridge, CB3 9DA

Please be aware the Seminars are often recorded and can be found on the Institute [website](#)

If you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list, please contact: events@crim.cam.ac.uk