



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology



Why Do Courts Offer  
'A Discount for Bulk Offending'?

## Professor Sir Anthony Bottoms

Emeritus Wolfson Professor of Criminology, UoC, and Life Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Honorary Professor of Criminology, University of Sheffield; Director of the Centre for Penal Theory and Penal Ethics, Institute of Criminology, UoC

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 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*

In many criminal cases in every jurisdiction, defendants are simultaneously convicted of two or more offences. When sentencing such defendants, courts frequently apply a reductive approach, known in England as 'the totality principle'. Thus, if D is convicted of five offences each of which, considered separately, would merit imprisonment for one year, D will in total receive much less than a five year sentence. This has been described pejoratively as 'a discount for bulk offending', but it is a principle that appears to be universal, in both common law and civil law jurisdictions. Sentencing theorists have struggled to provide a coherent justification for this practice. In this seminar, the limited quantity of empirical research on multiple offence sentencing is examined, and it is argued that these studies of judicial practice can help us to move towards a better normative understanding of the totality principle.

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](mailto:jf225@cam.ac.uk)  
For full listing of IoC Seminars: <http://www.crim.cam.ac.uk/> For directions: <http://map.cam.ac.uk/>