



Postmodern Penalty Under Scrutiny

Ruth Armstrong and Tiffany Bergin

PhD Students – Institute of Criminology

Institute of Criminology PhD Public Seminar Series

Thursday 24th February 2011, 4.30pm

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

This PhD seminar precedes the seminar to be given by Prof. Jonathan Simon at 5.30pm.

This seminar will critically examine postmodern penal policies and practices which increased in the United States in the late 20th century: correctional boot camps and parole. In the first half of this seminar Tiffany Bergin will explore what political, economic, ideological, cultural, and other factors were responsible for the dramatic spread of correctional boot camps in the USA. In the 1980s and 1990s a majority of states adopted military-style boot camp prisons despite research evidence which questioned their ability to reduce recidivism or save money. Both quantitative and qualitative results about the spread of boot camps will be presented and linkages between these results and theories about postmodern and neoliberal penalty will be explored. Moving on to examine ex-prisoners' experiences of parole, Ruth Armstrong will analyse the vast increase in parole practice in the USA, despite less than conclusive evidence of its effectiveness. The results of her study suggest that an emphasis on risk management reinforces the exclusion of the dangerous classes, the 'criminal other', and restricts parolees' opportunities to take responsibility for their future.

Ahead of Jonathan Simon's presentation, this seminar will draw upon his work in exploring the rationales behind these penal policies and practices.

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>