



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of Criminology

*Medical Testimony and the Dynamics
of Forensic Diagnosis at the Old Bailey,
1760-1913*

Professor Joel P. Eigen

Charles A. Dana Professor of Sociology, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Institute of Criminology Public Seminar Series *and*
Doctoral Training Centre Interdisciplinary Seminar

Thursday 27th November 2014, 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

Prof Joel Eigen is Charles A. Dana Professor of Sociology at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster Pennsylvania and Principle Honorary Fellow, University of Melbourne.

With the enigmatic diagnosis of *Homicidal Mania*, forensic psychiatric witnesses in late Victorian insanity trials introduced a form of mental derangement that for the first time excluded cognitive impairment. How medical men constructed a disease out of distracted volition and the role played by an administrative change that brought doctor and prisoner *before* trial is the subject for this talk. The research is based on a study of courtroom testimony given in 1,000 Old Bailey insanity trials.

Joel Eigen began his research as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute, 1982-83. He has written of the origins and evolution of forensic psychiatry in *Witnessing Insanity, Madness and Mad-Doctors in the English Court* (Yale, 1993) and *Unconscious Crime, Mental Absence and Criminal Responsibility in Victorian London* (Johns Hopkins, 2003). He is currently working on the third and final book in this series, the subject of this seminar.

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
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