Le Carcéral, Sécurité, and Beyond:
Rethinking Michel Foucault’s 1978-1979 Collège de France Lectures

Colloque bilingue et pluridisciplinaire
organisé par Bernard E. Harcourt et Andrew Dilts
au Centre de Paris de l’Université de Chicago

Vendredi 6 juin 2008
9:30 à 17:30

University of Chicago Paris Center
6 rue Thomas Mann
75013 Paris

Accès libre, sur inscription à arnaud@uchicago.edu
ou au 01.53.94.78.80

Papers available here : http://www.thecarceral.org
Le Carcéral, Sécurité, and Beyond: 
Rethinking Michel Foucault’s 1978-1979 Collège de France Lectures 
at the Paris Center of the University of Chicago 

Mass incarceration, order maintenance, preventative detention, actuarial prediction instruments, felon disenfranchisement, sex offender registries, habitual offender enhancements—these punitive practices characterize the contemporary landscape of our penal state. Michel Foucault’s seminal work, Discipline and Punish (1975), fundamentally transformed critical thought on punishment practices and institutions in the mid-1970s. The concept of discipline and the larger critique of power/knowledge were deployed by many critical theorists to reexamine the rehabilitative project and the penal practices that pervaded the carceral sphere. 

In the years immediately following publication of Discipline and Punish, Michel Foucault delivered lectures at the Collège de France—some of which were published and some translated—that gave rise to other currents of critique in the penal field. These critiques, which became known as “governmentality studies” and centered on the notions of biopower, sécurité, neo-liberal political economy and governance, blossomed in the early 1990s but simultaneously created significant tension with the disciplinary paradigm. 

With the release in 2004 of the complete lectures of Michel Foucault—Sécurité, Territoire, Population (1978) and Naissance de la Biopolitique (1979)—the internal tensions between these different ways of conceptualizing the penal field increased. Today, with a few years distance from the publication of the 1978 and 1979 Cours and at the thirtieth anniversary of their delivery, it may be possible to rethink the lectures and their influence on the way we discuss punishment, penalty, and the carceral sphere. 

The purpose of this conference is to explore new readings of the Cours and of Discipline and Punish with an eye toward developing better understandings and more powerful critiques of our current punishment practices, as well as social and political institutions implicated in the carceral form. 

Participants: Laurent Bonelli (Université Paris X), Fabienne Brion (Université Catholique de Louvain), Guy Casadamont (Université Paris X), Gilles Chantraine (CNRS – CESDIP), Luc-Henry Choquet (Direction de la Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse), Alessandro Dal Lago (Università di Genova), Andrew Dilts (University of
Chicago), Claude-Olivier Doron (University Paris VII), Lisa Jane Graham (Haverford College), Bernard Harcourt (University of Chicago), Paolo Napoli (EHESS), Salvatore Palidda (Università di Genova), Stephen Sawyer (University of Chicago), and Mariana Valverde (University of Toronto).

The conference will take place at the Paris Center of the University of Chicago, 6 rue Thomas Mann in the 13e arrondissement of Paris. Written papers will be circulated and available ahead of time and the sessions will be dedicated to critical discussion of the papers. The conference will run from 9:30 to 17:30 on Friday, June 6, 2008.

The papers will be published in The Carceral Notebooks at www.thecarceral.org. They will be available to all readers here: http://www.thecarceral.org/journal-vol4.html.

Access to the conference is open and free, but to assure a seat, please RSVP to Arnaud Hédin at arnaud@uchicago.edu.

Location / Lieu

The University of Chicago Center in Paris
6, rue Thomas Mann
75013 Paris, France
Telephone: 01 53 94 78 80

Directions

Metro
- Take line 14 to the stop Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand
- Leaving the station make a left on Rue du Chevaleret
- Take the steps on your left hand side which will bring you up to the rue Thomas Mann

RER
- Take RER C to the stop Bibliothèque François-Mitterrand

Bus
- Take lines 89, 62, 64 or 132
Schedule: Friday June 6, 2008

9:30 Welcome and Introduction

10:00 – 12:00 First Panel (in English)

Mariana Valverde
University of Toronto
Author of *Law and Order: Signs, Meanings, Myths* (Rutgers 2006), of “Governmentality” (with Nikolas Rose and Pat O’Malley in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 2: 83-104 December 2006), and of “Genealogies of European states: Foucauldian reflections” (*Economy and Society* 36 (1):159-78 2007).

Alessandro Dal Lago
University of Genoa

Andrew Dilts
University of Chicago
Author of “To Kill a Thief: Locke, Punishment, and Proportionality” (unpublished manuscript), and *Excess Punishment: State, Citizens, and Felon Disenfranchisement* (unpublished book manuscript).

Discussant: Lisa Jane Graham
Haverford College.

Chair: Bernard E. Harcourt, University of Chicago
12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break

13:00 – 15:00 Second Panel (in French)

**Paolo Napoli**
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales and University of Rome
Author of *Naissance de la police moderne: Pouvoirs, normes, société* (La Découverte 2003).

**Laurent Bonelli**
Université Paris-X (Nanterre)
Author of *La France a peur. Une histoire sociale de l’« insécurité »* (La Découverte 2008) and co-editor of *La Machine à punir. Pratiques et discours sécuritaires* (L’Esprit frappeur, Paris, 2001).

**Guy Casadamont**
Université Paris-X (Nanterre) and Direction de l’Administration Pénitentiaire
Author of *Il n’y a pas de juste peine* with Pierrette Poncela (Odile Jacob 2004) and of « Exercices spirituels foucauldien » (*Quid Pro Quo*, no. 2, Septembre 2007)

**Discussant: Claude-Olivier Doron**
University Paris VII-Denis Diderot, Centre Georges Canguilhem-REHSEIS.
Writing on the contemporary government of dangerousness in France between psychiatry and justice, and on the story of criminology and psychiatry.

**Chair: Luc-Henry Choquet**
Direction de la Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse
Chargé de Mission Recherche at the Direction de la Protection Judiciaire de la Jeunesse and author of *Reconsidérer la famille* (with Élisabeth Zucker-Rouvillois).

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break
15:30 – 17:30 Third Panel (bilingual French/English)

Fabienne Brion
Catholic University of Louvain (Louvain-la-Neuve)

Salvatore Palidda
University of Genoa
Author of Polizia postmoderna. Etnografia del nuovo controllo sociale (Milano: Feltrinelli 2000), and « Criminalisation et guerres aux migrations, » in Hommes & Migrations (January 2003)

Bernard E. Harcourt
University of Chicago, Université Paris-X (Nanterre) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

Discussants: Stephen Sawyer, University of Chicago, and Andrew Dilts, University of Chicago

Chair: Gilles Chantraine
CNRS – Centre de recherches sociologiques sur le droit et les institutions pénales
Author of Par-delà les murs, expériences et trajectoires en maison d'arrêt (PUF 2004), and co-editor, with Philippe Mary, of the special issue Prisons et mutations pénales in the review Déviance et Société (2006). Editorial director of the review Champ pénal / Penal Field, and membre of the comité de rédaction of the review Vacarme.