



Yale University

Workshop in Urban Ethnography

The Ethnographic Interpretation of Urban Life and Culture

Monday, November 11, 11:30am-1:20pm

210 Prospect Street, Room 203



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Code of the Courts: Racialized Justice in a Colorblind Era

Numerous accounts have identified the racialized nature of mass incarceration and its impact on minority communities, poverty, crime, inequality and even daily life. Yet, we know little about how mass imprisonment and its racially disproportionate features affect criminal justice apparatuses themselves. Through ethnography of the criminal courts in Chicago-Cook County, this research examines how the racial divides and segregation that define mass incarceration manifest within our criminal courts and transform them from central sites of “due process” to central sites of “racialized punishment.” The findings highlight how the structural segregation created by mass incarceration impacts seemingly race neutral institutions and reproduces racial stigma under the guise of procedural justice. Ultimately, this account reveals the courts as “the cultural engine” and crucial gateway for the racialization of criminal justice - where racism and discretion collide with dire effects to both the experience and appearance of justice.

Lunch Served - All Welcome

For upcoming speakers and bios, visit <http://www.yale.edu/sociology/UEP>.

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