THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PUNISHMENT TODAY: VISIONS, DEBATES AND CHALLENGES.

International two-day conference.
18/19 September 2014.
Law School, University of A Coruña.
A Coruña, Spain.
Over the last decade, several key texts have sought to examine the recent transformations of penalty, most prominently among them mass imprisonment, through Political Economy conceptual tools. Hence, this literature, which is fairly heterogeneous both in perspectives and conclusions, contributed to updating the theoretical framework of Political Economy of Punishment, which was crucial to reframing critical thought on punishment in the 1970s and 1980s. Moreover, those recent works have coincided with the unfolding of a theoretical line aimed at explaining the rise of punishment in the last decades from the standpoint of the rise of neo-liberalism, understood both as a political project and as an economic doctrine. By contrast, another prominent body of literature has tended to emphasise the cultural and/or political components of the evolution of penalty—and hence its variability—to some extent side-lining the political economic analysis.

Taking account of this theoretical context, it appears to be particularly timely to reflect on the current condition of the analytical field of the Political Economy of Punishment from the plural perspectives that arose from these new contributions on the subject.

First, the Conference aims to debate whether those recent texts are shaping new theoretical tools for the political economic analysis of punishment. Second, the Conference seeks to examine whether and how the recent Political Economy of Punishment literature may be related to the texts on neo-liberalism and punishment and to those which are focused on the cultural and political elements of the contemporary penal trends. Last, but not least, the Conference is aimed at examining to what extent the Political Economy of Punishment literature may contribute to critically analyse the evolution of penalty since the onset of the so-called Great Recession.

ORGANISATION:
ECRIM. University of A Coruña, Spain — www.ecrim.es

ACADEMIC CHAIRS
José Ángel Brandariz. University of A Coruña, Spain
Maximo Sasso. National University of the Litoral, Argentina
Darío Melassi. University of Bologna, Italy

ORGANISATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Patricia Faraldo. University of A Coruña, Spain

ORGANISATION COMMITTEE SECRETARY:
David Castro. University of A Coruña, Spain

GRAPHIC DESIGN:
Javier Gutiérrez — www.3x3pixels.com
10:00 INTRODUCTION:
By the Academic Chairs.

10:15 LECTURE 1:
The Prison and the Factory revisited:
The Cycle of the Canaille.
Dr. Dario Melossi, University of Bologna, Italy.

11:15 COFFEE BREAK.

11:45 PANEL 1:
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PUNISHMENT ISSUES I:

Mass enemyng:
On the political economy of surveillance of online social networks.
Dr. Manuel Maroto, University of Castile-La Mancha, Spain.

Political Economy, Democracy and punitivism in Argentina.
Dr. Diego Zysman, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

12:45 LECTURE 2:
Beyond Determinism:
Towards a Cultural Political Economy of Punishment in Late Capitalism.
Dr. Alessandro De Giorgi, San Jose State University, USA.

13:45 LUNCH.

15:45 PANEL 2:
POLITICAL ECONOMY OF PUNISHMENT ISSUES II:

Punishing migrants and the Political Economy of punishment.
Dr. José A. Brandariz García, University of A Coruña, Spain.

Governing from Crime in the Castizo Neoliberalism:
Legitimating for Friends and Fighting Enemies.
Dr. Daniel Jiménez Franco, University of Zaragoza, Spain.

Neoliberal policies and the expansion of State punishment.
Dr. Ignacio González Sánchez, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain.

17:00 LECTURE 3:
From one recession to another:
The lessons of a long-term political economy of punishment.
The example of Belgium (1830-2012).
Dr. Charlotte Vanneste, National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology,
University of Liège, Belgium.

18:00 COFFEE BREAK.

18:30 PANEL 3:
PUNISHMENT AND POLITICAL ECONOMY:

Who dares fine a murderer?
Fines and the changing meaning of money in criminal law.
Dr. Patricia Faraldo Cabana, University of A Coruña, Spain.

Underclass.
Mark Murado. State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Youth Justice, Boot Camps and the Return of Retributive Justice:
The peculiar political economy of punishment in an Australian jurisdiction.
Dr. Kerry Carrington, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

19:45 DINNER.
10:00 LECTURE 4:
The Limits of Inclusion: Globalisation, Neoliberalism and State Policies of Border Control.
Dr. Leonidas Cheliotis, London School of Economics, England, UK.

11:00 PANEL 4:
Penalty Issues 1:
Analysing levels of punishment in Australia.
Dr. Hilde Thubex, University of Western Australia, Australia.

Punishment in the Post-Soviet Region.
Dr. Gavin Slade, Free University of Berlin, Germany.

The capture of space:
From precarity to inhabitability.
Dr. Ignacio Mondiola Gonzalo, University of the Basque Country, Spain.

12:15 COFFEE BREAK.

12:45 LECTURE 5:
Economy, politics and punishment: Between "why" and "how" questions.
Dr. Máximo Sozzo, National University of the Litoral, Argentina.

13:45 LUNCH.

15:45 PANEL 5:
Penalty Issues II:
Respectful Modules –Módulos de respeto– in the Spanish Penitentiary System from a gender perspective:
Research approach and preliminary results.
Dr. Ana Ballesteros Pena, University of Barcelona, Spain.

Immigration Detention Centers from a gender perspective in Spain.
Anna Moreno Beltrán –co-authored with Dr. Ana Ballesteros Pena & Elvira Almada Samano–.
University of Barcelona, Spain.

Inequalities in Punishment:
Imprisonment, Community Service and Electronic Monitoring in Greece.
Dr. Nikolaos Koulouris –co-authored with Dimitris Konis & Sofia Spyre–.
Democritus University of Thrace, Greece.

17:00 LECTURE 6:
Anti-politics, penal politics and questions of legitimation.
Dr. Richard Sparks, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

18:00 COFFEE BREAK.

18:30 PANEL 6:
Penalty Issues III:
Economic Crimes in the New Rurality on the agricultural production in Argentina.
A cultural criminology contribution
Antonella Comba, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A sociological approach to the punishment institution in the Basque Country.
A necessary social research proposal.
Dr. Juan Aldaz Arregi, University of the Basque Country, Spain.

The neoliberal criminal policy as a source of impunity for large corporations.
The perverse logic of "too big to jail”.
Ana Neira Pena, University of A Coruna, Spain.

19:45 CONCLUDING WORDS:
By the Academic Chairs.