



Neoliberal Penalty Thesis: When Western Theory Meets Chinese Reality

Dr. Enshen Li

The University of Queensland

Time: 12.13, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.-12:30p.m

Venue: E21-2001



Abstract:

The neoliberal penalty thesis links recent penal shifts toward punitiveness and managerialism to market liberalisation that has swept western societies since the 1980s. While this paradigm has been largely examined in the western context, less is known about how it may be applicable to the eastern context. This speech aims to explore the possible conceptual limitation of the neoliberal penalty thesis for understanding modern penal practices in contemporary China ('reform China'), where economic reform has also significantly altered the state's social landscape over the last several decades. Through an examination of the penal evolution in reform China, it is argued that punishment in China over the last thirty years has not increased in its severity, as has occurred in many western states. Rather, the growing need to maintain a harmonious society has enabled China's penal practices to be more lenient and managerial in orientation, analogous to the development of actuarial justice in western states.

Speaker:

Dr Enshen Li is a lecturer at the TC Beirne School of Law, The University of Queensland. Dr Li's research interests lie in the field of comparative criminal justice, theoretical criminology, socio-legal studies of punishment and society. He specializes in the Chinese criminal justice and penal system and their implications for culture and society. Dr Li has published a number of articles in leading law and criminology journals, including Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Criminology & Criminal Justice and British Journal of Criminology. He has also taught criminal law and criminology courses at La Trobe University and the University of Queensland since 2009.

Language: English

All are welcome!

~ Feel free to bring your own lunch ~