



## The War on White-Collar Crime

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### Abstract:

This presentation examines an unprecedented and unannounced U.S. national crime initiative. Unlike other official enforcement efforts aimed at reducing illegal behaviors such as the "war on drugs," the current initiative attempts to fully undermine efforts to discover, investigate, prosecute, and punish white-collar and corporate lawbreaking through the following means: corruption and nepotism at the highest levels of government, appointment of inept, inexperienced and anti-regulatory personnel to head government agencies, attempts to thwart the Special Prosecutor's investigation of Russian cyber attacks on a national election, and continued attempts to delegitimize the media and law enforcement more generally. Actions of the Administration constitute an "In-Your-Face Watergate," referring to perhaps the darkest chapter in American presidential wrongdoing (leading to the resignation of Richard Nixon), and an existential war on white-collar and corporate criminality. Relevant concepts and theories from criminology sociology are brought to bear on explaining and describing this war.

### Bio:

Henry N. Pontell is Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Before joining John Jay, he was a Professor at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), where he now is a Professor Emeritus of criminology, law & society in the School of Social Ecology and of sociology in the School of Social Sciences. He has published over one-hundred scholarly articles and book chapters in the fields of sociology, law and society, criminology, and criminal justice. His books include *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America* (Pearson), *Big Money Crime: Fraud and Politics in the Savings and Loan Crisis* (University of California Press), *Contemporary Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice: Essays in Honor of Gilbert Geis* (Pearson), *Prescription for Profit: How Doctors Defraud Medicaid* (University of California Press) and *Financial Crime and Crisis in the Era of False Profits* (Oxford University Press).

Language: English

All are welcome!

Time : 13:30-14:30

Wednesday, April 26, 2018

Venue: E21-2001