The School of Social Sciences presents:


Professor Michael Welch, Criminal Justice
Rutgers University

Date: Monday 9 September 2010
Time: 1.00pm – 2.30pm
Venue: School meeting rooms via video link
         Kingswood Campus Building P.G.26
         Bankstown Campus Building 1.1.30

ABSTRACT

Questionable tactics in America’s war on terror continue to undergo scrutiny due to their threats to human rights, chief among them ‘enhanced’ interrogation and torture. Indeed, a growing chorus of criticism has been levelled at the political, legal, and ethical considerations of those policies and practices. Scholars, nonetheless, have neglected other important aspects of the controversy, for instance, the extent to which modern torture has been influenced by ‘scientific’ claims involving the effectiveness and appropriateness of certain procedures. Filling the void, this analysis explores the invention of modern torture as it draws on behavioural and psychological research in developing a new paradigm for pain. Delving into the assertions of ‘enhanced’ techniques, the critique focuses on a science studies perspective aimed at deciphering the allure of science in policing as well as in the war on terror. Such ‘scientification’, as discussed herein, reinforces the illusion that the state’s capacity to unveil the truth is infallible.

SPEAKER


Plan to attend this regular series of seminars to be held on the first Monday of every month.
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