

Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

Seminar Series 2009

Wednesday 22 July 2009

Framing Innocents: The Wrongly Convicted as Victims of State Harm

by Kimberly J. Cook and Sandra Westervelt

Presented by Professor Kimberly Cook
University of North Carolina Wilmington, USA

Seminar Abstract

The state crime literature has yet to consider how state officials exercise power to investigate, prosecute, and convict innocent people of crimes they did not commit. We adapt the victimology 'state harms' framework advocated by Kauzlarich, Matthews, and Miller to examine the post-exoneration experiences of 18 death row exonerees. The 'state harms' approach offered by Kauzlarich et al. more fully captures the human injuries endured by state crime victims, including death row exonerees, than the traditional legalistic and social harms approaches used to study state crime. Using the state harms framework, we discuss the array of traumas exonerees face as a result of their wrongful capital convictions and incarcerations, challenges exacerbated by their quest for state accountability. We conclude with a discussion of the value of using the state harms approach to understand the post-exoneration experiences of exonerees.

About the Speaker

Professor Kimberly Cook is Head of the Department of Sociology and Criminology, University of North Carolina Wilmington, USA. Professor Cook is the author of *Divided Passions: Public Opinions on Abortion and Death Penalty* and her current research interests include wrongful convictions in capital cases, shelters for battered women, restorative justice in communities.

Wednesday 22 July 2009

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Mt Gravatt Campus, Building M10 Social Sciences, Level 5, Room 5.01

Light refreshments served on arrival.

RSVP preferred - please email kceljag-events@griffith.edu.au or phone 3735 5997 by Monday 20 July 2009.