Stereotypes, Crime and Justice

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Date: 25.10.2016, Venue: P22 @ 2.30 PM

Abstract

This talk will provide an overview of trends in crime and punishment in the United States over the past few decades, with particular attention to racial disparities in offending, victimization, arrest, and incarceration. A key theme is the role of stereotypes in conditioning interactions between victims and offenders, parties to disputes, officers and suspects, and witnesses and prosecutors. In particular, stereotypes are important in accounting for patterns in the data on robbery, homicide, and officer-involved shootings. Stereotypes can also facilitate the interpretation of incentive-based phenomena in essentialist terms, and thus affect attitudes towards mass incarceration within the general public. The relevance of these arguments for other societies with a history of hierarchical organization will be discussed.

Speaker Profile

http://www.columbia.edu/~rs328/