



SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT (ICRU): RESEARCH SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2015: 4.00 p.m - 5.30 p.m

VENUE - TO BE CONFIRMED

'Justice Reinvestment: Winding Back Imprisonment?'

Emeritus Professor David Brown

School of Law, University of New South Wales, Australia

Abstract: Justice reinvestment emerged as a response to mass incarceration and racial disparity in imprisonment rates in the United States. This seminar is based on a collective research project, some results of which are to appear in a forthcoming book: Brown, Cunneen, Schwartz, Stubbs and Young, *Justice Reinvestment: Winding Back Imprisonment*, (2015) Palgrave/Macmillan.

The seminar will examine justice reinvestment from its origins, its potential as a mechanism for winding back imprisonment rates and its portability to Australia, the United Kingdom and beyond. Justice reinvestment will be subjected to comparative analysis by examining the differences in political, legal and cultural contexts between the United States and Australia in particular. It argues for a community-driven approach, originating in vulnerable Indigenous communities with high imprisonment rates, as part of a more general movement for Indigenous democracy. While supporting a social justice approach, the research project confronts the problematic features of the politics of locality and community, the process of criminal justice policy transfer and rationalist conceptions of policy.

Emeritus Professor David Brown taught Criminal Law, Advanced Criminal Law, Criminal Justice, Crime Prevention, Community Corrections and Penology courses at the University of NSW in Sydney from 1974 to 2008. He is a co-author of the major and innovative *Criminal Laws* (6th edn 2015) and he is widely published across the broad areas of: criminal law; criminal justice; criminology and penology. He has co-authored or co-edited 10 books, including: *Penal Culture and Hyperincarceration* (2013); *The New Punitiveness* (2005); *Prisoners as Citizens* (2002); *Rethinking Law and Order* (1998); *Death in the Hands of the State* (1988); *The Judgments of Lionel Murphy* (1986) and *The Prison Struggle* (1982) and he is a regular media commentator on criminal justice issues.