



SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT (ICRU): RESEARCH SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY MAY 10, 2017: 3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

RENDALL BUILDING - SEMINAR ROOM 3

**'Haunting Legacies of Historical Racial Violence'**

**Dr Geoff Ward**

**University of California, Irvine, USA**

**Abstract:** This seminar will examine the socially constitutive force of historical racial violence, including dimensions and mechanisms of its lasting impact, remaining theoretical and empirical questions, and remedial implications. A growing body of work finds that areas of the United States marked by more pronounced histories of racial violence remain distinguished by elevated black victim homicide rates, white supremacist mobilization, support for punitive crime policy, school corporal punishment, and other violence and conflict today. These 'haunting legacies' are attributed to lingering traces in the psyches, identities, attitudes, behaviours, and structural relations of successive generations, yet underlying mechanisms are not well understood, and there remains a need for more direct and comparative analysis of these dynamics to inform remedial effort. To that end, I conclude with discussion of my comparative interests in the U.K. – including efforts to regulate racial abuse, and lasting impacts of these events – as elements of my engaged research on legacies of racial violence.

**Dr Geoff Ward** is Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California Irvine, a Visiting Fellow in the Centre for Research on Crime and Justice at New York University School of Law and an International Visiting Fellow at ICRU, School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool. His work examines socio-historical relationships between race, crime and justice, with emphasis on issues of youth justice, representation among legal authorities, and historical racial violence. This work has been supported by the Ford Foundation, Mellon Foundation, National Institute of Justice, and National Science Foundation. His book *The Black Child Savers: Racial Democracy and Juvenile Justice* (University of Chicago, 2012) was awarded the Hindelang Book Award by the American Society of Criminology, and Outstanding Book Prize of the History of Education Society. His new project engages legacies of historical racial violence as problems for research, education, and advocacy.