



SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT (ICRU):
RESEARCH SEMINAR**

WEDNESDAY 18th MAY 2016: 4pm – 5.30pm (Rendall – LT5)

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State Crime and Australian Border Policing

Since the early 1990s, successive Australian governments have implemented a criminogenic border policing regime against unauthorised refugees that has resulted in systemic harm and organised human rights abuses. The cornerstones of this regime are the policies of mandatory detention introduced in 1992 and ‘offshore processing’ reintroduced in 2012. These policies have been prosecuted by both the major political parties but have generated sustained criticism from all the major human rights organisations, the medical profession, and a growing and diverse opposition. This paper discusses the findings of the 2014 Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Report into Children in Immigration detention and subsequent developments on Nauru. It argues that the abuses identified by the AHRC and others fit a broader pattern of state crime towards refugees, with significant implications for contemporary debates about refugees in Europe.

Michael Grewcock teaches criminology and criminal law in the Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia. Prior to becoming an academic, he worked in London as a lawyer between 1989 and 2002, including for 3 years as a legal officer and researcher for the Howard League for Penal Reform. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of *State Crime* and the *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*. He is a co-author of David Brown et al, *Criminal Laws*, 5th and 6th editions; *Border Crimes: Australia’s War on Illicit Migrants* (2010); and several articles and book chapters on state crime and Australian border policing.