

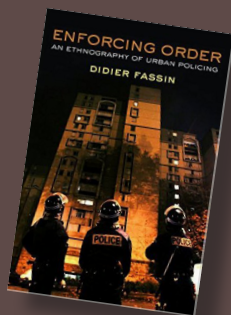
Public Lecture

Critique of Punitive Reason

Over the past three decades, almost all Western countries have developed increasingly severe policies against crime, leading to the skyrocketing of prison demographics, despite declining rates of the most serious ones. The punitive moment contemporary societies are going through invites us to a fundamental reflection on the reasons why we punish. The justification of punishment has indeed long been an important topic in moral philosophy and legal studies, with two major strands: utilitarianism and retributivism. On the basis of research conducted on police, justice and prison in France, the lecture will propose a critical examination of these theories.

Wednesday 15th of February
at 5pm.

Large Lecture Theatre
Geography



Didier Fassin is the James Wolfensohn Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study and Director of Studies at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Anthropologist, sociologist and physician, his field is political and moral anthropology and he is interested more

specifically in various forms of inequalities. He has conducted research in Senegal, Congo, South Africa, Ecuador, and France, focusing on issues related to health and mortality, immigration and discrimination, asylum and humanitarianism. In 2016 he delivered the Tanner Lectures at Berkeley and the Adorno Lectures in Frankfurt. He often writes for *Le Monde* and *Libération*. He is currently President of the French Medical Committee for Exiles.

picture (credit Jürgen Bauer)



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Geography

www.geog.cam.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE GEOGRAPHY DISTINGUISHED VISITOR EVENTS