

A Political Economy of Contemporary Punishment and the Domestic Economy of the Soul:

Bringing Erich Fromm's 'Materialistic Psychoanalysis' to Penology



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Why is it that imprisonment has undergone an explosive growth in the US and Britain over the last three decades against the background of falling crime rates in both countries?

And why has this development met with a significant and escalating degree of support amongst the public?

To the extent that governing elites on either side of the Atlantic have been eliciting public support for their authority by inducing concerns about issues of crime and punishment, what explains the selection of crime as a means to this effect, and in what precise ways do crime and punishment fulfil their hidden political function? Moreover, how do Americans and Britons legitimate their consent to objectively irrational policies and the elites responsible for their formulation?

In seeking to advance the study of these questions, this presentation rediscovers the method and key findings of Erich Fromm's 'materialistic psychoanalysis', bringing them to bear upon insights produced by political economies of contemporary punishment and related scholarship.



Dr Leonidas K. Cheliotis is Chancellor's Fellow in Law at the School of Law, University of Edinburgh, having previously been a Lecturer and founding Deputy Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice at Queen Mary, University of London. Leonidas completed his MPhil and PhD degrees at the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, and has been elected to visiting positions at the Centre for the Study of Law and Society, School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, and the Centre for Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Oxford. He is an Associate Editor of The European Journal of Criminology, and sits on the editorial boards of several other scholarly outlets, including The British Journal of Criminology.

Monday 3rd December 2012, 3.30-5pm

Seminar room 2.01, Collins Building, Richmond St, Glasgow City centre [\(Click here for map\)](#)

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All welcome but **booking is essential**. To reserve a place please email martin.hopkins@strath.ac.uk CPD 1.5 hours