

IAS Wednesday Seminar Series
Abstract

Title: 'Criminology, Social Order and Risk: The Value of Considering the 'Governmental Project'

Speaker: AP Narayanan Ganapathy (National University of Singapore)

Date of Seminar: 10th October 2012

Venue: IAS Meeting Room

This seminar seeks to 'make sense' of the inter-relationships between socio-political context, criminological theory, criminal justice policy, specific institutional practices and wider strategies of social control in developed and developing societies. Central to the analysis will be a critical grasp of the varying definitions of and discourses on the nature of 'risk', what Garland (1994) has termed the 'governmental project': the institutional licensing of 'experts' by the State to offer authoritative knowledge on 'risk information' involving various forms of coercion (Foucault 1977). Using this as the starting point, the seminar addresses two core issues pertaining to, firstly, the relationship of crime prevention and crime control to the maintenance and transformation of social order, and secondly, the relationship between criminological theory and criminal justice response to the problem of crime.