



berlin graduate school
muslim cultures and societies

The Foucault Seminar
Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison
Michel Foucault
Dr. Ruth Mas

7 June 2016, 10 am to 2 pm

The workshop will take place at BGS MCS, Altensteinstraße 48.

We will be reading *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* in this seminar. Michel Foucault's history of the modern penal system is an examination of how changing power relations and the drive to render power more efficient transformed forms of punishment. In this work, the prisoner's body and governing authority figure in discussions of public execution, corporal punishment, torture, and the models of penalty that eventually saw the formation of the prison system and modern arrangements, regulations and supervisions of the body. We will focus on the disciplinary techniques and devices that were temporally and spatially set in place to coerce and position the body and movements of individuals. In doing so, we consider how the body as the subject of political technology becomes an object to be acted upon. We also consider how disciplinary power is productive of a set of social norms by way of the production and integration of the carceral into the city and wider society. We are interested in recognising the extent to which the strategies of power and knowledge that emerge through and from the "carceral network" infiltrate modern society through hospitals, armies and other institutions of observation and control. Key to Foucault's seminal work is how he traces the shifts in the organization of the power to punish, its effect on the emergence of the human sciences and the classification of individuals, as "delinquents" and "citizens."

Reading:

Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison. Translated from the French by Alan Sheridan. Vintage Books: 1995.

Programme:

10:00-11:00am **Torture**

- 📖 The Body of the Condemned pp. 3-31
- 📖 The Spectacle of the Scaffold pp. 32-69

11:00-11:50am **Punishment**

- 📖 Generalised Punishment pp. 73-103
- 📖 The Gentle Way in Punishment pp. 104-131

20 minute break

12:10pm-1:00pm **Discipline**

- 📖 Docile Bodies pp. 135-169
- 📖 The Means of Correct Training pp. 170-194
- 📖 Panopticism pp. 195-228

1:00pm-2pm **Prison**

- 📖 Complete and Austere Institutions pp. 231-256
- 📖 Illegalities and Delinquency pp. 257-292
- 📖 The Carceral pp. 292-308

Credit Points:

1 CP

Application

The deadline for application is 23 May 2016 (via e-mail to office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de).