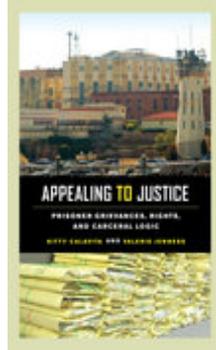




CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY BERKELEY LAW



Kitty Calavita and Valerie Jenness

Appealing to Justice:
Prisoner Grievances, Rights, and Carceral Logic
(University of California Press, 2015)

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

****3:30-5:00pm** (Reception to Follow)

Selznick Seminar Room – 2240 Piedmont Ave

Appealing to Justice is an unprecedented study of disputing in prison, and a rare glimpse of daily life inside this most closed of institutions. The authors gained unique access to California prisoners and correctional officers, as well as thousands of prisoners' grievances. Quoting extensively from these data, they give voice to those who are rarely heard from. These voices unsettle conventional wisdoms in the literature—for example, about the reluctance of vulnerable populations to launch disputes—and they do it with sometimes striking poignancy. The book is at once an empirical portrayal of legal mobilization and legal consciousness behind bars, and a theoretically driven analysis of the conflicting logics underlying the contemporary U.S. prison system and the (post) civil rights society into which it is inserted. The authors argue that the confluence of rights consciousness and the culture of punitive control—two of the defining logics of our age—has set in motion a seismic tension that is found in its most primal form in the contemporary prison and its internal grievance system. Ultimately, *Appealing to Justice* reveals a system that is fraught with institutional and cultural dilemmas and that delivers neither justice, nor efficiency, nor constitutional conditions of confinement.

Comments by:

Jonathan Simon, Adrian A. Kragen Professor of Law & CSLS Director, UC Berkeley

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