Prisons of Debt: State Hybridity and the Criminalization of Child Support

Description: This talk will examine the intersection of mass incarceration and mass child support enforcement in the contemporary U.S. Based on material from her new book, Prisons of Debt, it analyzes how these state systems work together to create complex entanglements for disadvantaged fathers—entanglements that form feedback loops of disadvantage and cycles of debt and punishment. Drawing on observations in child support courts across the country and interviews with 145 indebted fathers, the talk also shows how prisons of debt too often undermine familial wellbeing and relations of care and reciprocity.

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