Asylums and Prisons: Deinstitutionalization and Decarceration

A Colloquium and Conversation at the University of Chicago

with

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Friday May 3, 2013
9:00 am to 3:00 pm
The Coulter Lounge at the International House

Since the early nineteenth century, carceral spaces such as asylums, prisons, and state schools have been central to U.S. governance. Yet in the twentieth century these institutions took drastically different paths, as institutions for developmental disabilities and mental health dramatically decreased and prisons became the dominant state-run institutions. This one-day symposium at the University of Chicago on Friday May 3, 2013, will bring together scholars from political science, law, history, sociology and disability studies to ask questions such as: How does deinstitutionalization in mental health relate to the rise of mass incarceration? How do medicalization, criminalization and technologies of surveillance intersect in the new penal state? What are the possibilities for change? The symposium will take place at the University of Chicago on Friday, May 3, 2012 and will include a series of short presentations and discussion-based sessions that will attempt to rethink these issues.