



Rethinking the Contemporary: The World since the Cold War

***Crime, Sovereignty, and the State:
On the Metaphysics of Global Disorder***



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5 p.m., Thursday May 31st

Investcorp Lecture Theatre, St Antony's College

This lecture explores the global preoccupation with criminality in the early twenty-first century, a preoccupation strikingly disproportionate, in most places and for most people, to the risks posed by lawlessness to the conduct of everyday life. Ours in an epoch in which law-making, law-breaking, and law-enforcement are ever more critical registers in which societies construct, contest, and confront truths about themselves. It argues that, as the result of a tectonic shift in the triangulation of capital, the state, and governance, the meanings attached to crime and, with it, the nature of policing, have undergone significant change; also, that there has been a palpable muddying of the lines between legality and illegality, between corruption and conventional business – even between crime-and-policing, which exist, nowadays, in ever greater, hyphenated complicity.

All are welcome

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Organised with support from the First World War and Global Religions AHRC-funded project, All Souls College, the Asian Studies Centre of St Antony's College, the Global History Centre and the Centre for European History, both at the Faculty of History. Convenors: Faisal Devji and David Priestland.

Image: Armed police officers near Downing Street gates. Creative Commons, Stanislav Kozlovskiy 2014.