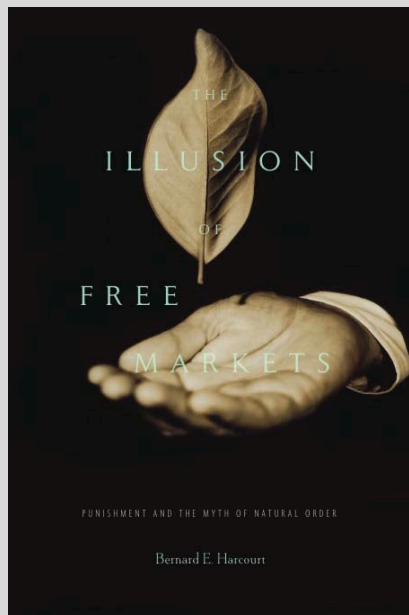


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A Talk on the Illusion of Free Markets Author Event by Bernard E. Harcourt

Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3 pm

Bernard E. Harcourt is Chair of the Political Science Department and Julius Kreeger Professor of Law at the University of Chicago and author of several other books, including *Against Prediction* and *Illusion of Order*.



It is widely believed today that the free market is the best mechanism ever invented to efficiently allocate resources in society. Just as fundamental is the belief that government has a legitimate and competent role in policing and punishing. The result, in this country, has been an incendiary combination of laissez faire and mass incarceration. Today, the United States incarcerates over one percent of its adult population, the highest number and rate in the world. In this book, Bernard Harcourt traces the birth of the idea of natural orderliness in economic thought and its gradual evolution into today's myth of the free market, and explores how it has produced the largest government-run penal sphere on the globe.

“Bernard Harcourt’s magisterial book makes a strong and persuasive case for the tight connection of the invisible hand of neoliberal ‘free’ markets and the iron fist of carceral policies. His erudite blend of history, political thought and economic theory lays bare the dark side of neoliberal penalty. We ignore his powerful democratic voice and view at our own peril!”

— Cornel West