LECTURE ABSTRACT: Drawing on Bourdieu’s theory of social space and symbolic power, I build a bridge between my books Urban Outcasts (Los condenados de la ciudad) and Punishing the Poor (Castigar a los pobres) to bring into a single model the emergence of the “precariat” and shifts in public policies aimed at managing problems of populations and territories in the dualizing city. I track the rise of a new regime of “advanced marginality” characterized by the fragmentation of wage labor, the recoiling of social protection, and territorial stigmatization to shifts in state structures and policies. I show how governments have then responded to the objective and subjective social insecurity this regime has spawned through “punitive containment” by deploying the police, courts, and carceral institutions in and around neighborhoods of relegation. In the late 20th century as in the late 16th century, the building of the penal state must be analyzed in relation to changes in the springs and forms of urban poverty, such that international variations in the intensity, concentration, and segmentation of marginality are matched by differences in the vigor and modalities of penalization, in keeping with the architecture of the bureaucratic field and the texture of citizenship evolved by each country.

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The spectrum of his works is engaged by Spanish social scientists in Ignacio González Sánchez (ed.), Teoría social, marginalidad avanzada y Estado penal. Aproximaciones al trabajo de Loïc Wacquant (Madrid, Dykinson Impresa, 2012).

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