

**International Sociological Debates  
Universitat de Barcelona (ISDUB)**

Dimecres 19 Desembre 17h  
Aula Magna de la Facultat d'Economia i Empresa

**Prof. Loïc Wacquant 'Urban marginality and the penal state'  
University of California, Berkeley  
Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique, Paris**

Presentació de la Dra. Elisabet Almeda Samaranch, directora del Grup de Recerca Consolidat COPOLIS organitzador de la sessió.

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.

Loïc Wacquant is Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and researcher at the Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique, Paris. A MacArthur Prize Fellow and recipient of the Lewis Coser Award, he is the author of numerous works on urban inequality, ethnoracial domination, the penal state, and social theory, translated in two dozen languages. Among his books in Spanish are *Entre las cuerdas. Cuadernos etnográficos de un aprendiz de boxeador* (Siglo XXI, 2004), *Repensar los Estados Unidos* (Anthropos, 2005), *Una invitación a la sociología reflexiva* (with Pierre Bourdieu, Siglo XXI, 2005), *El misterio del ministerio. Pierre Bourdieu y la política democrática* (Gedisa, 2005), *Los Condenados de la ciudad. Gueto, Periferias, Estado* (Siglo XXI, 2007), *Las dos caras de un gueto* (Siglo XXI, 2009), *Castigar a los pobres. El gobierno neoliberal de la inseguridad social* (Gedisa, 2010), and *Las Cárceles de la miseria* (Manantial, new expanded edition 2011).

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).

**For more information, see [loicwacquant.net](http://loicwacquant.net)**