**Crimes of Domination**

***Seminar hosted by Northumbria University’s Centre for Evidence and Criminal Justice Studies***

**19th June 2024**

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Liberal ideas have significantly influenced theory in criminal law, but the recent revival of interest in the republican tradition of political thought provides opportunities for re-thinking both the function of the criminal law and the rationale of certain crimes.

Republican criminal law aims to secure the republican ideal of freedom conceived as non-domination. The attention that the criminal law has received in the republican literature has largely focused on the differing liberal and republican positions on the relationship between the individual and the state, and how criminal law and punishment ought to be broadly understood in light of those differences. Relatively little consideration appears to have been given to the implications of the idea that the function – or at least one of the functions – of the criminal law is to protect people from domination for the way in which we understand particular criminal offences and defences. Use of the criminal law as a response to circumstances that pose a threat to an enlarged conception of freedom – non-domination rather than non-interference – might require offences or defences that address a broader range of circumstances than those that currently exist. If domination is taken to be a form of harm that ought to be addressed by the criminal law it might prompt new ways of thinking about the nature and seriousness of existing offences, how these offences might be re-interpreted, and whether there is a need for reform. This will be the focus of this seminar.

**Seminar Aims**

The seminar will bring together domestic and international scholars to explore how the concept of domination might shape the way in which we might both think about, and understand, substantive criminal offences and the defences available to those accused of committing them. Our aim is to promote deep engagement with the ideas presented in the papers.

Where presenters have a working paper, we propose that the draft is circulated in advance, and we will encourage those attending to read these prior to the event. There will be a brief introduction to each paper by its authors followed by a general discussion involving all of those in attendance.

Alternatively, presenters can deliver a 20 minute presentation of their paper followed by a Q and A session.

For your paper to be considered for inclusion in this seminar event, please send an abstract of 300 - 350 words to the event convenors: Prof Tony Ward ([tony.ward@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:tony.ward@northumbria.ac.uk)) and Prof Vanessa Bettinson ([vanessa.bettinson@northumrbia.ac.uk](mailto:vanessa.bettinson@northumrbia.ac.uk)) by May 20th 2024.