

SCRUTINISING PRISONS – PLURALISTIC PERSPECTIVES

Thursday 14 December 2023, 2 PM to 5 PM, DIGNITY

We warmly invite you to join us for an afternoon of panels and dialogue featuring new perspectives on how best to understand and represent prison life and mitigate penal harms.

The question of how exactly prison life can be understood continues to dog the practices of prison professionals, activists, and scholars: whose point of view should be privileged, what tools should be used, and who gets to judge what entry point is best. In a recent special issue of the '[Prison Service Journal](#)' DIGNITY researchers and experts and our international researcher colleagues explore a pluralist approach to knowing prisons through the notion of scrutiny. The special issue features articles from across the globe that analyse how different forms of scrutiny – including tv-series, activism, monitoring and research – portray and affect everyday prison life in diverse contexts such as the UK, Syria, Ireland, France, and the Philippines. Meet the authors of the articles when they share their work and invite for debate.

Programme

2.00 – 2.10 pm	Welcome and introduction Tomas Max Martin, senior researcher DIGNITY
2.10 – 3.00 pm	Experiencing Scrutiny “Barriers to engagement: Scrutiny gaps in Irish prisons”, Sophie van der Valk, postdoctoral researcher, University College Dublin, and Mary Rogan, associate professor, Trinity College Dublin. “Security, discipline, resistance: Deciphering prison scrutiny styles in France”, Gilles Chantraine senior researcher at CLERSE-CNRS University of Lille Discussant: Charlotte Mathiassen, associate professor, Danish School of Education
3.00 – 3.50 pm	Practicing Scrutiny “Scrutinizing the prison during a pandemic and beyond: Oversight from a distance in the Philippines”, Kalliopi Kambanella, senior legal advisor, DIGNITY, and Brenda van den Bergh, senior public health advisor, DIGNITY “Monitors and ethnographers: A Reflection on affinities and potential synergies”, Andrew M. Jefferson, senior researcher, DIGNITY Discussant: Peter Vedel Kessing, senior researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights
3.50 – 4.00 pm	Break
4.00 – 4.50 pm	Representation as Scrutiny “Scrutinizing prisons through popular culture: Jimmy McGovern’s Time”, Jamie Bennett, Chief Strategy Officer at Youth Justice Board for England and Wales “Scrutinizing prisons through art, activism, and academic critique”, Mina Ibrahim, project manager at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Prison Forum Discussant: Michael Noer, film director.
4:50 – 5:00 pm	Concluding remarks Tomas Max Martin and Andrew M. Jefferson, senior researchers, DIGNITY

This is a hybrid event open to all. It is possible to follow the seminar online, but Q&A and interaction with the speakers will only be possible for the in-person participants. For registration of in-person or remote attendance, please email Tomas Max Martin at tm@dignity.dk