



## Media Release

November 21, 2016

### Public Lecture – Nov. 23 at 7 pm “A Dystopian Parable? – Incarcerating the Mentally Ill in the United States and Canada” by Dr. Joshua Price

The questions raised by the practise of funnelling mentally ill people into prison or jail is the subject of the annual lecture in criminology and criminal justice at St. Thomas University.

Joshua Price will deliver the lecture “A Dystopian Parable? – Incarcerating the Mentally Ill in the United States and Canada” on Wed., Nov. 23 at 7:00 pm in Brian Mulroney Hall, Room 101.

Price notes that the United States incarcerates large numbers of mentally ill people, a practice also common in Canada. Drawing on ethnographic and activist work in New York, he will share his analysis of three contemporary cases of mentally ill people charged with, and in two circumstances, convicted of violent crimes.

He believes that despite recent liberal reforms, scant evidence suggests any shift in the web of agencies that pipe mentally ill into prison and jail, or a shift in the cruel and humiliating practices these agencies embody. The case studies suggest a set of institutional, administrative and ethical questions for criminal justice practice and reform.

Price, an professor of sociology, at SUNY Binghamton, New York is currently the Endowed Chair in Criminology and Criminal Justice at St. Thomas University. His research interests include structural and institutional violence in the United States, incarceration, gender violence, critical race theory and the role of translation in the colonization of the Americas.

He conducts ethnographic research on the experiences of men and women in jails and prisons, as well as how they try to integrate back into the society once they are released. His research emerged from a collaborative project in New York with the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People when they began examining complaints of abuse and neglect of health care needs of people incarcerated in a local jail. He is the author of *Prison and Social Death* (Rutgers University Press) and the award-winning *Structural Violence: Hidden Brutality in the Lives of Women* (State University of New York Press).

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**Media Contact** – Jeffrey Carleton at (506) 452-0522 or [carleton@stu.ca](mailto:carleton@stu.ca).