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BROWN LEGAL STUDIES SEMINAR

Darfur and the Crime of Genocide: The Collective Dynamics of Racial Dehumanization And Genocidal Victimization

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*Friday, April 11, 12:00-1:30 pm, The Brown Faculty Club
(Lunch provided with RSVP to Ellen_White@brown.edu or (401) 863-7916)*

Abstract: It is more than fifty years since Sutherland famously added white collar crime to public sociology, radically reordering discourse about crime. It is time to do the same with Raphael Lemkin's concept of genocide. This talk proposes a "critical collective framing" perspective that begins by focusing on the state origins of race-based ideology in the mobilization and dehumanization leading to genocide. This transformative dynamic is elaborated by identifying racially driven macro-micro-macro level processes, which are theoretically underdeveloped and contested in many settings. These generic processes can be seen in data from an unprecedented survey of refugees fleeing the ongoing genocide in Darfur. The Sudanese government has engaged in crisis framing that produced a dehumanizing collective process. Sudanese forces joined with Janjaweed militia to attack black African settlements; they aggregated and concentrated racial epithets in a collective process of dehumanization and organized terror; and they thereby amplified the severity of genocidal victimization, the lethal and lasting scar of the genocidal state. These findings question primordial and counter-insurgency explanations, while supporting aspects of the instrumental, population-resource, constructionist and cognitive perspectives. (Paper available at www.watsoninstitute.org/blss)

John Hagan is John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University and Senior Research Fellow at the American Bar Foundation. He currently edits the *Annual Review of Law & Social Science*. His research spans topics from the causes of crime to international human rights. He is co-author with Alberto Palloni of the article "Death in Darfur," in the September 15 issue of *Science*, and of related critiques of US government undercounts of the Darfur death toll. He has also written a forthcoming book on Darfur, *Darfur and the Crime of Genocide* (Cambridge 2008), as well as an earlier book on the Yugoslavian war crimes tribunal, *Justice in the Balkans* (Chicago 2003). In other work, he has published extensively on the social organization of subjective justice (e.g., "Race, Ethnicity and Youth Perceptions of Criminal Injustice," *ASR* 2005); on the power-control theory of crime and delinquency (e.g., *Structural Criminology*, 1989); on the role of poverty in crime (e.g., *Mean Streets*, 1997); on criminal disrepute (e.g., *Crime and Disrepute*, 1994); and on the migration of Vietnam war resisters to Canada (*Northern Passage*, 2001).