



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

6 March 2014, 2pm
Room Fred Halliday – IBEI (1st Floor)

Prof. Leigh Payne
University of Oxford

Overcoming Impunity: When Transitional Justice Pathways Lead To Accountability And When They Do Not

The notion of a 'global accountability norm' suggests that countries transitioning from authoritarian rule or civil conflict face have few options except accountability to deal with their past. This paper questions that notion and examines the different transitional justice pathways to accountability and those that remain blocked. It further examines the impact of those pathways on the goals of strengthening democracy and improving human rights scores. The findings are based on a new database that will soon be made publicly available.

Prof. Leigh Payne

Leigh Payne (PhD, Yale University) is Professor of Sociology of Latin America and Director of the Latin American Centre. She holds a joint appointment between the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and the Department of Sociology (St Antony's College, University of Oxford). Previously, she was a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research concentrates on political sociology and particularly the challenges Latin American societies face during transitions from authoritarian rule. Her 2008 book *Unsettling Accounts: Neither Truth nor Reconciliation in Confessions of State Violence* (Duke University Press) explored perpetrators' confessional performances in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and South Africa. A Spanish translation with an additional chapter on Colombia is forthcoming. She also has two books under review: *Engaging the Past to Safeguard the Future: Comparative Perspectives on Transitional Justice* co-authored with Tricia Olsen and Andrew Reiter and *The Memory Market in Latin America* co-edited with Ksenija Bilbija. She has published four other books and has additional journal articles and book chapters.

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