

Doing Justice to the Dead

Date: Thursday 25 November 2004

Time: 6pm

Venue: Old Theatre, Old Building

Speakers: Lincoln Crawford OBE, David Ould and Dr John Torpey

Chair: Professor Conor Gearty

Professor Gearty

You're all very welcome to 'Doing Justice to the Dead' and this is one of our Centre for the Study of Human Rights public lectures. My name is Conor Gearty, I'm the Director of the Centre, I want to welcome you all and we have, we are beginning a theme about slavery and the whole question of enslavement which we may well return to this in the course of the next few years and there is an exhibition in the Atrium there in the Student Services Centre which highlights the library sources of the organisation Anti-Slavery International so it might be worth looking at that. I think it's not accessible this evening because there is a Careers Fair but it can be visited anytime just passing through the Student Services, there's a nice cabinet.

Now, what we are going to do, I'm going to introduce the speakers and we have three. We had a fourth, an additional speaker who was a woman, and I'm afraid she's not here so we have for the first time in my tenure as Director of the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, we have an all-male cast and I am sorry about that. I am deeply apologetic but that is not because I didn't want any of our speakers to come, it's because our fourth speaker was unable to come so please forgive us this but we have noticed!

[INAUDIBLE]

So, that's enough heckling of the Chair by the speakers. We have our first speaker is John Torpey, I was going to say that he had 15 minutes, he has in fact got 5 minutes, he's used up 10 minutes by assaulting the Chair! We're delighted to have John, he has come over especially for this. He works in Canada at the University of

British Columbia, as associate professor of sociology. He was particularly interested in the question of how the past has come to play such a prominent role in contemporary politics. He's involved as an associate director in the new Centre there at UBC for the study of historical consciousness. He's edited a book, 'Politics and the Past' on repairing historical injustices and he's very interested in the whole issue of the history of modern social thought so John is going to kick us off for 15 minutes on the subject from his particular perspective.

We're then delighted to have, I was saying on the way over, the Alex Ferguson of the NGO sector, he's been Deputy Director of Anti-Slavery International, he's been working for them since 1991 and he's responsible at the moment for the control of Anti-Slavery international finances, that is David Ould who is the next gentleman over, very closely involved with UK and international campaigning on issues of the commercial exploitation of children, the use of bonded child labour. He's also worked as a scholar in the field, contributed a chapter on Trafficking and International Law to a book on the political economy of new slavery published in 2004 so David has some remarks about the contemporary thing as well as the past.

Wrapping it up is a great friend of mine, I'm delighted to see him at the Centre, a barrister, Lincoln Crawford, member of the Home Office's Race Equality Advisory Panel. Lincoln does so many things apart from practice, tribunal chairman of the employment people, Recorder, but for today worth noticing also chairman of the Slavery Working Party and really very concerned with the issue of slavery and how to address historical injustices.

So we have really got, despite our woman not being here, we have an all-star cast I think. Each is going to speak for 15 minutes and then we get into the true centre of the Centre for Study of Human Rights, we get a chance to put our own questions and own comments and then an even truer Centre for the Study of Human Rights tradition, we all adjourn for a drink, but as you know, those of you who are regular attendants of the events here, I don't tell you where the drink is until the event is over, so that you've got to look forward to. I'll announce the location at the end and the end is between 7.20 and 7.25 so don't feel that you're trapped here all night although you might want to be.