A Culture of Encounter with Life Without Parole

By Marcus Kondkar, Ph.D.

I spend a lot of time analyzing data on incarceration, sentencing patterns, and reentry, with a focus on life without parole sentences. As a sociologist, I am trained to think about social life through an structural lens, from a distance conducive to maintaining objectivity. About a decade ago, I met Calvin Duncan, a remarkable man who served 26 and a half years on a life sentence before winning his freedom with help from the mosque. The mosque Project, which in Louisiana carries a mandatory life without parole sentence. They were disproportionately Black, and we became friends when they were convicted. I met them Wednesday, October 5, from 6PM to 7PM at Loyola Law School, Room 405. Dr. Kondkar’s book describes his journey from the ice rink to addiction and a prison sentence, to the newsroom—and how she emerged with a desire to dismantle the broken system she experienced. Register for this event here.

Latinx Culture, Diplomacy, and Law

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a panel discussion on Latinx Culture, Diplomacy, and Law will be held Wednesday, October 5, from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the St. Charles Room. Contact Dr. Pablo Zavala for more information.

Teaching-in on Mass Incarceration

An Ignatian Teach-in on Mass Incarceration will be held Thursday, October 6, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Audubon Room. At this event, all formerly incarcerated persons will share their life stories with participants in small listening circles. All members of the Loyola Community are invited to attend, no pre-registration required. For more information contact Dr. Sue Wagle.

“Is the Crime Wave? What’s the Crime Wave?”

This event offers three perspectives on the recent spike in crime in New Orleans as a statistical trend (Ben Horowitz, Art Dialogues), as a scary social phenomenon (Dr. Chuck F. Nuckols, Psychology), and as a media event (Dr. Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, Director of the School of Communication and Design).

Dr. Marcus K. Kondkar (Sociology) faciliates a conversation among the speakers to understand what really happening in our city, and how we can conceive of ways to advance our mutual constructive response to current events. This event will be held on October 18 at 9PM in the Audubon Room.

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