2015 JIM CURTIS MEMORIAL LECTURE

Department of Sociology and Legal Studies
University of Waterloo

5:30PM, 26 February 2015
PAS 2083 Wine and cheese reception to follow in PAS Psych Lounge

Moving Targets: Framing Ashley Smith’s Death in an Era of Rights, Risk and Institutional Protectionism

Kelly Hannah-Moffat

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This lecture focuses on recent rights violations and deaths in custody and examines the institutional responses to these incidents to explore systemic issues of accountability, institutional accessibility, and the reframing of correctional policy and prisoner's rights. It examines the subtleties of rights and accountability in punishment and concerns that can apply to a variety of public institutions. Using the specific story of Ashley Smith, it offers an analysis of how a country like Canada that sees itself as an international leader in human rights and has genuinely worked hard at integrating human rights norms into law, policy and institutional procedures, fails to ensure substantive justice consequences.

Kelly Hannah-Moffat has published extensively on risk, punishment, parole, gender and diversity, specialized courts (domestic violence, Aboriginal, community/wellness and drug courts), and criminal justice decision-making. As well, she has participated in commissions of inquiry, inquests, and legal cases that pertain to penal reform and human rights.