

PUNISHMENT IN GLOBAL PERIPHERIES

17 to 19 September 2026
Astana, Kazakhstan

ORGANISED BY

- School of Sciences and Humanities, Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)
- Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
- Crime and Society Program, National University of Litoral (Argentina)
- ECRIM, University of A Coruña (Spain)
- School of Law, University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)

In 2021, the first international conference 'Punishment in Global Peripheries' was held online with the aim of challenging the Northern-centric approach that has long dominated the literature on punishment and society. The conference was organised by the Centre for Criminology of the University of Oxford (United Kingdom) and the Crime and Society Programme of the National University of Litoral (Argentina).

This initiative has since been taken forward as an annual conference. In the following years, the conference was held in Oxford, United Kingdom (2022); in Mumbai, India (2023); in Santa Fe, Argentina (2024); and most recently in Cape Town, South Africa (2025).

In 2026, the Sixth International Conference 'Punishment in Global Peripheries' will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Continuing our commitment to moving the conference across the globe, this will be the first time it takes place in Central Asia. The area around Astana was an important site of Soviet convict settler colonialism, and Kazakhstan today is a country experiencing dynamic processes of penal change. This year, the School of Sciences and Humanities of Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan) joins the organisation as co-host alongside the other academic institutions involved.

We welcome contributions on punishment in peripheral contexts. We recognise the relative and complex borders, as well as the diverse forms, of being 'peripheral' at a global scale in the present day. We also consider that the frontiers of 'punishment' are fluid.

We are particularly interested in papers that engage with and explore the following topics:

- Past and present effects of imperialism and colonialism in penalty, including critical engagements with the theoretical tools used to analyse them;
- Travels of penal knowledges, policies, and practices across core and peripheral contexts, as well as within and between peripheral contexts and regions;
- Complexities and peculiar features of penal trends, institutions, and practices in peripheral settings, and explanations of these dynamics;
- Innovative methodological and theoretical perspectives to think of peripheral penalty.

The conference welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from scholars at all career stages.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

- Please send an abstract of up to 300 words and a one-paragraph biography by **15 May 2026** to punishmentperipheries@gmail.com with your name, affiliation, and email address.
- The conference will be held in person only.
- There is limited funding available for speakers' accommodation. Priority will be given to participants travelling from distant locations and those with limited access to institutional funding. Please indicate in your submission whether you wish to be considered for this support.
- Abstracts should be in Word format, and the file name should be the author's surname.
- Decisions shall be communicated no later than **15 June 2026**.
- Authors whose abstracts are accepted will be asked to submit a working paper (up to 6,000 words max) by **15 August 2026**.