

2022 Schonberger Peace and Justice Lecture

“Family Surveillance”

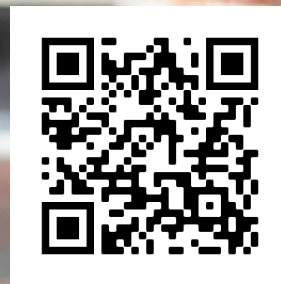
Dorothy Roberts (*University of Pennsylvania*)



Monday, March 7

6:00 pm

via Zoom



Dorothy Roberts’s forthcoming book, *Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World* (Basic Books, 2022), argues that the U.S. child welfare system is a state apparatus that investigates, supervises, and terrorizes Black families to control them, not to protect their children. This family policing system fits into a cohesive carceral regime that includes criminal law enforcement, with police officers, criminal courts, and prisons working hand in hand with their seemingly benign counterparts. In the chapter on “Family Surveillance,” Roberts describe how warrantless home investigations, monitoring of families by state agents, civilians deputized to report on parents, and coerced compliance with agency dictates reflect a carceral logic with parallels in the criminal punishment system. State CPS authorities increasingly use modern surveillance technologies and coordinate with law enforcement agencies to manage regulated populations more efficiently. Family policing should therefore be a focus of critiques of the prison industrial complex and part of the movement to abolish it.

<https://maine.zoom.us/j/89944443134>

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