



Lecture

RUTH WILSON GILMORE American Studies and Ethnicity University of Southern California

Thursday, January 25, 2007
7:00 pm
Communications 120

The Politics of Abandonment: The Prison Industrial Complex after 25 Years

Ruth Wilson Gilmore is Chair of the Program in American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California and Associate Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and Geography. A leading anti-prison activist, Gilmore is a member of the Prison Moratorium Project, California Prison Focus, and co-founder of the national grassroots organization Critical Resistance, which over the past decade has sought to build “an international movement to end the ‘prison industrial complex’ by challenging the belief that caging and controlling people makes us safe.”

Gilmore is author of the path-breaking book *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (2006). *Golden Gulag* provides the first detailed explanation of California’s leadership in the unprecedented prison-boom of the last quarter century. At once a diagnosis of increasing U.S. societal dependence upon a vast, costly, racially disparate, and punitive prison complex, *Golden Gulag* also highlights how community-based activism has been successful in bridging urban-rural and race-class divides in an effort to challenge the state’s commitment to prison expansion.

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