



Political sovereignty, state punishment, and the Italian case

Zelia Gallo

Senior Lecturer in Criminal Law and
Criminology at The Dickson Poon School of
Law, King's College

Introduction:

Giuseppe Di Vetta

Assistant Professor in Criminal Law, Scuola
Universitaria Superiore Sant'Anna

Abstract

Contemporary penology has traced a correlation between state punitiveness and state sovereignty. Simply put, the rising Western punitiveness of the last five decades has been linked to the waning of state sovereignty; be it the “myth” of state sovereignty, or the state’s actual political sovereignty. Facing its weakened authoritativeness, and citizens’ loss of “confident belonging” in their political communities, the State-as-Leviathan tries to impose authority and force cohesion through a hypertrophic reliance on penal tools. Here, then, are the roots of Western punitiveness and rising incarceration rates. This seminar discusses the main tropes and underpinnings of the theoretical accounts that have thus linked punishment and sovereignty. The seminar then superimposes the theoretical framework onto the Italian case to illustrate where the framework can help us explain recent Italian penal trends, and where the same framework fails to account for the Italian case study with its dual penalty and its historical tension between state and citizens.

The seminar is part of the White Collar Crime and Organized Crime course,
a.y. 2023-2024.

March 27th, 2024

2 p.m.

Aula 3

Via Cardinale Maffi 27, Pisa

[Live Streaming Link](#)

Contact

giuseppe.divetta@santannapisa.it

More info:

