



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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The Department of **Sociology**

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SPRING 2009 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Interrogating Documentary Practice in the Criminal Justice System: Bringing Cameras into Jails and Prisons

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Wednesday, April 22, 2009

3:15pm

Sociology Department, Suite 520.14T

The relationship between crime and visual culture is ancient and fraught. How can we use the power of photography, documentary film, and narrative storytelling to examine criminal justice questions? In the process of representing individuals who are incarcerated—what constitutes an ethical practice? What are strategies for building meaningful relationships, gaining access, and delivering quality work that can be exhibited in diverse spaces? How can visual documentation strengthen critical interventions in the criminal justice field? By looking at a variety of visual media that represent the experiences of adolescents and adults who have been incarcerated in the United States and abroad, we will explore these issues.

Althea Wasow has collaborated on narrative and documentary films, photography books, and new media projects including: “The Wannabe,” *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar*, *Rikers High*, “The Autobiography of Malcolm X Multimedia Study Environment,” *The Innocents*, and *The Mark of Cain*. She is a co-founder of the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP). She obtained her MFA in film directing at Columbia University School of the Arts and her BA in modern culture and media at Brown University