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THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Educating for Justice

The Department of **Sociology**

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FALL 2008 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Documentary Film:

Wasting Away: Inside a Shooting Gallery in Santo Domingo

Language: English, with short fragments in Spanish (includes English subtitles), 42 min.

Warning: Graphic Images. Viewer Discretion Advised.

Yolanda Martin

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Wednesday, October 29, 2008

3:00pm

Sociology Department, Suite 520.14T

Background:

Forced removal of immigrants with criminal records is a traumatic experience that may either trigger or aggravate substance abuse and mental health disorders. It is identified as a key precipitating factor, leading to destabilizing conditions (homelessness, loss of income, and social upheaval, among others), which in turn encourage an involvement in high-risk behaviors, such as drug abuse, and HIV acquisition (Strathdee et al., 2008; Strathdee, 2008). Simultaneously, deportation is a direct source of stigmatization upon arrival to the receiving country (Brotherton and Barrios, 2009; Brotherton, 2008; Zilberg, 2005). This media project aims to illustrate the way in which social isolation among Dominican deportees interacts with heroin abuse and mental health issues as synergistic, mutually reinforcing factors. The combination of these forces ultimately results in a heightened risk for further public health consequences.