

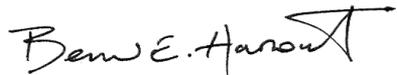
DISCIPLINE, SECURITY AND BEYOND
THE CARCERAL NOTEBOOKS

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Mass incarceration, order maintenance, preventative detention, actuarial prediction instruments, felon disenfranchisement, sex offender registries, habitual offender enhancements—these punitive practices characterize the contemporary landscape of our penal state. Michel Foucault’s seminal work, *Discipline and Punish* (1975), fundamentally transformed critical thought on punishment practices and institutions in the mid-1970s. The concept of discipline and the larger critique of power/knowledge were deployed by many critical theorists to reexamine the rehabilitative project and the penal practices that pervaded the carceral sphere. In the years immediately following publication of *Discipline and Punish*, Michel Foucault delivered lectures at the Collège de France — some of which were published and some translated — that gave rise to other currents of critique in the penal field. These critiques, which became known as “governmentality studies” and centered on the notions of biopower, *sécurité*, neo-liberal political economy and governance, blossomed in the early 1990s but simultaneously created significant tension with the disciplinary paradigm.

With the release in 2004 of the complete lectures of Michel Foucault — *Sécurité, Territoire, Population* (1978) and *Naissance de la Biopolitique* (1979) — the internal tensions between these different ways of conceptualizing the penal field increased. Today, with a few years distance from the publication of the 1978 and 1979 Cours and at the thirtieth anniversary of their delivery, it may be possible to rethink the lectures and their influence on the way we discuss punishment, penalty, and the carceral sphere. The purpose of this volume is to explore new readings of the Cours and of *Discipline and Punish* with an eye toward developing better understandings and more powerful critiques of our current punishment practices, as well as social and political institutions implicated in the carceral form. I have learned a lot from reading these chapters. I hope you will enjoy them too.

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