

## THE CARCERAL NOTEBOOKS

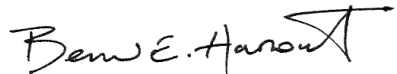
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The essays in this first volume of *The Carceral Notebooks* wrestle with the hard cases in the penal sphere. They explore the liminal space where moral opprobrium meets government-sanctioned punishment. From casino gambling to hard-core pornography, from S/M sexual practices to the exploitation of urban gangs, these essays challenge us to rethink the social distribution of pain and pleasure, and to reexamine the borderland of crime and punishment.

The essays in this volume explore the new phenomenon of “gonzo” porn films and its curious relationship to increased adult content in mainstream media. They probe the place of dishonesty in the crime of adultery and the role for contractual consent in S/M sexual practices. They question the “what happens here, stays here” marketing of Las Vegas and the fragile integrity of college sports. They explore the exploitation of urban gangs *but also* of urban-gang researchers. They dissect the interpretations of pornography *but also* of pornography’s interpreters. They ask whether the rhetoric of harm traces back to the imperatives of morality. Each essay reflects a different sensibility. Each one a different carceral imagination.

We invite you to steal a minute and explore with us the space zoned carceral.

January 19, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard E. Harcourt". The signature is stylized, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

BERNARD E. HARCOURT  
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