Center for Death Penalty Studies at Lamar has researched and made presentations about the death penalty for the past 8 years. This year’s death penalty conference will be the world’s leading death penalty event in terms of its scope and ambition. It brings together politicians, activists, lawyers, researchers, etc. who are involved in the death penalty research and cases.

**CONTACT US**

**Organizer:**
Dr. Sanaz Alasti, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of Center for Death Penalty Studies at Lamar University

Email: salasti@lamar.edu
Conference Schedule, April 12, 10 am – 5 pm

Registration

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks: 10 am – 10:30 am Spindletop Room

Opening Remarks by Lamar University Administration

Dr. Lynn Maurer, 10 am – 10:10 am
Dean of College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Stuart Wright, 10:10 – 10:15 am
Chair of Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice & Social Work

Dr. Cheng-Hsien Lin, 10:15 am – 10:20 am
Director of Criminal Justice Program
Panel 1 A 10:30 am – 12:00 pm  Spindletop Room

Deadly Justice: Death Penalty in India, Iran, Thailand and the United States

Moderator: Dr. Sanaz Alasti
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Director-Founder of Center for Death Penalty Studies at Lamar University.

- Death Penalty in India,
Justice Manmohan Singh, Chairman & Retired Judge of High Court of Delhi.

- The Extant of Substantive Law and the Development of Jurisprudence on Death Penalty in India,
Krishna Sarma, Attorney at Law in India.

-Death Penalty for Murder: Qisas (Retaliation) and forgiveness in Iran
Shadi Rasadi, Capital Defense Attorney, Tehran, Iran.

-Capital Punishment in Monarchy of Thailand,
Vanina Sucharitkul, Lecturer at L'Université Paris Descartes (Paris V) and Attorney at Law in California.

-Synthetic Sanity and the Death Penalty in the United States,
Dr. Vidisha Worley, Professor of Criminal Justice & Director of Strategic and Planning of Center for Death Penalty Studies at Lamar University.
Panel 1 B  
**10:30 am – 11:50 am**  
**Lamar Room**

The Future and the Past of the Death Penalty in Asia, Oceania, Europe, Middle East and the United States

**Moderator: Dr. Mitchell Roth**  
Professor of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University.

- **Death Penalty in China,**  
  Dr. Mitchell Roth.

- **The Abolition of the Death Penalty in Papua New Guinea and the Future of the Death Penalty in the South Pacific,**  
  Dr. Andrew Novak, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University.

- **The new frontiers of the worldwide abolitionist movement,**  

- **Witness an Execution in Saudi Arabia,**  
  Jesse Doiron, Instructor at Lamar University.

- **Strategic Organizing to Stop Executions & Repeal the Death Penalty,**  
  Abraham J. Bonowitz, Executive Director of Death Penalty Action in Ohio.
Lunch Welcome Remarks 11:50 am – 12:00 pm  Lamar Room

Dr. Stefan Andre
Chair of Computer Science Department & Professor of Computer science, Lamar University.

Keynote Presentation & Lunch 12: pm – 1: pm  Spindletop Room

Professor Franklin Zimring, Pioneer American criminologist, law professor, and the William G. Simon Professor of Law at the UC Berkeley School of Law.

The Long Goodbye of State Execution in the American Federal System
Panel 2 A  
1:10 pm – 2:30 pm  
Spindletop Room

Abolition Challenges in Europe and South America


- Abolition of the Death Penalty in Europe – and Beyond European Borders: the Role of the Council of Europe
  Sergey Dikman, Head of Innovation of Development unit, focal point on the death penalty matters, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe.

- Abolition of Death Penalty in Germany,
  Patricia Stewe, Attorney at Law, Germany.

- Abolition of Death Penalty in Turkey and Aftermath,
  Dr. Hakan Can, former Chief Superintendent at the Turkish National Police (TNP) & Professor of Criminal justice at Pennsylvania State University.

- Abolition of Death Penalty in Bolivia,
  Rigobarto Paredes, Criminal Defense Attorney, Bolivia.

- Lifespark Movement Against the Death Penalty,
  Nick Bell, Lecturer at Zurich University in Winterthur & President of Lifespark Movement Against the Death Penalty, Switzerland.
Panel 2 B 1:10 – 2:30 Lamar room

Capital Punishment in Texas, California & Beyond

Moderator: Dr. Jimmy Bryan, Professor of History, Lamar university.

- History of Texas Death Penalty, Kennedy Ratcliff, former Graduate student of Criminal justice department, Lamar university.

- Origin Myth: How Texas’s “Future Dangerousness” Special Issue Has Transmogrified from Afterthought into a Death-Sentence Guarantee, Dr. Gretchen Sween, Capital Defense Attorney, Austin, TX.

- Death by Stereotype: Race, Ethnicity, and California's Failure to Implement Furman's Narrowing Requirement, Michael Laurence, Capital Defense Attorney in California & Former Executive Director of the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, San Francisco, CA.


- The Roberts Court’s Devolving Standards of Capital Punishment Decency, Dr. Charles MacLean, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Metropolitan State University, MN.
Panel 3 A  2:35 pm – 4:00 pm  Spindletop Room

The American Death Penalty Attitudes: From Death Row Inmates to Discrimination in the Administration of the Death Penalty

Moderator: Dr. Stuart Wright
Chair and Professor of Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice & Social Work.

- A Conversation with Death Row,
  Tessie Castillo, co-author of Crimson Letters: Voices from Death Row & Journalist.
  Terry Robinson, Death Row inmate in North Carolina.

- Botched Lethal Injection Executions in Texas,
  Dr. Talia Harmon, Chair & Professor of Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Niagara University.

- What's so chivalrous about executing mothers? An empirical investigation,
  Dr. Corina Schulze, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, South Alabama University.

- The Views of Capital Punishment,
  Dr. Gavin Lee, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, West Georgia University.
Lecture & Roundtable 1 B 2:35 pm – 4:00 pm Lamar Room

Lecture on Law Enforcement & the Death Penalty: 2:35 pm – 2:50 pm

Law Enforcement and Support of the Death Penalty: A Mile Wide and an Inch Deep

-Dr. George Kain, Police Commissioner, Town of Ridgefield, CT & Professor of Justice and Law Administration of Western CT State University.

Roundtable 2:50 pm – 4:00 pm

For or Against Capital Punishment: Crime & the Morality of the Death Penalty

Moderator: Dr. Jim Mann, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice & Ombudsman of Lamar University.

Discussants:

-Stephen Reeves, Executive Director of Fellowship Southwest and Director of Advocacy for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Austin TX.

-Sister Misty Garriga, Diocesan Director of Criminal Justice Ministry, Diocese of Beaumont, TX.
- Chris Chastilo, International Board of Journey of Hope from Violence to Healing and former Board of Murder Victim’s Families for Reconciliation.


- Mark Broom, Instructor of Criminal Justice, Lamar University & former Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Beaumont, TX.

- Dr. George Kain, Police Commissioner, Town of Ridgefield, CT & Professor of Justice and Law Administration of Western CT State University.

Student Panelists:

- Kennedy Ratcliff, former Graduate student of Criminal justice department, Lamar University.

- Robert Curewitz, Criminal Justice Student, Lamar University.

- Sarah Scott, Criminal Justice Student & President of Student Criminal Justice Association, Lamar University.
Closing Remarks & Award Ceremony  4:10 – 5 PM  Spindletop Room

Constitute Project Lecture

Abolition of the Death Penalty in the Constitutions  4:10 – 4:20 pm

Amir Fakhravar, Senate Chairman, National Iranian Congress & Constitutional Law scholar & Lecturer.

Future of the Death Penalty in Islamic Criminal Justice Systems  4:20-4:30 pm

Dr. Sanaz Alasti, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of Center for Death Penalty Studies at Lamar University.

Award Ceremony  4:30 – 5:00 pm