



**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY**  
**BERKELEY LAW**

**CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**  
**Monday, October 7, 2019**

**LIAM MARTIN**

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Victoria University of Wellington (NZ)

**“The Recovery Hustle:  
Race and Reintegration in Postindustrial America”**

Drawing on ethnographic research at a halfway house for men leaving prison and jail, this paper examines the experience of three residents on the frontlines of an emerging recovery-reintegration nexus. All identified outwardly as “in-recovery,” but made sense of the program in varied and surprising ways, often rejecting the associated practices. Differences in approach were linked to distinct locations in a racialized structure of opportunities: white resident Paul Barry juggled conflicting demands on his time from the program and the factory where he worked by defining paid work as itself a form of recovery, black resident Tim Williams looked to recovery as a mobility pathway and chance to overcome barriers to employment, and Joe Badillo used a more flexible Puerto Rican identity to straddle social boundaries in recovery. At a time when prisoner reentry is increasingly governed by logics of coercive drug treatment, the paper traces the interplay of structure and agency as people navigating these systems make sense of recovery while trying to reintegrate to a post-industrial urban landscape.

**The related paper is available via email or in hard copy at the Center.**

**PLACE** Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue  
**TIME** 12:45 – 2:00pm. Coffee and water provided. Bag lunches welcome.  
**INFO** <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/>  
**EMAIL** [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu)

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