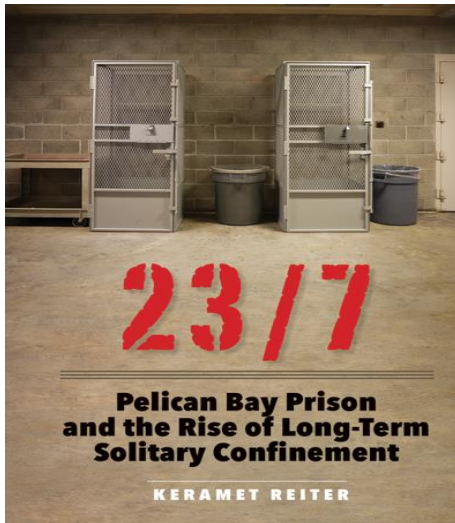




**George Mason's University's  
Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!) &  
the Department of Criminology, Law & Society  
Proudly Present...**

# **A Conversation with Keramet Reiter on Solitary Confinement in U.S. Prisons**



Originally meant to be brief and exceptional, solitary confinement in U.S. prisons has become long-term and common. Prisoners in solitary spend twenty-three hours a day in featureless cells, with no visitors or human contact for years on end. They are held entirely at administrators' discretion, with no judges or juries involved. In *23/7*, legal scholar Keramet Reiter tells the history of the original "supermax," California's Pelican Bay State Prison, where extreme conditions sparked statewide hunger strikes in 2011 and 2013—the latter involving nearly 30,000 prisoners. Reiter describes how the Pelican Bay prison was created—with literally no legislative oversight—as a panicked response to the perceived rise of black radicalism in California prisons in the 1970s. Through stories of gang bosses, small-time parolees, and others, she portrays the arbitrary manner in which prisoners are chosen for solitary confinement, held for years, and routinely released directly onto the streets. Here we see the social costs and mental havoc of years in isolation. The product of fifteen years of research about prisons, this book is an instant required reading on a topic that increasingly commands national attention.

**Keramet Reiter is an Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, Irvine.**

**Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>  
11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
Johnson Center (Fairfax Campus), 334, Meeting Room E**

*Light refreshments will be served  
Limited copies of the book will be available for purchase at a discounted price*