

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/the-immigration-law-death-penalty/>

The speaker discusses their transition from a criminological background to researching immigration law, particularly focusing on the punitive intersection of criminal justice and immigration policy. They highlight how their personal experiences growing up in Brooklyn with immigrant communities motivated their research. The concept of "aggravated felony," introduced by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, is examined as a key policy that leads to the deportation of both undocumented and lawful permanent residents for a broad array of offenses, not exclusively felonies.

The speaker notes the inadequate representation for immigrants facing deportation due to aggravated felonies, which often disproportionately affects Black and Latinx immigrants. They emphasize the importance of due process rights, which are limited in the immigration system compared to the criminal justice system, resulting in unjust deportations and prolonged detention for individuals who may not actually qualify as having committed an aggravated felony.

The speaker also discusses practical efforts made in New York City to resist the harsh impacts of such policies, including a universal representation program that has significantly improved outcomes for detained immigrants. They advocate for a more nuanced understanding of immigration and criminal law, calling for the abolition of the aggravated felony category and highlighting the need for broader reforms in both immigration and criminal justice systems to address systemic inequalities. Overall, the talk seeks to unmask the complexities of these policies and encourage advocacy for more equitable legal frameworks.