

Corrections: Myth v. Reality

Ted Conover October 21st | 12:15pm-1:30pm | Bulger 423



Ted Conover, Professor, Author, and Journalist
Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University

Ted Conover is regarded as one of the finest participatory journalists of his generation. He is the author of five books including Routes of Man: Travels in the Paved World and Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing, an account of ten months Conover spent working as a corrections officer at New York's Sing Sing Prison, which won the 2001 National Book Critics Circle Award. Conover regularly contributes to publications including The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker, and Harper's, where he has recently written about the meat industry based on his experiences as a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector at a Cargill beef plant in Nebraska.

This presentation will center on Conover's New York Times bestseller, "New Jack," outlining the year he worked as a corrections officer at Sing Sing. Initially hoping to conduct interviews, Ted was denied access by NYS Dept. of Corrections so he passed the NYS Corrections Officer exam in order to complete his research. The discussion will provide an honest portrayal of a maximum security prison, from the perspectives of both the inmates and staff.

"I admire writing where writers have something at stake; where they don't just depend on experts but rather take time to think and research and participate, thereby transforming themselves into experts; where caring and the urgency of the subject transform the writing into something that matters."

