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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

June 6, 2022

CLBB Highlights



[Melissa Lucio Granted Stay of Execution by Texas Court of Criminal Appeals](#)

Innocence Project | April 25, 2022

Dr. Lisa Feldman Barrett, CLBB Chief Science Officer, recently consulted with the Innocence Project on the case of Melissa Lucio, who was sentenced to death in Texas and had a pending execution date of April 27, 2022. Dr. Feldman-Barrett reviewed testimony given at Ms. Lucio's trial in which law enforcement claimed to be able to discern Ms. Lucio's "guilt" from her facial expressions made during her interrogation.

Dr. Feldman-Barrett explained in a declaration that neuroscientific research now shows that it is impossible to "diagnose" emotions, let alone guilt or innocence, from facial expressions or bodily movements. In April, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stayed Ms. Lucio's execution for further litigation on her innocence claims.



[Dr. Robert Kinscherff Provides Testimony to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Rhode Island Senate](#)

Center for Law, Brain and Behavior | April 2022

CLBB Executive Director Robert Kinscherff, PhD, JD provided testimony to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Rhode Island Senate regarding a bill that would abolish the sentence of Life Without Possibility of Parole. Dr. Kinscherff briefed the Senators on developmental social sciences and neuroscience relevant to justifications for sentences (general and specific deterrence, incapacitation, punishment, and rehabilitation). The briefing was received with considerable interest by the Senators. Proponents of the bill, including the Sentencing Project, are optimistic that the bill will receive a favorable vote and recommendation by the Committee. This testimony followed his briefing on this legislation to House members earlier this Winter.

[Dr. Bruce Price Presents at 2nd Dubai Neurology Hybrid Congress](#)

Dubai Neurology Hybrid Congress | February 25-27, 2022

CLBB Co-Founder and Co-Director Dr. Bruce Price presented at the 2nd Dubai Neurology Hybrid Congress, held in Dubai Festival City, UAE. Dr. Price spoke at the Dementia Session in a lecture titled "Alzheimer Disease: A Neuropsychiatric Syndrome?"



Workshops at this conference included topics on movement disorder and Parkinson's, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, headache management, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and epilepsy.

View a recording of Dr. Price's lecture [here](#).



[Is It Time To Expand The Supreme Court?](#)

Five Thirty Eight | April 27, 2022

CLBB Managing Director Judge Nancy Gertner is a former federal judge who served on a commission created by President Joe Biden to study Supreme Court reform. She thinks that because the court is so conservative and the process of confirming justices has become so political, they should add at least two more justices to the court.

Highlight: Nancy Gertner: "This court has no humility. They are unabashed in their desire to remake American law in numbers of areas. Expansion would certainly mean, you know, the same kind of political battles over Supreme Court nominees that we've seen before but at least offers the possibility of a court that would be more balanced than this court would be."



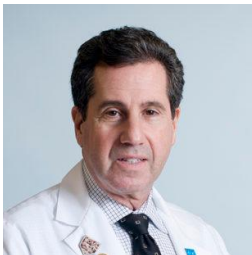
[The Nature and Role of Fear—and How it Drives Our Behaviors and Attitudes](#)

Maine Public Radio | April 04, 2022

"Fear is essentially a physical reaction, but it also drives so many of our behaviors and decisions." This segment of Maine Calling on Demand discusses the human emotion of fear—and how it is at the core of many of the charged issues of our day, from politics to the pandemic. **CLBB Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Lisa Feldman Barrett** is a panelist.

Highlight: "We have the type of nature that requires nurture. We have the type of brains that require our bodies to become wired to the bodies that we have and to the world that we inhabit... it might come as a real surprise to know that there are some cultures where the experience of fear and what you do in fear is very different from our experiences here in the west."

Advisory Board Member News



[The Rise of 'Psychedelic Medicine'](#)

Texas Public Radio | April 21, 2022

Psychedelic drugs are increasingly being studied as a way to treat depression, PTSD, substance abuse, and other brain disorders. TPR interviewed **Dr. Jerrold Rosenbaum** about psychedelic drugs.

Highlight: "Psychedelic drugs have a very long history of use in human populations and in past cultures and in various ethnic and regional groups for all kinds of purposes including spiritual ceremonies and personal growth...they have a potential to change the brain of those who are suffering from a variety of psychiatric disorders and provide them relief in a way that has not been possible for many of them with traditional treatments."

[Supreme Court Makes it Easier to Sue the Police for Malicious Prosecution](#)

NPR | April 04, 2022

On April, 04, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of removing the



requirement of proving that innocence has been "affirmed" for lawsuits alleging malicious prosecution. **Atty. Paul Butler**, who filed an amicus brief to the SCOTUS on behalf of 70 former prosecutors, comments on the decision.

Highlight: "This is a welcome development that allows police and prosecutors to be held accountable when they do something wrong,"



[How Congresswoman Katherine Clark Gets It Done](#)

The Cut | April 11, 2022

Congresswoman Katherine Clark outlines her daily congressional routine and speaks about the challenges of being a member of Congress and the aspects that make it all worthwhile.

Highlight: "The American people have to know that we are fighting for them. While this job can be exhausting and demanding, it is also an incredible privilege to be able to serve in this time of great challenge."



[60 Days of Putin's War in Ukraine](#)

CNN | April 24, 2022

Dr. Anne-Marie Slaughter was interviewed in a segment on the war in Ukraine by CNN's Global Public Square about what the long-term plan of the west should be with regard to the conflict.

Highlight: "The first part of that game has to be to stop the fighting. Second however, we actually need a geopolitical configuration that is not Russia and China, Europe and the United States and the rest of the world."

Faculty News



[Youth Seeking A Second Chance Face 'Justice By Geography'](#)

Law 360 | April 08, 2022

In this article, **CLBB Faculty Jay Blitzman** comments on the way the courts consider the still-developing nature of the adolescent brain. Additionally, the paper mentions that "The Center for Law, Brain & Behavior recently released a white paper on the science of brain development meant to be a guide for judges, lawyers and lawmakers. It notes that those aged 18 to 21, who are generally tried as adults, respond to emotionally charged situations more like teenagers do. That's because the brain continues to mature throughout the early 20s, a phenomenon that has "profound implications for decision-making, self-control and emotional processing," the paper says.

Highlight: "That credo which seems to indicate that as a group, children should be treated in a constitutionally different way than adults, its application has been limited to murder cases," he said. "That doctrine has not been applied as robustly as we would have hoped."



[The Invasion of Ukraine Reminds Me of Growing Up in Iran. The Trauma is Lasting.](#)

The Boston Globe | March 16, 2022

CLBB Faculty Altaf Saadi speaks of her experience growing up in post-war Iran and witnessing the "catastrophic human cost". She looks at the conflict in Ukraine through the lens of her own experience in the aftermath of war.

Highlight: "War is more than an abstract tragedy. Those like my friend with her missing heel know that long after the war ends, as it

inevitably will, there will be painful scars and memories that are hauled around for years, connecting survivors through an invisible cord of shared experience. Burrowed deep like cavities, these memories will visit and revisit parents and children alike, likely throughout their lives, as a reminder not of how glorious war was, but how utterly devastating."



[Our Fascinating Brain](#)

Match Points | May 5-7, 2022

On May 5-7, Aarhus University in Denmark will host a conference about the brain, featuring the world's leading experts. **CLBB Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Lisa Feldman Barrett** will be featured as one of four keynote speakers.

Highlight: "The fascinating two-day academic programme features 16 workshops within four main topics: the molecular brain, the plastic brain, the emotional brain and the diseased brain. What can reptiles tell us about our emotions? Which regions of the brain are responsible for pleasure and love? Can we walk our brains younger? These are just some of the compelling questions that more than 60 experts from Denmark and abroad will present and discuss with you."



[Q&A: Dr. Morgan Medlock, Commissioner for the Colorado Behavioral Health Administration](#)

State of Reform | April 20, 2022

CLBB Faculty Dr. Morgan Medlock was interviewed about the creation of the Behavioral Health Administration under Colorado House Bill 1278.

Highlight: "The number one objective is to let our communities across the state know that we hear them and we see them. So our first commitment is to establish our Advisory Council. The bill establishes that there are up to 20 seats on that council and representatives from across the state, from every community and background and ethnicity, are to be considered by me as Commissioner in those appointments and we're committed to that. So that's our first action."

Future Events

[International Neuroethics Society 2022 Meeting](#)

Montreal, Canada + Virtual | November 2-4, 2022

The 2022 INS Annual Meeting will be a hybrid event including opportunities to participate online as well as in-person at the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM) in Montreal, Canada.



The theme is: Bringing Neuroethics to Life Throughout Patient Care, Research, and Policy. A number of program sessions will be organized on this topic to tackle topics related to: prevention; diagnosis; emerging therapies, technologies, and research; and neurorecovery and end of life.

Highlight: [Call for Abstracts](#) - We are seeking poster presentations, short talks, and long talks.

Past Events

[Neuroscience and Cannabis: Implications for Law and Policy](#)

Center for Law, Brain and Behavior and the Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School

April 20, 2022

View the recording for this event [here](#).



The legalization of cannabis has raised significant questions for law and public policy. In this public event, neuroscientist Dr. Yasmin Hurd explore the science of cannabis, CBD, and the future of substance use disorder treatment. Dr. Stephanie Tabashneck then moderated a discussion and audience Q&A about the implications for law and policy.

Panelists

Introduction: **Carmel Shachar**, Executive Director, Petrie-Flom Center

Yasmin Hurd, PhD, Ward-Coleman Chair, Translational Neuroscience, Professor Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and Director, Addiction Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Stephanie Tabashneck, PsyD, JD, Senior Fellow in Law and Applied Neuroscience, CLBB and the Petrie-Flom Center

This event is part of the Project on Law and Applied Neuroscience, a collaboration between the Center for Law, Brain and Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School.



[How Do Reasonable People Make Unreasonable Decisions and How to Communicate With Them](#)

William James College | April 2022

William James College hosted a virtual continuing education program as part of a larger in-depth learning series. **CLBB Executive Director Dr. Robert Kinscherff** presented a lecture on why reasonable people make unreasonable decisions and how to approach talking with those who are making regrettable decisions.



[Dementia & The Law: Protecting Your Loved Ones](#)

MGH FTD Unit | March 5, 2022

View the recording for this event[here](#).

Do you have questions about legal and financial considerations after a diagnosis of dementia? Have you thought about the role that an attorney can have as a member of your care team? Do you know the steps you can take to protect yourself and your vulnerable loved one in the face of financial scams?

Join Katie Brandt for a conversation with **Dr. Judy Edersheim** and **Dr. Bruce Price**, Co-Founders and Co-Directors of the MGH Center for Law, Brain and Behavior to discuss how families can recognize legal and financial threats and take action to protect their loved ones living with a diagnosis of dementia.

In the News

General

[MCI Cedar Junction to Close, a Milestone Reflecting Falling Crime Rates, Sentencing Reform](#)

The Boston Globe | April 07, 2022

[Invoking Lovejoy's Law on Justice Reform](#)

The Newman-Times Herald | April 26, 2022

[The Criminal Justice Issue Nobody Talks About: Brain Injuries](#)

The Marshall Project | January 6, 2022

Juvenile Justice

[Connecticut Juvenile Justice Should Acknowledge the Adolescent Brain](#)

The CT Mirror | April 22, 2022

[**Audit Finds Violations in Solitary Confinement Practices at Juvenile Detention Centers**](#)

BRproud | April 26, 2022

[**On Heels of Audit, Bill Aims to Reduce Juvenile Isolation**](#)

Acadiana's News Channel | April 26, 2022

[**Louisiana Report on Juvenile Detention Centers Finds Violations of State Standards**](#)

The Center Square | April 25, 2022

Elder Justice

[**Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta Delivers Remarks at the Elder Justice Decision-Making Capacity Symposium**](#)

US Department of State | April 19, 2022

[**Training Program Helps Law Enforcement Identify, Assist Those Suffering From Dementia**](#)

The Dominion Post | April 16, 2022

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