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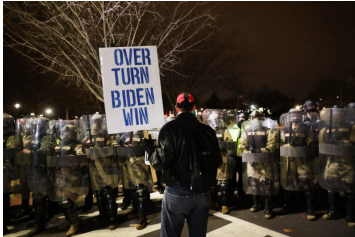
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
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CLBB News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

October 18, 2021

CLBB Highlights



[Your Brain on Authoritarianism: The Inside Forces That Drive People to Turn on Democracy](#)

WBUR | October 6, 2021

CLBB Chief Scientific Officer **Lisa Feldman Barrett** and Professor at Yale University **Tim Snyder** discuss the social and neurological forces that drive people to turn their backs on democracy.

Highlight: "If you look throughout the course of history, and you see times when people have veered towards authoritarian or totalitarian lines of thinking, that's been in times when there's some big withdrawals being made from people's body budgets," Lisa Feldman Barrett says. 'And the two most expensive things your brain can do is move your body and deal with uncertainty and chaotic circumstances.'

'Democracy is messy. It's fully of surprising facts. And democracy's all about adjusting to the world as it changes,' authoritarian expert Tim Snyder says."



[Gov. Hochul Should Use Her Powers to End Harsh Prison Sentences](#)

Syracuse News | September 16, 2021

CLBB Advisory Board Member **Atty. Martin Garbus** encourages New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to create an active clemency review process. He recommends that the new governor focus her clemency on the growing elder population in prison, as well as employ her clemency power to address the thousands of people serving life sentences for acts committed when they were young. Atty. Garbus further describes how "the Supreme Court now recognizes that brain development – the prefrontal cortex – continues into our mid-20s and that young people are therefore susceptible to impulse, peer pressure and lack the full capacity to appreciate the consequences of their actions."

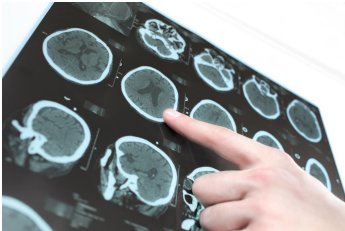
Highlight: "While the crisis of mass incarceration is accepted as a reality by most people, not nearly enough has been done to rectify, redress and repair the damage done to individuals and their families. Gov. Kathy Hochul can step into the breach."

[Retired Judge Nancy Gertner Reflects On Mandatory Minimums — And The People She Had To Sentence](#)



CLBB Managing Director Nancy Gertner discusses those she sentenced during her 17-year long career as a judge. These experiences are also discussed in her upcoming book, *Incomplete Sentences*.

Highlight: "I thought that it was important that people understood what these narratives were like, who these people were and how little we paid attention to the details in their lives. We talk about criminal justice issues, mass incarceration and racial disparities all in the abstract, but I wanted to describe concretely what it is like to be a judge, to sentence someone to a sentence which I believe to have been unfair, and what that was like, and what we can do going forward."

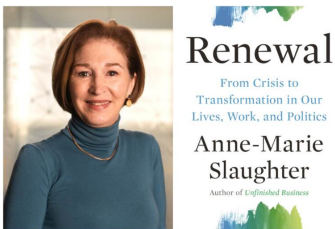


[The Brain Tumor Defense: Did an Alabama Mother Mean to Kill Her Toddler?](#)

Alabama Local News | September 20, 2021

CLBB Founder and Co-Founder Judith Edersheim was featured in this article about defendant Jordan Rice, who was charged for the murder of her child. Jordan Rice's attorney argued that she was confused at the time of her daughter's death because a slow-growing brain tumor was pressing on her frontal lobe, impeding her ability to reason and care for her children.

Highlight: "It's rare for defendants to claim lack of criminal responsibility due to brain tumors, said Dr. Judith Edersheim. Brain tumors are uncommon in the general population and seldom appear in criminal cases, she said. Similar arguments based on brain injuries or abnormalities have become more common as imaging technology has improved. In cases such as Jordan Rice's, scans can provide crucial evidence for the defense, she said. 'One reason why neuroimages are so important is that they convey an abnormality in a very concrete and visible way,' Edersheim said. 'Just the visual aid of a bold MRI scan does convey an impairment. But it's important to note the law regulates behavior, not brains.'"



[Anne-Marie Slaughter on 'Renewal'](#)

WHYY | September 21, 2021

A professional crisis forced **CLBB Board Member Anne-Marie Slaughter**, CEO of New America and professor emerita at Princeton University, to rethink her values, her work, her leadership and her future. In her new book *Renewal: From Crisis to Transformation in Our Lives, Work, and Politics*, Slaughter reflects on the lessons she learned from this difficult time and how they can be applied to the political challenges facing our own deeply divided country. Slaughter, who served in the State Department during the Obama administration, also discusses America's role in the world, the U.N. General Assembly meeting and our messy withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Faculty News



[Disrupting the Cycle of Incarceration](#)

Massachusetts Live | August 15, 2021

CLBB Faculty Member Leah Somerville was featured in this article about the Emerging Adult Court of Hope (EACH) program at Roca, which offers justice-involved emerging adults a chance to erase their criminal offenses and assistance in finding a career. The program uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, as the male participants are taught to identify their destructive think-feel-do tendencies.

Highlight: "These tools are given to help young adults have better judgment. The environment the young adults grew up in is one of the

reasons that many are quick to anger or commit crimes... According to scientific studies, good judgment isn't something those under 25 years old can excel at. The rational part of a teen's brain isn't fully developed and won't be until age 25 or so. In fact, recent research has found that adult and teen brains work differently... Leah H. Somerville, a Harvard neuroscientist laid out the research in detail in the journal *Neuron* published in 2016. According to Somerville, the human brain reaches its adult volume by age 10, but the neurons that make it up continue to change for years after that. The connections between neighboring neurons get pruned back, as new links emerge between more widely separated areas of the brain."



[Breonna Taylor's Movement and Why So Many Saw Themselves in Her Story](#)

USA Today | March 10, 2021

CLBB Faculty Member Alisha Moreland-Capuia was quoted in this article about the racial justice movement after the death of Breonna Taylor and those who saw themselves in her story.

Highlight: "'From sort of a pure neuroscientific perspective, all human beings, whether we are conscious of it or not, are concerned with three things,' said Moreland-Capuia, who specializes in trauma. 'It is being safe, feeling safe or seeking safety.' 'Some system or institution decided that safety is meant for a certain particular cohort of the population and not others, and racial and ethnic minorities in this country live a life that is constantly, constantly filled with seeking safety,' said Moreland-Capuia. 'No one feels safe.'"



[Picking Embryos With Best Health Odds Sparks New DNA Debate](#)

Bloomberg News | September 17, 2021

CLBB Faculty Member Steven Hyman and other authors released a [special report, "Problems with Using Polygenic Scores to Select Embryos"](#) in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. This report discusses embryo selection based on polygenic scores (ESPS) and calls for a society-wide conversation about this technology.

Highlight: "'Still, the prospect of intelligence-based selection raises concerns -- not of Nazi-style eugenics but of something much more subtle. 'This is liberal eugenics. This is parental choice,' said Steven Hyman, director of the Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. 'It's important to put an ethical stake in the ground,' he said, 'because over many, many years, these technologies might become much more accessible, scalable, cheaper.' As such, they could be used far beyond couples who need IVF. Hyman, a co-author of the journal article, is calling for multiple forums to discuss polygenic screening for embryos -- though there's no obvious governmental body to host them because the FDA doesn't regulate pre-implantation embryo testing.'"



[Former Prosecutor and Now Georgetown Law Prof Explains Prosecutors' Contributions to Mass Incarceration in U.S.](#)

The Davis Vanguard | September 27, 2021

This article discusses **CLBB Board Member Paul Butler's** August 2021 essay on the link between prosecution and mass incarceration. Butler's essay was part of the Brennan Center for Justice's Punitive Excess series, which features experts on American justice and their opinions on the system's punitive tactics.

Highlight: "'For example, [prosecutors] decide not only whether to charge someone with a crime, but if so, what crime... the prosecutor often has more power over how much punishment someone convicted of a crime receives than the judge who does the actual sentencing,' Butler maintains.'"



[Frontotemporal Dementia at 29: A Livetalk With Dawn Kirby and Dr. Brad Dickerson](#)

Bloomberg News | September 17, 2021

Being Patient spoke with Dawn Kirby and **CLBB Faculty Member Brad Dickerson** about caring for a loved one with frontotemporal dementia.

Highlight: "Dr. Brad Dickerson: 'When you're dealing with a rare disease, it just takes medical professionals longer to recognize it, especially when you're talking about someone so young. Most medical practitioners have never been taught that someone in that age range might be developing a neurodegenerative brain disease like frontotemporal degeneration or Alzheimer's or Huntington's disease.'"

[A New Age of American Innovation](#)

The Boston Globe | September 20, 2021

In this article, **CLBB Advisory Board Member Anne-Marie Slaughter** encourages politicians to think "in terms of what kinds of institutions and infrastructure we need for a new American economy, one that is far more equitable, dynamic, and resilient. For that economy, [she argues that] need a whole new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, classic American risk-takers."

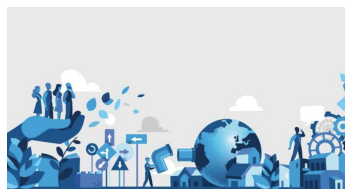
Highlight: "We could start with early education and care designed to develop young brains and encourage children to explore and learn. We can draw on ongoing research in neuroscience and developmental psychology to develop a curriculum that builds curiosity, psychological safety, and both independence and interdependence... And pools of investment capital available to a far wider range of entrepreneurs in communities across the country could jumpstart a new age of innovation."

[Dozens of Republican, Democrat, and Nonpartisan Law Enforcement Officials, Community Advocates, Service Providers, and Members of the Legal Community Support DA Rachael Rollins' Nomination for US Attorney](#)

Ed Markey | September 22, 2021

"Dozens of Republican, Democrat and nonpartisan law enforcement officials, community advocates, service providers, and members of the legal community sent letters to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Ranking Member Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) expressing their unequivocal support of Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, President Joseph Biden's nominee to be the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

Citing her extensive law enforcement credentials and proven track record of reducing crime, the leaders urged the United States Senate Judiciary Committee to swiftly and favorably advance D.A. Rollins' nomination, and for the Senate to ultimately confirm her as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts."



Upcoming Events



[Rethinking the American Way of Punishment: Covering the Emerging Debate](#)

Center on Media, Crime and Justice | November 3 and 4, 2021

The Center on Media, Crime and Justice (CMCJ) will host a webinar series aimed at addressing the questions, *What is a prison for? How can society respond to harm while minimizing the imposition of punishment?*

With the support of Arnold Ventures, the webinar has invited some of the

country's leading thinkers about incarceration as well as innovative practitioners in corrections and the law to help journalists understand (and cover) the scope of the debate. (The forum is also open to limited public attendance.)

Featured speakers include former Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow, author of *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*; Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner, **CLBB Managing Director and former U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner**; Jeremy Travis, Vice President of Criminal Justice at Arnold Ventures; Baz Dreisinger, founder of the Incarceration Nations Network; and New York City Correction Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi.

The CMCJ is offering small cash fellowships to participate in the webinar sessions and the year-long program to selected journalists. To apply, send a bio and brief explanation of how this webinar will enhance your work to journalism coordinator Maurice Possley at mauricepossley@gmail.com.

Members of the public who are interested in attending can contact CMCJ Director Stephen Handelman at stephenhandelman20@gmail.com.

Opportunities

[Radcliffe Institute Student Research Assistant Opening](#)

Harvard Radcliffe Institute invites students to apply for an open position in the Multidisciplinary Student Research Collaborative Program. Students in this role would support Harvard Medical School faculty member Benjamin Silverman and CLBB Faculty Member Francis Shen, who are leading an exploratory seminar titled, ["Intimate Data: Ensuring Equity as Psychiatry Embraces Boundless Data and AI"](#). **To be eligible, students must currently be enrolled as a Harvard student.** Through this program, Harvard Radcliffe Institute offers Harvard undergraduates and graduate students the opportunity to participate remotely in the research of cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research in conjunction with the Institute's exploratory seminar, accelerator workshop, and advanced seminar programs. The ideal candidate is passionate about interdisciplinary research and pedagogical design and interested in the development, communication, dissemination, and application of cutting-edge research. Strong research and editing skills are required. This position is open to Harvard undergraduate, graduate, and professional (e.g. Law School) students. Formal training or concentration in neuroscience, psychology, psychiatry, bioethics, or law is not required, but should be mentioned if applicable. Successful applicants will have excellent time management and communication skills; be focused; and have the ability to work independently. The student research assistant will work closely with Dr. Francis Shen, JD, PhD, Dr. Benjamin Silverman, MD, and other members of the core planning team for the Seminar. Estimated hours per week: 5. Expected start date: Nov 1, 2021.

Applications are due at 11:59 PM on October 25, 2021. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so please apply as early as possible.

Please submit a resume and cover letter [here](#).

In the News

General

[Combatting Structural Racism and Classism in Psychiatry: An Interview With Helena Hansen](#)

Mad in America | October 13, 2021

[Policymakers Discuss Psychedelics Reform's Far Out Future in HLS Webinar](#)

The Harvard Crimson | October 7, 2021

[Brain-Science Products Roll Out Despite Ethical, Validity Concerns](#)

The Asahi Shimbun | September 28, 2021

[How Rape Affects Memory and the Brain, and Why More Police Need to Know About This](#)

National Public Radio | August 22, 2021

Juvenile Justice

[Office of Children's Mental Health Focuses on Improving Outcomes for Emerging Adults in the Criminal Justice System](#)

River Falls Journal | October 13, 2021

[Bills Would Pull Defendants up to Age 20 Into Mass. Juvenile Justice System](#)

Berkshire Eagle | October 12, 2021

[Behind Bars Since Age 16, Juvenile Lifer Watches New Mexico Struggle Over Sentencing Reform](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange | October 8, 2021

[Stanford Researchers Develop an Intervention That Cuts Recidivism Among Children Reentering School From the Justice System](#)

Stanford News | October 5, 2021

[Is Video Game Addiction a Disorder?](#)

Psychiatric Times | October 4, 2021

[Scotland's New Sentencing Guidelines for Under-25s Recognise That It Takes Time to Mature – Karyn Mccluskey](#)

The Scotsman | September 20, 2021

[North Carolina Raises the Age for When Children Can Marry and Go to Court](#)

North Carolina Health News | September 16, 2021

Elder Justice

['More Than 200,000 Ohioans Age 60 and Older Experience Some Form of Elder Abuse.' What to Do About It](#)

The Columbus Dispatch | October 13, 2021

[California Creates New "Anti-Isolation" Restraining Orders for Elders and Dependent Adults](#)

Holland & Knight | October 12, 2021

[Proposed Ohio Bill Aims to Improve Elder Abuse Reporting Laws](#)

The Morning Journal | September 16, 2021

[Restorative Justice: Can It Heal The Harm Of Elder Financial Abuse?](#)

Forbes | August 20, 2021

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