

# **BB** News

A newsletter from the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior

May 18, 2020

## **CLBB** Highlights



#### Why are Young People so Bad at Coronavirus Social **Distancing? Blame their Brains.**

Judith Edersheim | USA Today | May 15, 2020

This op-ed by CLBB's Co-Founder and Co-Director, Dr. Judith Edersheim, MD, JD, offers a neurobiological view of young people's lack of social distancing.

Highlight: "Now that many universities are considering postponing a return to campus until 2021, this problem has returned to the front burner. Why can't these young adults simply follow the rules like everyone else? As experts in neuroscience and the law, my colleagues and I urge you not to judge these youths too harshly. Their brains are very much to blame."



Coronavirus Can Mean a Death Sentence for Prisoners Nancy Gertner | The Boston Globe | May 5, 2020

In this op-ed, CLBB's Managing Director, Hon. Nancy Gertner (Ret.) explores how COVID-19 disproportionately affects the prison population, stating, "We got used to treating people as categories, not human beings."

# THE ASYLUMIST

#### Neuroscience, Memory, and Credibility in Immigration Court

Aldis Petriceks, Erin Shortell, & Francis Shen The Asylumist | May 6, 2020

In this article, CLBB student research assistants, Aldis Petriceks of Harvard Medical School and Erin Shortell of Harvard law school, join CLBB Executive Director, Dr. Francis Shen, to discuss how the neuroscience of memory can inform issues regarding credibility in immigration court.

*Highlight*: "The bottom line for credibility is that inconsistencies in autobiographical recall may not reflect a willful attempt to bend the truth, but rather the biological reality that recalling memories usually involves modification of those memories in ways of which most people are not fully aware."



#### The Forgotten: Juveniles in Detention During COVID-19

Fenella McLuskie, Sina Sadeghzadeh, & Oliver Q. Sussman The Harvard Crimson | April 20, 2020

In this op-ed, CLBB student research assistants, Fenella McLuskie of Harvard Law School, Sina Sadeghzadeh of Harvard College, and Oliver Q. Sussman of Harvard College, highlight the impact of the coronavirus on juveniles in detention.

Highlight: "Juvenile detainees are also disproportionately affected by mental health issues, and family visits remain a vital source of their

social and emotional support. As prisons across the country suspend visits, they lose face to face contact with their parents and family. This will have a detrimental impact on the emotional well-being of these children, two-thirds of whom have preexisting mental health issues."

### Faculty Research and News



#### Nancy Gertner Becomes a Member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

April 23, 2020

CLBB's Managing Director, Hon. Nancy Gertner (Ret.) was recently elected as a new member of the prestigious American Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAAS). Commenting on her election, HLS Dean David Barron said, "after a distinguished career on the bench, Judge Gertner has shed important light, through her teaching and her research, on the crucial relationship between sentencing and neuroscience."



#### Mind, Body, Illness: Amidst Pandemic, Opportunities for Discovery

Lisa Feldman Barrett | Association for Psychological Science | April 29, 2020

*Highlight:* "Right now, our society spends substantially more time, creativity, and money on isolated biological or chemical approaches to health and illness than it does to understand how thoughts, feelings, and behaviors create conditions for health or illness to flourish. What would life be like, right now, if people understood that there may be sound biological reasons for reducing stress and negative affect, investing time and energy in social connectedness (particularly for children, the elderly, and people who are most at risk for illness), and generally being more mindful of how they can curate their day-to-day experiences?"



How Should We Allocate Scarce Medical Resources? Joshua Greene | Harvard Business Review | April 29, 2020

ahead as we wait to see whether the virus slows down or resurges."

*Highlight*: "Doctors in Italy faced horrifying choices about which patients should get a ventilator and which they should let die. Fortunately, major U.S. cities have thus far escaped that calamity, but this remains an important concern for the months

## **Related Events**



#### Incarcerated Populations and COVID-19:Public Health, Ethical, and Legal Concerns May 20, 2020 | 12:00 pm EST

This panel will explore the unique health challenge of trying to manage COVID-19 within incarceration facilities. We will discuss recent litigation to release people in response to the pandemic. Lastly, we will consider our ethical obligations to incarcerated individuals during a pandemic as well as challenging of releasing individuals without allowing the virus to spread further. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Registrants will receive the Zoom link and password the day before the vent. Register here!

## **Opportunities for Students**



#### **Neuroethics Essay Contest**

Submission deadline: July 10, 2020 at 11:30pm EDT

"The International Neuroethics Society (INS) and the International Youth Neuroscience Association (IYNA) are pleased to announce a call for submissions for the Neuroethics Essay Contest in 2020. Now in its seventh year, the contest aims to promote interest in neuroethics among students and trainees around the world."

#### In the News

Neuroscience, Law & COVID-19

COVID-19 in Prisons and Jails in the United States | JAMA Internal Medicine | April 28, 2020

Amid the Coronavirus Crisis, A Regime for Reentry | The New Yorker | May 13, 2020

How to Work from Home, According to Neuroscience | Vanity Fair | April 29, 2020

How Could COVID-19 and the Body's Immune Response Affect the Brain? | MIT News | April 28, 2020

Juvenile Justice

<u>'Pacing and Praying': Jailed Youths Seek Release as Virus Spread</u> | The New York Times | April 14, 2020

Solitary, Brawls, No Teachers: Coronavirus Makes Juvenile Jails Look Like Adult Prisons | The Marshall Project | May 12, 2020

Trauma and Immigration Justice

Citing Harvard Law School Clinic Brief, Federal Court Recognizes Gender as a Basis for Granting Asylum | The Harvard Crimson | April 29, 2020

Undocumented Immigrants are Badly Stressed by the Pandemic. We Must Help Them. | Lohud | May 15, 2020

Many Asylum Seekers in Mexico Can't Get U.S. Court Hearings Until 2021. A Coronavirus Outbreak Could 'Devastate' Them | TIME | May 14, 2020

COVID-19's Distinctive Footprint on Immigrants in the United States | The Hill | May 7, 2020

Elder Justice

Results of Elder Fraud Sweep Announced: More than 2 Million Seniors Victimized in Past Year | The Washington Post | March 7, 2020

Fearing COVID-19, Older People Alter their Living Wills | The Washington Post | May 9, 2020

Elder Abuse in the COVID-19 Era | American Geriatrics Society | April 20, 2020

## **CENTER FOR LAW, BRAIN & BEHAVIOR**



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