



REIMAGINE JUSTICE

# Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy

Examining Violence in the United States: Implications for Justice Policy and Practice

Co-hosted by Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne Law and the Justice Lab at Columbia University  
Generously supported by the Joyce Foundation and Arnold Ventures

## ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019**

Wayne State University Student Center - Hilberry Rooms (5221 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202)

**11:30 AM LUNCH AND CHECK-IN**

**12:30 PM WELCOME**

**Bruce Western** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Columbia University Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

**Peter Hammer** | Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights; Professor of Law and A. Alfred Taubman Endowed Chair, Wayne State University

**Amanda Alexander** | Founding Executive Director, Detroit Justice Center; Senior Research Scholar, University of Michigan School of Law

**Katharine Huffman** | Executive Director, Square One Project; Founding Principal, The Raben Group, LLC

**12:45 PM ROUNDTABLE FRAMEWORK AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Jeremy Travis** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Executive Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures; President Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

**2:15 PM THE STORY OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA**

**Kellie Carter Jackson** | Knafel Assistant Professor of the Humanities, Department of Africana Studies, Wellesley College

American history is characterized by its exceptional levels of violence. It was founded by colonial occupation, and then sustained by an economy of enslaved people who were emancipated by a Civil War with casualties rivaling those in all of nineteenth-century Western Europe. Collective violence continued against African Americans following Reconstruction, and then high levels of lethal violence emerged in American cities in the postwar period of the 20th century. What explains America’s violent exceptionalism? How has structural violence become ingrained in American culture and society? How has it been codified by law, or supported politically? Can we rectify and heal from our violent past?

**3:45 PM BREAK**

**4:00 PM BIOGRAPHIES OF VIOLENCE: THE LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE**

**Micere Keels** | Professor of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

The family forms a key site of interpersonal violence, exposing women and children in particular to the risks of victimization and the trauma of witnessing violence. Violence varies greatly over the life cycle, beginning for children in family homes, then escalating through adolescence. While exposure to violence generally recedes in adulthood, experience with prisons, jails, and other institutions can have the opposite effect, sustaining the myriad risks and consequences of violence well into midlife and beyond. Why do some families struggle more with violence than others? What is the relationship between victimization and offending? How should we think about accountability for those who have harmed others, particularly when they are young, and their decision-making and options are greatly constrained by youth, poverty, and discrimination?

**5:30 PM THURSDAY WRAP-UP**

Please join us for our evening reception at Aretha's Jazz Cafe (350 Madison St, Detroit, MI 48226).

**7:00 PM RECEPTION AND YOUNG ADULT VISION SETTING**

Local young people will speak about their priorities for the criminal justice system and what safety and justice should look like. Awards will be presented to winners of the Roundtable Student Paper Competition.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019**

Wayne State University Student Center - Hilberry Rooms (5221 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202)

**8:30 AM BREAKFAST**

**9:00 AM WELCOMING REMARKS**

**Soledad McGrath** | Senior Program Officer in the Gun Violence Prevention & Justice Reform Program, The Joyce Foundation

**9:10 AM REFLECTIONS FROM THURSDAY**

**9:30 AM ECOLOGIES OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA: COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS**

**David Hureau** | Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, University of Albany

Neighborhoods form the context for the most extreme form of violence: homicide. To a significant extent, the high rates of homicide in the United States result from gun violence among male youth, who are often concentrated in a small number of neighborhoods in urban areas. How do neighborhood environments enable and constrain violence? What explains the high rates of serious violence often concentrated in very poor communities of color? Are there strategies that can stem the flow of guns into disadvantaged neighborhoods? Are there strategies for community investment and neighborhood revitalization that can reduce violence while creating opportunities for neighborhood residents?

**10:45 AM BREAK**

**11:00 AM THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE**

**Beth Richie** | Head of Department of Criminology, Law and Justice; Professor African American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago

Communities coping with violence and a lack of safety and security are immersed in a cycle of harm and trauma. All too often, their levels of distress are then compounded by types of violence that go unacknowledged: neglect and abandonment, failures to respond and intervene, and lack of access to resources for individual and collective wellbeing. How do these experiences factor into and contribute to trauma? What are the downstream consequences? Are there better responses for communities than simply living with that violence and the daily stress created by exposure to trauma? How can points of violence be turned into points of opportunity and availability for trauma-informed responses?

**12:30 PM LUNCH**

**1:30 PM VIOLENCE AND THE STATE**

**Paul Butler** | The Albert Brick Professor in Law, Georgetown University

When violence occurs, the state has an obligation to respond to and reduce the impacts of violence; yet often the state originates, or at least contributes to, the violence. This may occur in a range of ways, including through the use of force by police, pretrial incarceration at local jails, long periods of incarceration in prisons, or abuse and neglect of people who are incarcerated. What is the role of the state in responding to violence? How should the state contribute to reducing violence in communities, as well as in its own operation? What does the future look like in collaboration between state actors

and the community? Are there examples of successful power-sharing and co-producing of safety between the state and the public?

**3:00 PM BREAK**

**3:30 PM JUSTICE IN DETROIT**

In Detroit, the historical trends in budgeting have tilted towards policing and corrections, yet there is a growing movement to reframe what truly makes the community safe and to invest in services and resources to increase public safety outside the purview of the justice system. Should existing systems actors remain foregrounded as the first response for public safety? Who else needs to be a part of the solution to reimagining justice? If given the opportunity and funding, what would they need to become the bringers of community safety?

**5:30 PM FRIDAY WRAP-UP**

**Please join us for our evening reception at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History (315 E Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48201).**

**6:00 PM RECEPTION**

**7:00 PM PUBLIC EVENT (Details to be announced)**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

**Wayne State University Student Center - Hilberry Rooms (5221 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202)**

**8:30 AM BREAKFAST**

**9:00 AM REFLECTIONS FROM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY**

**10:00 AM PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

**Daniel Webster** | Bloomberg Professor of American Health, John Hopkins University

Policies related to guns, alcohol, drugs, and housing have significant impact and implications for violence in the U.S. What is the evidence base around public policies that seek to create safer environments? What public policies to create safer communities have been generated from a public health approach? In what ways are these public health approaches community-driven? Are there policies that have been demonstrated to increase both safety and justice?

**11:30 AM BREAK**

**11:45 AM HEALING FROM VIOLENCE**

**Barbara L. Jones** | Community Dispute Resolution Specialist and Faculty Instructor, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Program, Wayne State University

Healing from violence at the individual and community level involves a reckoning with and accountability for violence. Reckoning and accountability are also necessary on a collective level to heal from mass atrocities and human rights abuses in our nation. What do victims of violence need to recover from trauma? What steps must be taken to redress legacies of violence and abuse? Can we achieve both peace and justice?

**1:15 PM CLOSING DISCUSSION**

**Bruce Western** | Co-Founder, Square One Project; Co-Director, Columbia University Justice Lab; Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice, Columbia University

**1:30 PM PROGRAM END**

Boxed lunches will be provided

\* Special thanks to the Virtual Justice Project at North Carolina Central University School of Law for providing the Roundtable's telepresence and livestreaming services.