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Hello everyone and thank you for tuning into thought on tap your monthly opportunity to share news viewioweriow





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06:35

Awesome. And then finally we have Adam, Dr. Adam Dunbar, who is also a new assistant professor at University of Nevada, Reno. He's a professor in the criminal justice department's. He researches the relationship between police or sorry between race and the criminal justice system. In particular, his research explores how attitudes about race, culture and crime can contribute to racial disparities and policing and punishment. Say hey Adam.

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And thinking about the corruption that was going on in policing organizations in the north and the late 1800s early 1900s right and the abuse that went on with that. The fact that we had slave patrols in the south where police were were part of groups that would catch runaway slaves right there were part of the smiling set of actors, or even up until the 1930s right there was a report that came out of the winter should



about about like the role of police in their communities rightlike that we all do want to stand against systemic injustice is like now.

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If somebody wants to raise their hand for systemic injustice, they're probably not worth having a conversation with you know feels like that is kind of the common ground, but then yeah, getting back into these histories into the sort of depth with which

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these kind of histories of entrenched themselves in the presence is a another step in the conversation that can be somewhat difficult. And on that note, Paulina. So, you know, based on you know I know I've had you in the classroom at you and our from my class on identity politics and we talked about race and we talked about gender violence and we talked about a lot of these issues we

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talked about the police, but also think about, you know, you and your work with a son and in your kind of capacity your advisory capacity sometimes with the UN our PD, also you know as an activist and advocate yourself.

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I kind I ask you the same question but kind of what you're seeing what you see on the ground, what do you see in your own work like what do you see as being the connections between policing and violence that are particularly sticky to that.

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Yeah. So, kind of adding on to what Adam said in the beginning of this question. And my understanding, it's it's very clear that a large majority of foundational institutions in America have really stemmed from our long history of racism and violence. Um, but, in my opinion, none of them are really quite like modern day policing,

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because you know policing in America, it stemmed from like Adam said slave capturing and when you have an institution that is fundamentally just solely built to enforce brutal horrific laws toward a very specific racial group that we have to understand that those legacies are really going to follow into our modern day practices.

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Sorry, am I cutting out.

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You do fabulous. I'm hearing you well. Okay, just making sure, yeah, now I'm just writing right now.

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The wife is a little bit about over here sometimes, but yeah so right now though in modern day policing. I'd say the main factors that I see contributing kind of outside of the structures of where it hits specific racial groups are just that I see police in general as being inside of a very insulated world. It seems like they really valid to protect each other at all costs.

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You know with police unions contracts that they're under with, with the city that really interfere with accountability in general as well as their kind of brotherhood sisterhood like the blue wall type of thing. And they they kind of see their job when they're in the community as an us versus them instead of actually working to protect and serve as they're hired to do.

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And then also I think just in general on the race point I think it's important to understand that all of us have kind of inherited. These racial stereotypes that we've seen in the mainstream media for as long as we've been alive and way before us of harmful racist racial stereotypes and criminalization of African Americans, and these things persist and mainstream media and the cops,

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they, they inherit that may take that with them to work they internalize those, and they fear black bodies and view them as more threatening, and a lot of them are willing to try to confront those biases as well. And then another thing that I see a lot of that I think is an issue is that police

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Yeah, I mean that's a, you know we talk a lot in one of my classes about how we use our how our clothes shape our behavior which is a politically kind of maybe seems, you know, sort of a side note on politics but absolutely you know you dress for the job you think you have very often

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and I think probably it's also true yeah if you're wearing SWAT gear or showing up in a vehicle that's designed to maybe, you know, deal with an improvised explosive device by the side of the road or something that you are going to start regarding the

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communities you enter again not as your own kind of as Polina was emphasizing as well but maybe as a, a foreign territory to be occupied or conquered or something that's absolutely yeah

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America and Mexico and indoors for example they have just sent the military into the police,

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as well as militarize the police which has had equally problematic consequences. 17% of El Salvador's fatal shootings in 2015 are committed by the police. For context, that's more than double the rate in the US and US kind of agents play a direct role in perpetuating violence. A DEA operation in 2012 in a small area where I did research in Honduras killed two pregnant women and two kids and tried to cover it up. So, there's also issues with that.

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Yeah overall in the US and America the war on drugs has contributed significantly to increased violence and but has violence is disproportionately impacted already vulnerable and marginalized populations generally.

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I think there's not a whole lot of good good legacies I guess there's a lot to confront but yeah I mean I think that is, I think, you know, when we talk about and ending the war on drugs you know it's sort of thought about is something that is you know

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reformed the American court systems American police saying the sort of practice of

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Yeah, definitely. So, I think I can try to boil this down to three mechanisms, but for us to understand how we give these racial disparities and criminal justice outcome outcomes, specifically focusing on policing though for now, or for the point of this conversation. So one of

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students are fighting, instead of really actually trying to confront structural changes that needs to be made in order for them to n761 -1.31n761 -1.31n761 -1.31n761 -1.316 ( n761 -1.31n.o)2 t)65y arnstu.

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immunity and, you know, like I said, things like the peace officer Bill of Rights things like, you know, just in other cities in general contracts that police officers are under unions that obstruct accountability at levels that are honestly terrifying.

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And, you know, also I just think that we need to be realistic in the fact that there are going to be significant difficulties being able to confront any of these things when, at the end of the day, we really just live in a capitalist racist society that honestly enjoys and feeds off of exacerbating these issues.

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I think it's really hard for me to imagine a place in America where you know racial disparities wouldn't exist where violence and and black and brown communities wouldn't exist if we're going to be under a capitalist system.

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That is that is one of my, my favorite old lines is yeah you know the the policeman is the black soldier of capital, and that's, and it is kind of hard to imagine, you know, maybe that. How do we decouple and this is a question that again we've gotten I think probably posed, maybe kind of Adam in some ways right now is like, how can we think outside the model police

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within a current sort of economic and cultural structure where it's really hard to get out side of that kind of logic, the logic of protecting private property private bodies capital letters like that. Yeah. And so for for Adam and turn the same question on you now.

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But you know what, so what do you kind of based on your work and your understandings like what do you see as being some of the things that we need to do to maybe build a greater sort of racial equity into the American criminal justice system in general, and kind of policing as well.

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I think. So first I think pine pollen his answer is great right if we have the F we're working on the premise that the racism is endemic to the US right and that it's been infused in policing and

I'll give a different kind of answer though just sake of a different city of approaches. I think there's there's really two. Two ways we can go about reforming policing which is a broad concept but one of those ways is focusing on the cognitive biases that I talked before right so it's becoming really trendy right now you here at implicit bias training for for law enforcement, because a lot of researchers make a lot of money off of this right now.

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And I think that's an important step right to address the stereotypes that as a society we hold. 13:37:00 But that's only one part of the equation, and also that's why I think the implicit bias training is can be a bit problematic, because I think that becomes one of those symbolic intervention like okay we acknowledge it, we got we all of these unconscious biases, we have to use we have to be better. Let's talk about

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our unconscious biases. But we, there's another component we have to address to right that is the law and politics, that are underlying the system right that, as we've talked about throughout this session rate that the different practices and policies that we have that contribute to these racial disparities right if we don't do things to address or refine or even remove those particular practices right if we don't address the militaryization of police right if we don't,

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if we if we don't talk to communities about what public safety needs, they have right instead of just kind of using this one size fits all approach of we more police we need better armed police, right, taking time to actually figure out what different communities need, but those type of intervention or even going back to the hotspot policing that I was talking about for

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right instead of just saying look. This community has crime and invest more law enforcement and they're actually working with communities to create targeted tragedies to address some type of criminal activity right we're all kind of understanding that the crime happens and maybe do something about it. But there's also underlying causes around how we best addressed those underlying causes. So I think, really, in. To sum it all up right, it needs to be

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individual level policy changes are focusing on attitudes and behaviors of individuals, but also larger structural and institutional policies that are informed by community stakeholders, by law enforcement and any anybody else is impacted by the policing processes.

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Yeah, it's sort of that it takes a certain kind of depth of like being able to sort of think about yeah the sort of like large scale changes at the same time as the kind of deeply embedded you know

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more holistic security solutions are desperately needed, and at least the US could stop exacerbating the situation frankly with providing military aid, as well as right addressing our own domestic demand for drugs would probably help a lot more, as well as I'm risking opening a new can of worms with that of my answer but as well as addressing our lives firearms regulations, 70% of guns is to commit crimes in Mexico, and 50% in Central America come from the United States. So, I mean, most people dare point out drugs come North guns go south. Combine this fact

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with the military This is providing we have essentially armed both sides of the conflict south of the border and then expected them to magically reduce homicide rates, which is not feasible.

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Yeah, so it's again I guess getting into the ways that you know we, the, the, America, America's policy is on kind of, you know, outside of things that directly seem to be tied to criminal justice policing even the war on drugs have these rippling effects o'clock across borders, but also more internal questions you know we do need to kind of face up to in terms of how we how we approach the supply chains that already exists the, the histories and the kind of economic inequities the histories of violence that have calling out of that what kind of you

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know the work that we need to do to build kind of alternative institutions that on top of that small issue of gun control that you can hand wave at that I'll be fine but you know like, yeah, this is just many many many layers again. So you know it's kind of one of the bad, you know, maybe it's a good thing maybe it's a bad thing in a conversation like this is to add so many so much kind of complexity to what these legacies are and what it would take to undo and kind of rebuild them but, you know, we can walk and chew gum I hope you know I think I want to take some time and turn to some questions from the

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audience so we've got like this is sort of a few families of questions. So I'm going to start with one that was addressed to Paulina, but then kind of expanded out for Adam and Laura as well if they kind of want to respond to their own ways so the question for Polina and I'll read part of it at least here is like, for a lot of folks not involved in the Black Lives Matter movement. The whole abolish the police concept seems scary. And so the question kind of goes on asked like how do you talk to people about this stuff in a way that builds understanding rather

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than alienation. How do you talk about where you want the funds to be redirected what are some of the ways that you speak to people, and maybe after Paulina response this also just for

Adam and Laura I'm also going to curse like how do you talk about this stuff in the classroom, folks have been asking about like you know if you have a hostile audience, or like who might be perceived as a hostile audience or somebody who doesn't know about this stuff or maybe he doesn't necessarily want to kind of take on board. This kind of messaging or something, how do you find those conversations usually go. We'll start with calling them kind of turns out for an Adam.

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Yeah, so I want to kind of start by saying that I feel like there is no issue right now, that is easy to discuss in our political climate, because of how literally polarized everything is and we exist and information bubbles as well you know like we are. If you are watching Fox News versus watching msnbc like you are living on completely different planets. And so obviously like that creates a very difficult divide when you want to have any conversation. But for me, the route that I try to go if I'm talking to someone who just doesn't understand or disagrees. Like I

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was saying when I, when I raised the abolish the police thing. I try to steer away from it because I know how it sounds and I know what it's going to trigger, so I I try not to use the like liberal catchphrases, I guess you could say, and I just tried to go the route of. Yeah, kind of getting into it a little bit deeper steering away from from catchphrases but coming up them with just

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solid facts and trying to relate it back to, to them, and trying to paint a picture, which would not directly attack the police but try to to uplift the community, you know, going away from just targeting, you know, why police are terrible and more so going into talking about, you know, how it would be more beneficial for communities for policing to be reformed in the in the sense of yeah redirecting defending the police. And then as far as the, the classroom one column, you should

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know this by having me as a student in your class blatantly, I just don't care who I'm in front of, and I'm going to say what I what I think needs to be said I'm going to speak the truth. And, you know, if people latch on to that, then that's great, but understanding the climate that we live in, I have to expect that there's going to be a large subset of people that won't. And in my opinion I just think that you know people that do support this movement. We should just try to

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work as hard as we can to get into the positions of power so that we can alter the structures necessary, and not try to waste our time explaining to people that simply just don't want to listen.

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Yeah. Um, I don't really have one necessarily for policing I mean I know that there's been some police reform legislation passed. But to me something that's been like very meaningful, at least within the criminal justice system is kind of looking at alternatives to incarceration so restorative justice programs that have been piloted in big cities. One is common justice that is just seeing very very good results as far as, you know, attacking crime at a at a at a level of rehabilitation and, you know,

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a victim centered approach to justice instead of a state centered one. And actually, you know, having real accountability connections between offenders and their victims, and it seemed very high satisfaction rates among the victims among the offenders and among district attorney offices across the country. So I think that that's something that I think that we could see a lot of promises in as far as incarceration and addressing mass incarceration in general. Or do you want to jump in this first last time

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So Laura, you wanna. You have much to say good.

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Yeah, for positive things I guess Oregon maybe sooner they just passed a bill to decriminalize small amounts of drugs. But again, I would highlight Portugal and other countries that have taken these more progressive approaches to that. I definitely want to echo Paulina his statement about the need to

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look at mass incarceration and broader, which is duplication foreign drugs to write. as well as increasingly. A lot of, particularly for private for profit prisons are getting involved in immigrants attention, and increasingly the criminalization of the the line x community and particular and migrants more generally, and in this country is something that needs to be looked at.

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Yeah, just so a quick plug in to this organization called campaign zero, and campaign zero highlights, different inte .24 Si (ut) 4.3 (i) 2.6 3331 (i) 3.5 (p) 0.88n (i) 2.724 1-b 3331 (j) 16 TdS (58:) (j) 1 58:

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