
Callum Ingram

00:15

Hello everyone and thank you for tuning into thought on tap your monthly opportunity to share news views and brews while discussing some of the most important topics of the day, our series is as ever brought to you by the University of Nevada Reno's Core

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humanities program, and the College of Liberal Arts, as well as by laughing planet planet, and Reno's own community radio station KWNK 97.7. My name is Callum Ingram I'm an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at UNR and I will

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be moderating the conversation today. This past panel is the last thought on taps fall 2020 series on confronting legacies so confronting legacies of health disparities, as we did in October confronting legacies of voter suppression as we did in November,

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and now confronting legacies of policing and violence in December. With each panel within to provide you with some insight into these legacy legacies by bringing together a group, a diverse group of faculty, staff, students and community members for these conversations, we hope to stage some good confrontations with

01:21

the ways that to grossly mis-paraphrase someone historical injustice the end justices are not dead and buried, indeed, they're not even passed. In the case of legacies of policing and violence, this is a topic that needs little introduction and 2020.

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Following the murders of Briana Taylor and George Floyd by police and March, May of this year, protests in the United States have forced a renewed confrontation with historical and present concerns about policing and police violence course these protests

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have built on previous protests following the deaths of among many others, Eric Garner, Michael Brown with one McDonald Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray Sandra Bland Alton Sterling Lando can steal stuff on Clark and more locally to Reno and Sparks

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Micah Lee and Thomas Purdy, these protests were then renewed again recently after the killings of Rashard Brooks, Anthony McClain and Casey Goodson Jr, among others, these calls to rethink reform and or abolish the police coming out of the protests, or

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alternatively to support stand with an increase the funding of the police have come to shape conversations from the dinner table to the presidential debate stage in recent months.

02:37

While such debates can be dated back to well before web two boys is 1935 call for a democratic abolition of all American institutions with roots and connections to racialized violence or work to understand this relationship between policing and violence

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requires a constantly renewed and diligent attention to the realities of what the police has come to mean and our time. From the zero tolerance truancy policies of the school to prison pipeline to the training and funding of municipal police departments, the structural biases built into our court systems, and the entrenched economic interest profiting from the prison industrial complex.

03:13

The inequities built into the American criminal justice system have deep historical roots, while continuing to adapt and take new forms every day. Our panelists will help us better understand the living legacies that we need to confront help us understand tonight how the war on drugs has shaped policing and violence, not only in the United States, but also across Central and South America.

03:35

Help us understand how a number of biased institutional structures and subtle cultural norms, build deep racialized disparities and to all layers of the American criminal justice system. And coming a little bit closer to home here in Northern Nevada, help us understand how the Reno Police Department specifically the UN our police department are responding to calls to fundamentally transform or even defend them after criticisms of cultures of racial insensitivity and violence.

04:02

So confronting legacies of policing and violence is going to require thinking on all these levels together and we're super lucky to have a panel here tonight that's going to help us think locally, nationally and globally all at once.

04:11

So, and kind of anticipating that conversation I do want to say on a couple of logistical notes, the format tonight is going to be. We'll start with maybe 30 questions, 30 minutes or so with me asking some questions to the panelists, talking about some, some topics that are kind of prepared in advance, but after that we're going to switch over for the last 20 or 30 minutes to questions from you, the audience.

04:34

So if you tuned in live via zoom or if you're on the YouTube live stream of the event tonight. And

if you have a question that you'd like to hear us discuss, please submit that question anytime you'd like in the q amp a function from behind the scenes our co moderator Meredith Odo will then pass them along to the panelists and me for discussion.

04:54

But before I jump into the questions that I'll pose and then hopefully you all will pose. I want to briefly introduce our three fabulous panelists and then then maybe make the panelists on the spot to unmute themselves and introduce themselves just say hi so they can people can connect a name to an introduction.

05:07

so they can people can connect a name to an introduction. So first off we have Dr. Laura Blume, a new assistant professor in the Department of Political Science here and you on our. Her research focuses on human security with a regional focus and Mexico and Central America for her dissertation she spent over two years doing ethnographic research on drug violence along the Caribbean coast in Central America.

05:33

If you want to just say hi real quick Laura. So folks and put a name with the face with the name that would be great.

Dr. Laura Blume

05:41

Hi everyone.

Callum Ingram

05:43

Dr. Laura Blume. Next off we've got Polina tried. Alina is a senior at you on our studying politics philosophy and law. She's worked with the ACLU and as an advocate for youth homeless shelter here in Reno.

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Currently Paulina serves as the Chief Justice of ASUN, The Associated Students of the University of Nevada or the student governments, as well as working as an intern right now for US Senator Jackie Rosin. Polina is a strong commitment to civil rights and public services and focuses or studies on the ways in which race impacts our political, social and economic structures in the United States. She currently serves on the University of Nevada, Reno is Police Department advisory board as well if you could give us a quick shout out, go for it Polina.

Paulina Pride

13:01:46 Hello, everyone. Excited to be here tonight, thank you.

Callum Ingram

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.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

07:01

Hey everyone

Callum Ingram

07:02

So I guess I've got, I prepared some three rounds of questions for the panelists in advance. 13:02:32 The first round concerns the title of the panel that's always the most obnoxious thing I do with my students in classes I make them explain the title of the thing that we read. Good cheap trick.

07:23

but here yeah the title of the panel is confronting legacies of policing and violence. So the title implies that there is some sort of fundamental connection between the phenomena of the you know the police as an institution and violence as a phenomenon. And so I guess I want to start out by asking our panelists a bit about that and starting out with you, Adam.

07:42

So, and your work on the, on disparities and specifically racialized disparities in the American criminal justice system, what have you found to be some of these kind of core connections between policing violence.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

07:55

Yes, I think this is a really interesting question and great questions that I think this is a interesting question because, you know, taking a step back and thinking about the legacy about simplicity, not just focusing on it today, and focusing on it. In the 1800s. I feel like it's kind of what often happens, but then thinking about how we've had, violence, run throughout time and so we're thinking about, you know, early on early days of policing in the United States.

08:31

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 report, noting documenting the abuse that was going on at the hands of police right the violence that was going on at the hands of police, we think a little bit after that, the 1960s and we think about how police were part of kind of an anti civil rights movement. We grew up with those history books we saw the dogs and the fire hoses being turned on participants of the civil rights movement.

09:30

And so I think there's those kind of images of violent police actions. Back in the day, and now we have these images of. Are these incidents of questionable use of force right oftentimes we talked about in terms of race but we've also seen it in terms of writers to protest with students who are being pepper sprayed right and these are we're talking about nonviolent protest,

09:57

Right, like I mentioned with all have access racialized police violence that are mentioned at the beginning of this, this panel. I think one of the interesting things also think about is not just policing in terms of our violence terms of policing but also the use of police to enact violence in certain communities and we've seen a lot in the past few years where the police are

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called based on some of innocuous event that is going on oftentimes we see this with with black news or black people. And so how police are being used in violent ways against certain communities. So I think the line that runs through all these stories is, is that policing is used at the teen violence or the threat of violence can be used as a tactic to police, certain communities.

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Lastly, I want to know is that, I think it's important to note that we're talking about one aspect of policing right so this isn't. This is important caveat with this conversation today it's. We're not talking about necessarily individual violence, accurate right we're not talking about individual moments where someone from law enforcement was acting the binary, but we're talking about kind of larger systemic and historical issues, and I think these are

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typically as a point that everyone can get on board for right how do we address violent, or unethical behavior in our law enforcement ranks.

Callum Ingram

11:32

Yeah, I mean absolutely, absolutely that is always kind of something that you know you can kind of get established as kind of a foundation and pretty much any sort of civil conversation here

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

12:02

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

12:24

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.

12:38

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.

Paulina Pride

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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.

Callum Ingram

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

Paulina Pride

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The wifi 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 usually don't live in the neighborhoods that they're policing, they don't have connections so the demographics are the people that they're policing, and it starts to become

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like a divide, where like for example people be a lot of police officers and per se Baltimore will live in like very distant predominantly white suburbs and then commute into the city and kind of like wreak havoc there, and then just go back home miles away and they don't have to deal with the repercussions. And the harms that they're that they're competing against community so they don't belong to them. So, yeah, that's my answer.

Callum Ingram

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A fabulous answer was, but yeah now that mean that speaking of somebody used to live, live in Baltimore, it was a really striking thing and I would go for go for a bike ride and come out of you

know living basically in downtown and and go out into Baltimore County.

16:13

And that's where you would see a Baltimore City police cars very often parked overnight, and then you'd kind of come back into it, you know, sort of like large suburban houses kind of out in house country or like horse country or something.

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Come back into the city and certainly other stuff evidence that they do not necessarily live in the communities and those kind of connections are lacking. Yeah, Laura I suppose you know kind of a variation on the same question for you but kind of maybe looking a little bit outside the kind of across borders a little bit more.

16:41

So, among other things as sort of said in your introduction, your research considers how the American war on drugs is reshaped policing and violence in Central America, and then also going to continue to speak a little bit to how that might have some rippling effects that then end up can kind of come back to the United States. Um, so I guess like thinking in this broad context what aspects of the relationship between policing and violence, do you think might be kind of important that we should emphasize

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bring out in these recent conversations about policing in the United States.

Dr. Laura Blume

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Yeah, thanks. Um, so I want to briefly highlight three aspects of the relationship between police militarization and therefore police violence and the war on drugs domestically in the US.

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So the first is the proliferation of SWAT teams, and then no knock raids on the 1033 program. So, since the 1970s SWAT deployments have increased more than 900%, and the US, there are approximately 50,000 SWAT raids annually now, which means over 100 SWAT raides per day are occurring in the US.

17:44

And according to your language study by the ACLU 80% of SWAT deployments are deserved search warrants for drugs. The report also found. As with most aspects of policing and more drugs. That's what the plan is just proportionately a target non white Americans right despite research, obviously showing that white Americans use drugs at the same or higher, or non white counterparts.

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Now, not all SWAT raids are no knock raids or no or no not once, but a majority are or they're

what's called Quick knock raids where the police sort of announced themselves as they burst through your door.

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No knock warrants are very commonly used for drug searches and these are extremely problematic right i think the murder. Taylor unfortunately are illustrated this for those of us who don't study the war on drugs. But, no knock warrants are legally justified in cases where it's believed the suspect may respond with violence or importantly in cases where it's believed the suspect could destroy evidence really quickly. So in terms of war on drugs physically and cases or someone could flush evidence on the toilet.

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This may sound reasonable but in practice what this means is no knock warrants are most commonly used for low level drug searches because if I have a few kilos of drugs or, say, a grow house I can't flush that or if that would clog in a toilet but. So this just from a practical standpoint and so targeting people who are actually probably posing the least risk and where this type of forces. It's completely unjustified and can obviously escalate situations and results in violence, and.

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And then finally related to the proliferation of SWAT teams, as well as just a broader trends with militarization of domestic police in the US. The 1033 program significantly a conservative change and us policing. This program recycles military combat equipment, and provides a free of charge to local law enforcement agencies on the condition that they use the equipment within one year, and generally they're applying for this equipment on the basis of meaning and for counternarcotics as well as post 911.

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They can say that there's a terrorist threat. But a lot of the applications are Charlottesville on drugs, and the requirement that they then use this equipment or send a year creates really bad incentives to use military grade equipment or may not actually be justified and across the country more

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than 8000 police departments have gotten military equipment through this program. This transfers surged, particularly with the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and our country has a surplus of military equipment to pass on to police departments, right in those fields saying if you're a hammer every problem looks like a nail hurt the

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provision of this kind of equipment to police departments has multiple studies have documented rated increases the use of lethal force. So, definitely.

Callum Ingram

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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 something that is, I never knew the name of the 1033 program so I really appreciate just having that in the back pocket now.

21:42

Yeah, and I guess you know moving into a kind of second round of questions building on this I think I'll stick with Laura and I can maybe move more into our panelists are specific areas of expertise. So, you know, with Laura.

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I'm going to ask you about some of the different legacies of the war on drugs in the United States and then also in Central America, so more specifically, you know, in the United States folks seem to be increasingly aware that the war on drugs has really

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reshaped the entirety of the American criminal justice system and policing practice, but I know they might not think quite as much about how its recent great shape institutions around the world.

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So I guess you know what are some of the similarities and maybe also differences in these legacies in the United States and in the countries where you conducted some of your research.

Dr. Laura Blume

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Yeah. So, this is exploited. It's militarized approach to the war on drugs along with unfortunately the consequences of thought approach. So supply psychotic strategies really increased dramatically in the 1990s.

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In part, the US need to justify early its military federal money and a lot of America, the end of the Cold War and the war on drugs proved to be a really convenient way to do that. And over the last few decades, USA has provided counterinsurgency training and equipment such as tanks Black Hawk helicopters arms tactical and intelligence support to police and military across Latin America most commonly for kind of narcotics operations.

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And what this translates to on the ground is that in many parts of Honduras, for example or spent over you're doing research. It's really common to see police and fancy brand new armored bulletproof pickup trucks decked out answers military grade equipment

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I've seen police, with more than one automatic weapon for coffee. I don't know how you could ever shoot two hours 15, or eight days at the same time but it just completely unfair equipment in those communities often right we're talking about places where they don't have any, you know paved roads any social programs so decent education, which really sounds a clear message in terms of priorities and displays or lack of understanding

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about what fosters illicit economies and the drug trade on the first place. And moreover, and Mexico and most countries in Central America not trying to recruit small together but for purposes to improve their massive issues with corruption and impunity this militarizing law enforcement is not likely to improve security and may

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even be more problematic bear than in the US context where we just talked about how traumatic it is in Mexico and the northern triangle countries of all Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, 90% of murders going resolved at times the line between police and

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military and the criminal organizations they're allegedly fighting gets really blurred. There's been instances of U.S. trained and armed security forces defecting to work for trafficking organizations instead and the region who can pay them more money and

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weapons and I help them the wrong hands are being used for your purposes in Honduras us back to security forces brutally repressed peaceful protesters following a blatantly fraudulent 2017 presidential election, for example, this military strategy in the region is really not often questioned either, because of the serious pushback that were generated from the US.

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And there's also been an increasing direct involvement of the region's military and law enforcement duties so on the officer police have increasingly looks like a military force in Latin

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.

25:59

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.

Callum Ingram

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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 imprisonment in the United States without kind of thinking about the rippling consequences outside of the United States and maybe how long they there you know we could end the war on drugs tomorrow but this kind of infrastructure this history is something that we don't have the tools to even begin confronting or understand that.

26:54

Thank you. I guess it may be kind of moving moving across the atom. And you know, I think, in a answer that's going to simultaneously be extremely connected to Laura's, and also kind of maybe take a slightly sort of different kind of sidebar view on some of the same questions like much of your research and teaching focuses

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on racial disparities in the criminal justice system, and realizing like you know like, like, Laura, like Paulina like, you know, you could give us a seminar on this. Right now, I'm also you know like, there's so much more to say than we can possibly do justice to all of these friends all these questions. I'm wondering if you could still speak a little bit to how these disparities racial disparities specifically come about.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

27:46

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 those mechanisms, is called racial animus. These are the people who the law enforcement agents who are explicitly racist, but I think these are the things we often hear about on the news where they were overtly racist text messages

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that were sent back and forth about offenders that are being dealt with. So that's one reason that that's one way that race plays out. And the policing process in the criminal justice process. I think this is also the one that gets the most attention right these are the kind of bad apples, whenever we talk about interventions, it's always we got a catch these, these bad apples and we gotta get rid of these these racist cops.

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policing practices, but some of these lower already talked about. Another one is an example of another one is something like hotspot policing, where law enforcement resources personnel are directed to particular areas that are viewed as high crime areas.

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Now hotspot policing is research has shown it can be effective at reducing crime, but Well, the reason why I raised this example or introduce this example is because hotspot policing tends to focus on the areas where we know crime is happening right and not the areas we're trying to tap into. we haven't already had data for from the past. It's a what hotspot policing doesn't up in these other type of potentially problematic practices.

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Is that they disproportionate impact of black and brown communities. So even though, right these policies or practices are not intending to target certain groups, what the impact is an outcome is, is that more people are caught up in the system or people

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of color caught up in the system, which then reinforces or reaffirms the data that we already have on where crime happens and what type of problem we should focus on, which then results in investing more resources into focusing on those areas right so that's a second mechanism.

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And the third mechanism is this idea of cognitive biases, by the way that our. The way that we understand the world the way that race or car, how attitudes about race can shape behavior right Paulina kind of mentioned this earlier in this conversation, but the way we think about race.

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We've all kind of been in some ways socialized to relate racing crime, even if it's unconsciously or even if it's unconsciously right that that has implications for decision making. So we're talking

like ever talking about a person that has to make split second decisions right somebody who is in a situation where it's a potentially threatening situation where these cognitive mechanisms these cognitive biases can influence, decision making.

31:09

So the outcome of all this, just kind of wrap it up. The, the outcome of these three mechanisms, is twofold. One there's this cumulative effect across the system, where we have these cognitive biases. The deploy practices and racial animus that are taking are having an effect convince each step of the criminal justice process.

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And then also contributing to tend to police community tensions right distrust communities trust in law enforcement, that research has shown us that if people don't trust in one another and they're less likely to obey the law right to go along with drills we haven't placed. Those are the kind of two main outcomes we have from these three mechanisms.

Callum Ingram

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Yeah, I think that that's that's a helpful way of thinking about it because I think it's very tempting I mean, certainly in my own way of thinking about this very often to like search for like one root cause or something you can like identify oh there's this one bad thing it's a one, it's one bad apple or it's you know a particular kind of collusion or I don't know it's capitalism whatever you know whatever however you want

32:15

to kind of go with this and like thinking about the way that these sort of different phenomena cultural phenomena, institutional phenomena histories all these kind of interact and resonate with each other and these really on, you know, some things are predictable and kind of unpredictable ways ways that are always kind of renewing themselves I think that's it makes analysis a lot harder but I think it also makes it a lot more helpful actually thinking about like what that classic question what has be done,

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which by the way is coming in a lot in the q and a so panelists begin preparing to think about how do we fix all this. But yeah i mean i think kind of taking some of those questions and maybe directing them particularly kind of the things here at you and are you know at UNR, you know Paulina you've

32:57

been working a bit with the UN rpd or you know working on it, you know, on a board that has some responsibility to advise the UN rpd I wonder if you could speak a little bit to maybe you know what you've been doing there some of the major questions and issues that you've been hoping to address, and maybe also give like a little bit of a sense of how it's been going.

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Yeah. So, when I first was appointed to the board, I think I had a very different impression of what the board would be what the board's purpose would be, and what the people on it, we're seeking to accomplish and to achieve.

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And I've found in my opinion that the people on the board are not necessarily working to structurally change or confront really anything that has been going on with you and our PD, and, you know, I think it's important to acknowledge the fact that in the past, there have been multiple incidents with you in our PD that have been racially charged on and off campus.

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And, yeah, I don't think that they really are needed any meaningful continues. So I guess like the questions that I that I came at it, asking, in the beginning, we're all First of all, do we truly on a college campus need fully uniformed armed police officers patrolling around our campus. And what does that kind of like what type of message does that really send to our students, I guess, especially ones that do feel threatened by police on campus as it is and especially because, even our is such a

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predominantly white institution, and many black students already feel so isolated on campus. Yeah. So that was something I really wanted to address, also. Yeah, do we need them with with guns when a majority of the crimes that if you want to even call it a crime the crimes that they're addressing are alcohol and drug citations for students.

35:13

That's the overwhelming majority there is a tiny percentage of any violent crime going on on campus. Most of those would be sexual assault which title nine is usually the better handler. In that case, and then also there's then a push, since black lives matter really came to prominence in this last year from the police chief, saying, you know, we are going to hold our officers accountable, things of that of that realm.

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And what I've kind of come to question is, how do they plan on doing that when their police officers are under contracts with unions that directly obstruct accountability when they're there, you in our PD officers are considered peace officers and in Reno all peace officers in this city are protected under a peace officer bill of rights that has many provisions in it that directly obstruct accountability as well.

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And so these are the questions I've attempted address to address with them but it never really gets anywhere. And in my opinion I think that they are more concerned with trying to, like, create this image that they are the cool progressive cops that are with the movement that the

students are fighting, instead of really actually trying to confront structural changes that needs to be made in order for them to do their jobs better.

Callum Ingram

36:43

That is, yeah I mean that is, it seems like one of the, one of the worries I think with, you know, bringing bringing the activism on the inside, sometimes it can be used as sort of an anesthetic changes more difficult to actually accomplish your covers up for kind of the need to actually do things you know we we are aware we it's like you know the first step to recovery is being aware you have a problem but then you actually have to stop doing the thing that you're addicted to and that I mean it's a terrible analogy or but I'm still using it.

37:10

Yeah, and I guess you know to be sure we have time for audience questions I'll kind of segue into like the last round here because like I think it picks up really well with Molina here which is like, you know, if this semester's theme with a Though on Tap series has been confronting legacies and you know as a spoiler in the spring, we're going to move into building legacies so legacies that are, you know, as we'll talk about in the concluding remarks today building building histories building structures

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that we can be proud of that are institutions that are just, I suppose I just kind of want to ask you know ask you and ask the rest of the panelists like you know that no one has to be done question like what you know and for Paulina particularly speaking with your experience, you know, working with the UNR PD.

37:49

What do you think the UNR PD should try to do or look like in the future, like, you can think realistically you can think utopian like and now kind of what is, what would you? What would you like to see as a way to kind of overcoming these likenesses.

Paulina Pride

38:05

I think, in my opinion, honestly, I don't really see a modern day policing, at least in the capacity that it is today really being able to change that much to make any like meaningful strides toward I think like what we want to see, like, in my opinion, I think that we should try to reduce the police, as much as possible.

38:32

Like, so yeah I support efforts like defending the police. I, I want to say I'm an abolitionist, but I haven't really, I don't know, there's problems with that but I definitely do support defunding the police and also I just think that in general we really need to take a look at things like, you know,

qualified

38:55

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.

39:12

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.

39:39

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.

Callum Ingram

39:57

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

40:17

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.

40:32

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.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

40:48

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 every other institution we have and there's no kind of smallest small fix that we can implement to fix policing.

41:09

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.

41:39

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

42:02

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 militarization of police right if we don't,

42:32

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

42:55

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

43:24

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.

Callum Ingram

43:44

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

kind of knowing communities embedded in the sort of minutia of law, what are the possibilities were forming in a particular context and what is a particular context need. That is one of the things as, you know, as much as I do like the sort of you know it's good to build a movement and build a message nationally or internationally

44:14

that kind of that kind of willingness to engage and that sort of nuance, is something that can very often be a little bit difficult figuring out what is kind of suited to a particular set of environments in particular set of questions, certainly something I struggle with. And then I'll close out with this and then we'll do some audience questions with Laura, you know, thinking about a lot so a little bit thinking about again yeah legacies worth building things weren't aiming for what do you you know and your particular thing. You know,

44:42

we ought to we ought to be done to kind of confront overcome even maybe build better legacies for institution that we call the police.

Dr. Laura Blume

44:51

Yeah, well I think one of the first steps I think the US really needs to start recommend with the fact that we need to end the war on drugs. And there's been some progress for sure. In recent years on this at the state level in terms of changes to marijuana laws and some recent changes in Oregon, but nationally and also beyond marijuana I think we need to as a country, get ready to actually talk about this because of. We've now spent 15 years and billions and billions of dollars on a policy

45:18

to address drug abuse in the US and yet as of 2017 drug overdose deaths surpass car crashes is the leading accidental cause of death in the country. And clearly the strategy right of waging war that's contributed so extensively to the militarization of police in the US and abroad, is just not working on its objective goal in any way shape or form. And decriminalization of drugs so shifting towards treating substance abuse is what it is a public health problem would, would probably be a key first step, Portugal, provides a great example of a country that's done this now for

45:51

almost two decades, they decriminalized all drugs in 2000, and apparently eliminated overdoses decriminalization doesn't do anything about violence and illicit supply chains though legalization would address a lot of violence related trafficking a lot of America and all of it certainly but certainly be a key step. First up, and at least currently the militarized responses in Central America, Mexico are exacerbating problems more than their ameliorating them drug interdiction campaigns or push traffickers into remote often indigenous regions are contributing to deforestation and putting a lot of other problems,

46:27

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

47:01

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.

Callum Ingram

47:15

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

47:47

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

48:19

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

48:52

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.

Paulina Pride

49:26

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

50:06

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

50:33

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

51:11

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

51:43

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.

Callum Ingram

51:55

So I will say two quick notes before I'm going to turn this in question I'd like to know more about teaching this stuff and having conversations with folks about this stuff kind of introducing these ideas like Paulina You are a absolutely fabulous person as they say yeah too much agreement can kill a conversation in a classroom and you kept the conversation moving, and I think it was always something I've been impressed with students that you and ours like they can hear challenging ideas they might get like they might have a minute of crossing their arms but they hope they they learned something, or they down the hell with them but like you know, for the most part they learned something and

52:25

that's really awesome. So I'm grateful for having had you in class but anyways, that's you know enough sentimental stuff. Adam and Laura I don't know if you kind of want to speak a bit to how you teach on this stuff and how you're going to reach audiences the other you want to go first, pick Adam or Laura. Yeah, Adam go for it.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

52:46

So I think it's tricky, right, because if we're in a classroom setting right, you can't. It's hard to pick and choose your battles right you're going to have a tough conversation. And I think what's been most important to me is, if somebody's kind of pushing back on an idea, right, especially if I do think some research because we're talking about in the class is finding out what that per where that person got to or how they got to their perspective. I find that this is in a classroom and even outside of classrooms, oftentimes what I hear is, you know, my family

53:19

member is in this role and I didn't see that, so it tends to be a very personal conversation. And so it's it's finding out that why that person's perspective as it is, and then moving away from that personal conversation and getting back to more of a systemic right it's a broader a broader conversation okay well, you're the family member in law enforcement. Right. Are there things that they would want to change improve about law enforcement right whether problems that they notice about policing, whether they want to change and I think that tends to move, move the

53:53

conversation from the personal to a place where everybody can can engage the conversation.

Callum Ingram

54:01

Laura, yeah, I don;t know if you'd like to respond as well.

Dr. Laura Blume

54:04

Yeah. I think Adam did a really good job I would hope in any classroom and it's certainly one semester so far you are, I found students are very willing to engage and discuss these topics and like I'm struggling on issues where there's plenty of research to back up a certain point of view I mean it's not necessarily. It doesn't have to spiral into people, you know, attacking each other based on beliefs because there's, there are objective facts, there are scientific facts

54:30

are to support, having certain, certain things, and I think it's also important I'm just to present ways people can maybe understand and I think it's easy, and there's been certainly a lot of fear mongering around this idea of what do you find the police means at the risk of quoting someone who's someone is clearly politically on one side of the aisle. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez when asked what defining the police would look like I think provides one of the best answers of saying it looks like a suburb affluent white communities already live in a world where we choose to fund youth health causing etc and more than they found the police.

55:03

And I just think it's so important. Security is holistic and sometimes what increasing security would look like has nothing to do with paying for, for, you know, please stop more guns on the street.

Callum Ingram

55:17

It's a fabulous and kind of hopeful hopeful kind of way of framing these conversations is people kind of people know what justice fine just so people know what an alternative looks like at least. And I guess kind of see a segue from that into like one last question it's going to be a sort of a blitz round I guess for folks but if they want to kind of get a bit of a response there's like a question that kind of is come in different forms that came from Kaya, David, Brooklyn, Alyssa and kind of different ways in the in the q and a section. But I guess like if

55:48

you all could just maybe like points like one thing that comes to mind is like a really hopeful alternative like something that you you've seen that gives you an alternative, like what we've seen in the past you can kind of look to and say like, you know, that's what defunding the police would look like if it worked so that's an alternative approach to policing that you find really helpful or this is a way of kind of undoing a sort of like you know a school to prison

56:13

pipeline I guess if there's sort of like a place where you could maybe tell people like you know tell people are the direct their attention a little bit direct their energies direct their hope if you have something and kind of say, say on that I'd appreciate it. Maybe yeah Paulina if you want to hop in I saw your hand go up.

Paulina Pride

56:30

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,

57:08

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

Callum Ingrum

57:45

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

Dr. Laura Blume

57:50

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

58:14

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.

So we're supposed to be positive for this one so I'm going to let it go to Adam.

Callum Ingrum

55:43

I think that was pretty positive as as we go on this panel, Adam one last thought.

Dr. Adam Dunbar

58:49

Yeah, just so a quick plug in to this organization called campaign zero, and campaign zero highlights, different interventions that are being implemented across the US so right ending broken windows policing reckoning oversight limit the use of force, what the reason why I'm highlighting this point is if people want to learn more about the kind of positive changes that we see or you can go to this website and campaigns you know his website, and they show by state, all the different types of policies related

59:20

to police reform that are being implemented. They also talked about the research that's related to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of these different policies, or approaches,

Callum Ingram

59:31

that's going on several of my syllabi next semester so thank you. Well, yeah thank you but yeah thank you all this has been a fantastic panel I wouldn't mind talking for another hour, but you know I, you know, we're supposed to wrap up at 6:30 so if I got a mystic to the word. So to close out I want to do a couple rounds of thank yous. First of all I want to thank the core humanities programs thought on tap committee

59:57

for helping put this together So Daniel Enrique Perez, Caitlin Airlie, Meredith Oda, Carlos Mariscal, and Stephen Pasqualina, but especially Bretton Rodriguez for doing so much nearly, you know, nearly thankless work behind the scenes to make this happen and also like to thank course humanities director Catherine Fisco for programmatic the sort of foundations for support, and also for serving on the committee that makes this series possible. I'd like to thank Dean Deborah Modelmog,

1:00:25

Lisa McDonald with UNR marketing communications and of course Chris Stancil and Richie Bednarski in the Core Humanities office for their consistent support labor and making all this happen. One last round of thank yous to our ever supportive partners Laughing Planet where we can't wait to get back once the world permits, and also KWNK for sharing this series on air.

1:00:47

But the biggest thing is of all I want to thank our panelists so Professor Laura Blume, Professor Adam Dunbar as well as ASUN's own, Paulina Pide for their thoughts, candor and insights. And last but most importantly want to thank you all for tuning in.

1:01:02

Those of you that tuned in, you know, you're the ones who make this conversation worthwhile you're going to make this exciting for us thank you so much for taking some time with us, particularly during final season. Those of you who are watching you're likely to receive an email in your inbox soon with a survey, asking for feedback on the panel so would be really grateful you fill that out for us as well.

1:01:22

But yeah, we here and thought, I thought on tap sincerely hope you tune in next semester for our series on building legacies of equity and education of health and healing and of economic empowerment. It's going to be great and so for now on behalf of thought on tap. I'm Callum Ingram. Thank you and have yourself a great night.