

Mental Illness, Mass Shootings, & the Politics of American Firearms

Four assumptions frequently arise in the aftermath of mass shootings in the United States: (1) that mental illness causes gun violence, (2) that psychiatric diagnosis can predict gun crime, (3) that shootings represent the deranged acts of mentally ill loners, and (4) that gun control “won’t prevent” such incidents. Professor Metzl will address how assumptions about gun violence incorrectly link to stereotypes of mental illness and race in the United States. These issues become obscured when mass shootings come to stand in for all gun crime, and when “mentally ill” ceases to be a medical designation and becomes a sign of violent threat. Professor Metzl will also discuss how and why gun violence is a pertinent topic for the growing field of Health Humanities.

Jonathan Metzl is the Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Psychiatry, and the Director of the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Metzl has a focus on stereotypes of race and mental illness surrounding gun violence. He also specializes in the history of mental health, and gender and race politics in the United States.

The Behavioral Health Center of Excellence at UC Davis is a statewide leader in bridging neuroscience research, mental health care and policy to improve the lives of those touched by mental illness.

Free public lecture. Please RSVP by March 19, 2018
bhcoe-march2018.eventbrite.com or 916-734-4349

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THURSDAY

March

22

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Light Refreshments Provided

UC Davis Health
Education Building
Lecture Hall 1222
4610 X Street
Sacramento, CA 95817

*Parking: \$2/hour in Structure #3
on Stockton Blvd. and X St.*