How Necropolitics explains health inequity.

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Foucault and Mbembe

Paul-Michel Foucault:
Philosopher, Political activist and professor (France)

Achille Mbembe:
Philosopher and Political theorist (Cameroon)
Biopolitics vs Necropolitics

**Biopolitics**: style of government that regulates populations through *biopower* (the application and impact of political power on all aspects of human life): Birth rate or life expectancy/death rate.

“In the economy of *biopower*, the function of *racism* is to regulate the distribution of death and to make possible the murderous functions of the state.” – Achille Mbembe

**Necropolitics**: the use of social and political power to dictate how some people may live and how some must die.

Public Health: COVID19
High risk population

Migrants
Essential workers
Community of color


During migrant crisis and border control

Who is not welcome here?

Whose pain/trauma matters? Race, religion, and economic status
Higher prevalence of mental health disorders

Schizophrenia
Anxiety disorder
Depression
PTSD
Suicide

Non-christian, non-white/POC, Low-income countries


Police presence & vigilante

Whose pain matters?

Unprocessed and collective trauma

Police presence: *preterm birth*, first-episode of psychosis, anxiety, PTSD
Hyperpresence of police & surveillance

Preterm birth


First-episode of psychosis


Anxiety and PTSD


Let's keep the conversation going

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