

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)



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Biopolitics vs Necropolitics

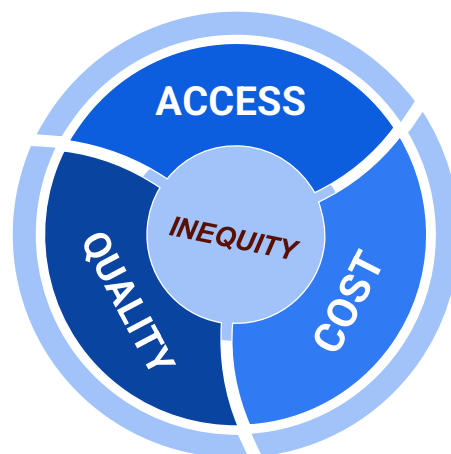
Biopolitics: style of government that **regulates** populations through **"biopower"** (the application and impact of political power on all aspects of human life): Birth rate or life expectancy/death rate.

"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.

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Public Health: COVID19



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High risk population

Migrants

Essential workers

Community of color

Sandset, T. (2021). The necropolitics of COVID-19: race, class and slow death in an ongoing pandemic. *Global Public Health*, 16(8-9), 1411-1423.

Rogers, T. N., Rogers, C. R., VanSant-Webb, E., Gu, L. Y., Yan, B., & Qeadan, F. (2020). Racial disparities in COVID-19 mortality among essential workers in the United States. *World medical & health policy*, 12(3), 311-327.

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During migrant crisis and border control

Who is not welcome here?

Whose **pain/trauma** matters? Race, religion, and economic status



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Higher prevalence of mental health disorders

Schizophrenia

Anxiety disorder

Depression

PTSD

Suicide

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

Schininà, G., & Zanghellini, T. E. (2021). Internal and international migration and its impact on the mental health of migrants. *Mental Health, Mental Illness and Migration*, 27-45.

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Police presence & vigilante

Whose pain matters?

Unprocessed and collective trauma

Police presence: **preterm birth**, first-episode of psychosis, anxiety, PTSD



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Hyperpresence of police & surveillance

Preterm birth

Hardeman, R. R., Chantarat, T., Smith, M. L., Van Riper, D. C., & Mendez, D. D. (2021). Association of Residence in High-Police Contact Neighborhoods With Preterm Birth Among Black and White Individuals in Minneapolis. *JAMA Network Open*, 4(12).

First-episode of psychosis

Pope, L. G., Ashekun, O., Zern, A., Kelley, M. E., & Compton, M. T. (2021). Associations between childhood and adolescence adversity and risk for arrest among patients with first-episode psychosis. *Psychiatric services*, 72(7), 826-829.

Anxiety and PTSD

DeVylder, J., Fedina, L., & Link, B. (2020). Impact of police violence on mental health: A theoretical framework. *American journal of public health*, 110(11), 1704-1710.

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Let's keep the conversation going

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