In attempts to eschew this past, today’s neuroscientific and genetic researchers reject deterministic and racist explanations of violence for brain-based risk models of such behaviors.

Nevertheless, in Conviction, Rollins pinpoints a looming danger in this technology, due to the ways it re-envisioned, and ultimately silences, the voices, bodies, and experiences of those most affected by social difference, power, and inequality.

The threat from biological theories of violence today, therefore, is less about the return of an older bi-deterministic rationale of crime, and instead rests in the way this research may help normatively preserve static social and racial inequities through the technical omission of unequal life chances.

By unveiling the social assumptions that underpin this science, Rollins warns that the violent brain model will likely provoke new regimes of corporal surveillance in the name of public health and safety that will effortlessly bolster the existing problematic and racist law enforcement tactics.