

Episode 142-- Gun Culture 2.0

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SPEAKERS

JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson, Dr. David Yamane



JJ Janflone 00:08

This is the legal disclaimer where I tell you that the views thoughts and opinions shared in this podcast belong solely to our guests and hosts, and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note, this podcast contains discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. It's okay. We find it disturbing too. Hey everybody, welcome back to another episode of Red, Blue and Brady.



Kelly Sampson 00:40

That was JJ, one of your hosts.



JJ Janflone 00:42

And that was Kelly, another one of your hosts.



Kelly Sampson 00:45

I like switching this up,



JJ Janflone 00:46

you know, doing some new flipping expectations, keeping things interesting.



Kelly Sampson 00:52

Well, you know, one way to flip expectations?



JJ Janflone 00:54

Oh no, Kelly, are you gonna do the intro to today's episode?



Kelly Sampson 01:00

We're keeping everyone on their toes today, which makes sense because we're talking with Dr. David Yamane, a professor of sociology at Wake Forest University. And this conversation is one that will totally change your expectations about gun ownership. Dr. Yamani, who has researched and written extensively on the rise of what he calls gun culture 2.0, and how gun ownership in the US is changing, shows us that there is more to gun culture than meets the eye.



JJ Janflone 01:28

David, can you introduce yourself to everyone?



Dr. David Yamane 01:31

I'm David Yamane. I'm a professor of sociology at Wake Forest University. And I've been studying American gun culture for about the past 10 years.



JJ Janflone 01:40

And I wonder what what sort of prompted you to get into that. Because it looks like your early work was more of the theological bent. So what prompts you to get into really becoming this expert on sort of guns in America? And then, you know, a gun owner, yourself?



Dr. David Yamane 01:55

Sure. Yeah, I think there was a confluence, really the personal and the professional coming

together at an opportune moment. So taken many, many years to publish my previous last book on Catholicism, and I just wanted to do something other than the sociology of religion, which I had been doing for many, many years. And around that same time, I was kind of introduced to a reality of guns that I was not familiar with at all coming from a sort of blue bubble, San Francisco Bay Area background, and then sociology background. And so my kind of discovery of the whole world of guns came at a moment when I was looking for a brand new project, and I decided to go ahead and start studying at the time concealed carry more discreetly. And as I got into the topic of concealed carry, I realized it was part of a much broader movement, a cultural movement that I have come to call gun culture 2.0.

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Kelly Sampson 02:54

And in your work, the sociology of U.S. gun culture, you explain that there actually isn't a sociology of gun culture. And instead, there's, you know, criminal, logical and epidemiological studies of gun violence sort of dominate the social science of guns. And so I was wondering, why is the lack of a sociological framework for guns and gun violence an issue?

D

Dr. David Yamane 03:15

Yeah, I think that it's not to say that studying the criminology and epidemiology of guns is unimportant. Of course, that is important. But I think it leaves out the vast majority of people's experiences with guns. So if you think about the 10s of millions of gun owners, gun owning households, and hundreds of millions of guns, only a very small portion of those people will be involved in any way, in something that would fall under the umbrella of crime in injury. So if we want to understand why it is that guns have the presence that they do in American society, I think we have to understand the non deviant forms of gun ownership and use. And that was the dimension I felt was really underplayed in the scholarly literature. In the time that since I published that piece, there's been some books published, some special issues of journals published, including one that I've edited that's coming out later this year, that I think are starting to fill in some of those more non deviant aspects of guns in that gap in the literature, which will, you know, be a more true sociology of guns.



JJ Janflone 04:27

Speaking of sort of gaps, you mentioned gun culture 2.0, which we're definitely going to talk about and this definitely something I came to through finding your work, but if there's

a gun culture 2.0 that certainly implies there's a gun culture 1.0 and so I'm wondering if we could talk about for our listeners what that is?

D

Dr. David Yamane 04:43

Sure. And I think that even even before gun culture 1.0 there'd be kind of a gun culture 0.0 which was the early history of American society in which guns were just kind of these tools that people had around and they use them for hunting and defense and you know, those kinds of purposes that that persist till today, but there wasn't a lot of either formalized activity or what we would call culture around the ownership of guns. So gun culture 1.0 actually emerges in the 19th century where hunting becomes more of a formalized activity, a sporting activity, and not just something that people do for survival. And then recreation or target shooting also becomes more formalized into shooting clubs and events. So gun culture 1.0 really centers on that recreational target shooting and hunting, which were the traditional forms of gun culture, up until the last few decades of the 20th century when it shifts to this new version 2.0.

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Kelly Sampson 05:48

And what kind of caught that shift from hunting and shooting to this defensive culture?

D

Dr. David Yamane 05:55

So you know, I think that one thing I like to recognize is that defensive firearm ownership and use is a constant through the history of American society right from the beginning, you know, through the 19th and 20th century. So we see that as a constant theme. So what we see in the shift from 1.0 to 2.0, is the center of gravity of gun culture shift. So that defensive emphasis comes out more to the fore. And I think that the shift starts to happen in the 1960s, when we see a great deal of social unrest, social movements of the time, whether it be you know, the civil rights movement, the gay rights movement, women's rights movements, or just all of that turmoil that we saw in the 1960s, including, you know, rising crime rates that continued into the 70s. So that really planted the seeds for the growth of what would become the concealed carry liberalization movement in the 1980s. And I think if we look at the present day, where we've seen so many people in the last year, year and a half getting into defensive gun ownerships, you know, that same sort of social uncertainty and social unrest that we saw, you know, on a much bigger scale in the 1960s, this continues to drive that sort of emphasis.

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Kelly Sampson 07:22

You mentioned that in the 60s, when some of these changes were taking place, there were so many social movements happening, one of them being women's rights movement, or one iteration of it, obviously, it's been much longer. And so you know, we have to keep talking about the role of gender more explicitly, and you've written about how getting a rifle at one point became a rite of passage from boyhood into manhood for certain men in the country, and how the gun industry sort of really lean into that, and they were advertising guns as a sign of masculinity. And I'm just wondering, when and how did that shift occur, tying firearms into this idea of what it means to be a man?

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Dr. David Yamane 08:03

Yeah, I think, you know, here we want to think about the ways in which American gun culture is part of American culture. And so all of those emphases that we see in American culture get drawn up into gun culture. And these are, you know, outdoor activities, they're sporting activities, and, you know, these are things historically that women were seen as not really being able to do, we can think about women didn't used to play basketball, and then when they played basketball, they played half court. And so, I think the the very fact that they were outdoors and recreational types of activities, put put them in the sphere of men. And so, you know, it was a rite of passage for a boy to have their own weapon, recognizing that these weapons are dangerous and allowing you to have one is saying now you are a more mature individual, you have this responsibility in the same way that we might give keys to a car, or a beer, or whatever the case may be, you know, that marks those developmental transitions. But I think that aspect of gun culture really reflects just the the nature of American culture in general and the the different spheres that were assigned to men and women historically.



JJ Janflone 09:23

Well, and I'm wondering too, about sort of this, the role, and we're jumping a little bit ahead to gun culture 2.0 so I apologize, I haven't quite gotten there yet. But sort of the role of this like gun owner identity, why it's so important for folks, particularly folks, I'm thinking who are like Kelly and I write who works in gun violence prevention, why is it so important for us to acknowledge or understand the importance that firearms play and different folks identities or like their sense of self?

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Dr. David Yamane 09:53

Yeah, and I think here, we want to recognize that there there's a range of that identity, you know, the mere ownership of a gun doesn't make someone a gun owner in terms of their

identity. But for those people for whom it is an important part of their identity, you know, I think you want to recognize that if you suggest in any way that there's some flaw with a person's identity, or that their activities are somehow, you know, morally problematic, that that cuts to the core of their sense of who they are. Whether it's, their gun ownership status, or any other activity that they they partake in. So, that's where, where the identity part comes in. Because, again, at the start, I said that the the important part of understanding sociology of guns and gun culture is that the vast majority of guns and gun owners are not engaging in harmful problematic activities. And so if in trying to target those who are, we include the others under that same umbrella, then those people are simply going to recoil from that. They don't want to be painted with that same broad brush.

K

Kelly Sampson 11:10

I kind of want to tease out something you just said, which is that even among gun owners, there's a range. And for some gun owners, it's not part of their identity, they just own a gun. And some gun owners also include being a gun owner as part of their fundamental identity. Is that correct?

D

Dr. David Yamane 11:30

Yeah, I would say so. You know, I think that if we look at all of the, say, 4 million new gun owners, in the last year, or year and a half, many of those people are individuals who own a gun. But gun ownership is not at all part of how they see themselves. You know, I think there's a lot of excitement among, the gun rights community when they saw all these new people buying guns, but there's no necessary connection between them buying a gun, them developing a gun owner identity, and then as Matt Lacombe has said, becoming activated as a gun owner politically. Now, some of those people might be converted along those lines. But it's also the case as with air streams that two or three years from now, the lightly used market for firearms could be flushed in the same way that all those people who bought airstreams to get through COVID are going to realize they never use them. And that's, you know, part of the reality that adds to that texture and understanding gun ownership as much more as just a binary on a on a survey, "Do you own a gun? Yes or no?" Right. That's just the start. That's not the end.



JJ Janflone 12:51

So that I think cuts us to what you would define and what others have now defined as gun culture 2.0 because I'm even thinking too that I'm sure there are lots of folks who own

guns who still very much consider themselves being participants in gun culture 1.0 not in sort of the the 2.0 sense. So I'm wondering if we can talk to our listeners about you know, what that is, itself.

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Dr. David Yamane 13:16

So, you know, gun culture 2.0 is this new evolution of gun culture, taking that theme that's always been present of defense of gun ownership, and making it into basically the core or the primary reason for gun ownership in the United States today. But again, that doesn't mean that there are not all of these other people who own guns, for all sorts of different reasons. beyond simply defensive gun use. And so people talk about themselves as being well, I'm gun culture 1.5. You know, I'm kind of half in and half out, you know, people who are really still part of gun culture 1.0 are often dismissively referred to as fudds, after you know, Elmer Fudd, the helpless hunter who can never quite bag Bugs Bunny. But they're, you know, people that are looked down upon because they're like, all I need is my hunting rifle and my shotgun to you know, double barrel shotgun. Why does anybody need any of these other weapons? So, you know, again, there's gun culture is a diverse entity, as you might expect from a group of 70 or 80 million individuals living in a country of 300 something million people. So I think that the diversity within gun ownership and within gun culture tends not to be appreciated sufficiently from a sociological perspective, at least.



JJ Janflone 14:39

I'm thinking and these are, this is a very bad comparison to make. But Kelly and I are both runners. So I'm thinking of even sort of the subculture around running between, you know, the people who are marathoners versus the people who are quote unquote casual runners consider themselves in very different groups but definitely can have similar conversations. You know, if you're both buying Runner's World Magazine in the in the checkout market, just guns have a much more complicated political history and, you know, effect in the US then certainly, you know, what brand of running shoes do you prefer? So bigger, bigger issue there. But it's I think it's what's teasing out here sort of what folks view a gun as doing and then what sort of narratives, they're comfortable existing in with a gun. So I think it's interesting, too, that there that are individuals who you said who are like, well, I'm a 1.5, or a 2.0, you know, possibly maybe a 3.0? We'll talk about that a little bit later, what would that would look like?

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Dr. David Yamane 15:40

And if I could use another, you know, sports analogy. I play golf, so sometimes people will

say," Oh, are you a golfer?" and I'll say, "No, but I play golf." Because to accept the label of golfer raises the expectations of what I'm able to do too much. But, you know, I think for some people, especially some of these new non traditional gun owners, now they see the label gun owner is loaded with all sorts of cultural baggage that they don't want to accept. And some of that can be political baggage. You know, it could be the kind of culture war mentality that the NRA adopted for this period of time. And, you know, they are people who own guns, they may even participate in, you know, gun culture, but they don't want to be too outwardly seen as being gun owners, because of the associations that they also have, with gun ownership, you know, the sort of negative associations culturally and politically



JJ Janflone 16:41

Well, and that ties in with, I've seen, like, on your website, sort of you have a photo of yourself with the tagline that, you know, you're a liberal snowflake gun owner, and a member of gun culture 2.0. And so I was wondering one, what sort of led you to, you know, sort of actively saying, like, you know, this is a label that I'm putting on myself, but also to what's it like for you to, to research and sort of work in these spaces? Because I think, increasingly, as we're seeing more, I think, just to go to your original thing is I think people hear gun owner maybe think of a very particular political affiliation, or they think of a very particular set of, ideologies that go along with that. And we're learning, I think, slowly, like we always do that that's simply not the case. And so I'm wondering, not to get too personal. But, David, tell us about yourself.



Dr. David Yamane 17:30

Yeah, no, I think that, what we find when we look at survey data, as I have in an article that I published late last year, about liberal gun owners is that one in five gun owners self identify as politically liberal, they just tend to sort of fade into the background of the the more culture war aspect of guns that that sometimes take center stage. So, you know, as a liberal gun owner, I feel like I have a kind of foot in a couple of different worlds. Most liberals are not gun owners, and most gun owners are not liberal. But crossing over between those two groups allows me to kind of see both, in ways that maybe some people who aren't involved in either can't appreciate as much. So yeah, there are some people within gun culture who will try to shame you for being politically liberal. And, you know, when when President Biden started talking about some of his plans for new gun regulations, there's lots of things going around the internet about you know, "how do you feel now? thanks so much. We'd rather not have you as gun owners if you know, you're going to vote that way" But, you know, having studied Catholicism before I came to guns was instructive because Catholics don't all think alike about moral and political issues.

They span the entire range of possibilities. And, you know, the way that you organize your political priorities, you know, can affect what you do. So, you know, you may be strongly, you know, pro gun rights, but you may also, you know, want people to have a living wage, right? So, how do you decide how to vote on that. And so, you know, there's a lot of times a liberal gun owner will go to the polls, the same way that a Catholic will go to the polls and just say, you know, which is the best among the imperfect candidates I have to choose from.

K

Kelly Sampson 19:35

This conversation kind of reminds me, or it reminded me of last weekend, I was road tripping, and looking at all the different cars and their bumper stickers and kind of the diversity where there were some bumper stickers we saw that were very much sort of, "I'm a hunter" and that was sort of the identity they had on their car. There was another car where they had little family stick figures. But each member of the family including the dog, and the children was holding an assault rifle. That's a different sort of gun owner. And then I'm sure there were other cars where maybe the people, you know, own guns but didn't consider it to be part of their identity that they needed to share with the world. But yet, I think only one of those is sort of highlighted in the popular culture as what that owner is. So, I think it's really helpful that you're teasing this out. And one question that JJ and I had is as a sociologist, and a gun owner, why do you think that people today in the US feel the need to carry a firearm in public? Like, what are kind of the sociological motivations that you've been able to gather?

D

Dr. David Yamane 20:42

Yeah, I mean, I think that here, we see that working on lots of different levels, right. So we see the political movement toward concealed carry rights leading to laws allowing that and then as the laws facilitate that behavior, it becomes easier and easier for people to do that. So you know, those shifts in the laws and in the culture around gun carrying, make that decision for people a lot easier. I think, in the, same way with divorce. As divorce became easier legally to do as it became less stigmatized because more people were doing it. It just easier to get divorced today than it was 100 years ago for lots of different reasons. And you know, the same is true with gun carry. So within that context of this is just a much easier thing to do legally, socially, politically, you know, people carry guns, typically, because they want to be able to defend themselves should that need arise. And even though for most people that need is extremely unlikely to ever arise, and people are genuinely happy that that's the case. It's a sort of version of Pascal's Wager, where it's a low odds, but high stakes, probability. And so if that low odds event comes to pass, then the having prepared for that eventuality puts the person in a much better situation than if

they hadn't hadn't prepared for that. So I think that it's a it's a basic desire to protect oneself and one's family that motivates people to carry concealed weapons in public.



JJ Janflone 22:24

Do you think that that sort of comes up then, when we're talking about -and this is something that I'm stealing completely from your blog so I apologize if this sounds very familiar to you, that is not, I'm plagiarizing you to you, you know- that you think when gun owners who do choose to participate in open carry or concealed carry that they have to give these quote unquote dignifying accounts of their use to justify for sort of the reasons we've discussed before? Or do you think that that's simply them having to sort of signal "Hey, don't worry, it's perfectly fine for me to have these I know what I'm doing." I'm "one of the good guys" do you think that that's sort of what's at play there? Or is there something else that sort of we're that went by we, I mean, sort of the larger public is missing?



Dr. David Yamane 23:11

Well, I think, you know, the, even though the laws have been liberalizing, generally, over time, you know, the country is still very divided about whether it's a good idea to have people, you know, private citizens carrying concealed weapons in public, and under what conditions they should be able to do so whether they should be trained or not. And so, I think that there is still a stigma for carrying guns for some people. You know, and some people live in communities where there's no stigma. But that need to explain why do you do that? Why are you doing who needs to carry a gun to go buy a gallon of milk at the grocery store? What are you so afraid of? Your odds of needing to use that are very, very low, you know, all of those kinds of questions that, you know, I can personally in a setting like this, take those as being genuine questions, and just kind of methodically, you know, try to answer how people would answer them. But in in the sort of fraught world that we live in, they typically are questions, but they're not authentic questions, right? If you say why do you need a gun to go buy a gallon of milk? It's not a question. It's basically saying you don't. And so you know, I think that that, that then leads to that kind of defensive orientation and the felt need to, you know, explain oneself or to just dismiss the other side, you know, because they know, the person isn't genuinely trying to understand why you do that they really don't want you to do that. And they want to convey to you that they don't want you to do that.



Kelly Sampson 24:44

Kind of one thing that I would love to hear you talk about and you've talked about in some of your recent work is the role that race plays and gun ownership and also the role that race plays in gun culture 2.0.

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Dr. David Yamane 24:55

Yeah, I mean, the the history of race in the United States. It is so important to place, you know, always at the center of trying to understand what's going on. And, you know, the, the desire to have gun rights historically has not always applied to all groups, you know, many times that, you know, the desire to own guns was desire to control or defend against certain racial minorities in the United States. So, you know, I think all of that should be acknowledged up front, I think at the same time, there's always been a history of, say, for example, African American gun ownership in the United States, for hunting, for self defense, for recreation. And so, I think the in the same way that the country has been grappling to become more inclusive and live up to our ideals of liberty and justice for all, more and more that gun culture struggles in that direction as well. One of the things about gun culture 2.0 is because it's defensively oriented, but self protection and self defense is kind of a universal concern. That, you know, hunting can be very geographically focused, or culturally focused, even recreational shooting, you know, often times depends on having access to space in a place, that not everybody, for example, who lives in an urban area has access to those pursuits. But everybody is concerned about their safety, at least potentially concerned about their safety. So we do see gun culture trying to become more inclusive, racially, and also in terms of gender and promoting, you know, the idea that, you know, self defense is a universal concern, and guns are a good way to defend oneself, should the need arise. So, you know, we see in the last year, again, looking at some of the data that Harvard and Northeastern have found in their survey of people who bought guns last year that half of new gun owners were women, 25%, African American, 25%, Hispanic or Latinx. And so, you know, we see people from those non traditional gun owning groups being drawn into defensive gun ownership.

K

Kelly Sampson 27:18

Does race not only play a role in the way that, Black, Latinx, or women choose to arm themselves now, but does it also play a role in how white people think about self defense? Or the need to have a gun as well?

D

Dr. David Yamane 27:37

Yeah, I mean, I think for sure that, you know, when we look at those times when defensive gun ownership grew or experienced a bump, you know, oftentimes they were around

social unrest and social uncertainty that were happening in urban areas among African Americans. For example, with the social movements in the 1960s, or last year, the George Floyd protests. So, you know, a lot of times, you know, when people say, close your eyes, and imagine that threat that you were trying to defend yourself against, there's no question the way that some people try to imagine that threat in racialized terms. You know, at the same time, I've been to many, many training classes, defensive handgun training classes where, the people are explicitly told, if you only imagine the threat as looking a particular way, you are making yourself susceptible to all of the other threats that are out there. So, again, I think, in the same way, it's a struggle within American culture, it's a struggle within gun culture. Working out people's understandings of the importance or the lack of importance of race.



JJ Janflone 28:55

Is that something that sort of comes up with the having to have a defensible position about why you own and while you're purchasing, is that something that is reflected a little bit differently in minority populations than say, like in European American populations?



Dr. David Yamane 29:12

If you think, take that phrase "I don't call 911" Jenny Carlson published an article with that title, a long time ago, and pointed out that there are different groups of people in the United States who take that attitude of I'm not going to dial 911. But they take it for very different reasons, right? If you're, you know, a liberal, white libertarian in the suburbs of Michigan versus an African American living in the inner city of Detroit. You don't dial 911 for different reasons, but you do have in common, this sort of distrust of the police and this feeling like, you know, we have to, at the end of the day, protect ourselves. And you know, that that is a true commonality between groups who may otherwise not have much in common.



Kelly Sampson 29:56

I was born and raised in Detroit so that hits very close to home. And one thing I was wondering, you know, as we talked about gun culture 2.0, I love what you said about how gun culture is American culture, because I think that should be obvious, but in a lot of times it isn't. And so to that point, I was wondering, what role have non state groups like the NRA played in creating and forming gun culture 2.0? And then what role have gun violence prevention groups played and forming and creating gun culture 2.0?



Dr. David Yamane 30:28

Yeah, well, that, you know, I keep saying I'm waiting for a really good history of the NRA to be written. I have Matt Lacombe's book to be reviewed. And I'm hopeful that it will fill in some gaps. But the NRA obviously plays an important role in American gun culture, both sort of politically, and I'd say, also socially. And these are two different aspects of the NRA, that I think are not sufficiently appreciated, you know, the, the political side of the NRA, that 800 pound gorilla in Washington, DC, you know, played an important role in establishing a political framework within which, say, concealed carry laws could be passed. And that became hugely important in facilitating the development of gun culture 2.0. But at the same time, there's also this thousands of spider monkeys version of the NRA, which is, you know, all of the NRA certified gun trainers and range safety officers and hunters education people who are working out in the communities. And that's a lot of the way that people interface with the the NRA on a daily basis. And so, you know, that also helps to spread kind of the idea o, responsible gun ownership, and becoming educated. But then when the NRA shifted more towards defensive gun ownership, then it starts to promote that through these grassroots efforts as well. And, you know, I think that the those two things can sometimes become disconnected. I think even within the internal workings of the NRA, they appear to become disconnected because the leadership became so drunk on the political power side, that they basically are sacrificing that grassroots side, because there's wasting all their money on stupid programs and legal fights. And, in terms of the role that gun safety organizations play in the development of gun culture, I think that that's a really interesting question that I don't know that anybody's really investigated. If you think about the NRA, in its early incarnations as a gun safety organization, you know, we can clearly see the role that it plays. And I think it'd be great for other organizations that are concerned about the negative outcomes that happened with guns to somehow get a foothold within gun culture. So they're seen as more legitimate contributors to conversations about guns and what it means to be a gun owner. Most people when they, you know, say, talk about their identity as a gun owner, you know, it's largely framed in terms that, you know, pro gun organizations, like the NRA or other, websites blogs promote. And I don't know that they would, you know, take someone like Brady and say, you know, Brady has really contributed to my understanding of what it means to be a gun owner. But imagine if, if that could happen. Right, because, you know, I don't know that anybody, from the staunchest NRA member to the staunchest Brady supporter thinks, "Hey, isn't it great when people get killed with guns?" Right? "Isn't it great when people commit suicide?" like nobody favors that. Nobody whose opinions I respect favorites that I shouldn't say nobody.



JJ Janflone 33:59

No. And that that leads like so brilliantly, actually into my question, which follows Kelly's, which is, you know, what, what can come violence prevention groups, or sort of activists in this space, what role have sort of we played in the formulation of gun culture 2.0, or at least the way that it plays out now? Which I do feel and maybe it's just because we've all been trapped inside our houses, ideally. And so like, you know, Twitter interactions are perhaps not the best way to get to take the temperature track of a nation. But it does seem very, a lot of times when these groups are talking "us versus them," sort of gun violence prevention versus gun rights folks back and forth. Yet at the same time, we have people on this podcast almost every week, who are not constrained by that dichotomy of being forced to be on either side of that coin. And so I'm wondering if you have any suggestions or just thoughts as someone who's studied this for over a decade of you know, what could we, what role have we played, what role could GVP groups be doing to be better at this?

D

Dr. David Yamane 34:59


I think that one of the challenges is it's almost parallel to what the NRA has, you know, the NRA has these two sides of the political side and the kind of social and cultural side, it's hard to divorce those two, right? So that even if people are experiencing the NRA at the grassroots level, it still has the specter of this, you know, culture warrior organization looming behind it. And, you know, if you're a gun violence prevention organization, it's likely that you're do more than just the education side that you also have the political side in which you're advocating for certain laws that people may oppose, right? So, you know, if you find people who agree that safe storage of firearms is important, how can that work without the specter of "and we need a law that says you have to safely store your firearm, or else XYZ happens?" Right? So, you know, I don't know that it's possible to completely divorce the political from the educational, but I think, it's going to be on the educational side, that we can find more common ground than on the political side.

K

Kelly Sampson 36:14

As you were talking, some of what I think you're getting at with the role that gun violence prevention groups play, versus the role that, "gun rights" groups play also has to do with some of these identity issues as well. And I know we've had other guests talk about it, I know, you've talked about it as well, just the what is in your identity. And I think there's not that there are there are plenty of people who are for gun violence prevention, and also own guns. But there are a lot of people who don't own guns, but they're for gun violence prevention, and that might not be part of their identity. And the same way that maybe someone who considers themselves like a gun owner, and very much part of gun culture, would have it. And that may also explain some of the gap. So anyway, that was just


something that came to mind while you were talking.

 Dr. David Yamane 37:03

There, you know, there are certainly people who own guns for defensive purposes, who think if we could ban all guns, that would be amazing, right? I, you know, only own this gun to defend myself because of the realities of the world we live in. And so you know, there's no mechanical connection between ownership of guns and some political stance on guns, although obviously, being a gun owner would lean towards a more gun rights orientation. But I know, you know, many people who say, like, I'd be happy to give away my guns to the state, as soon as everybody else does.

 JJ Janflone 37:41

And that I think, ties in to what we've teased this, so do you think that there's going to be I know, are you going to coin gun culture? 3.0? Are we is this going to be something where we get to gun culture? 5.0? You know, where do you see this all going down the line? And if we were, you know, what would be the next evolution of where we're going?

 Dr. David Yamane 38:03

Yeah, this, I think, a common question. And my, my standard response is that there will be no gun culture 3.0 until I published my book on gun culture 2.0. And so we're just going to put a stop to any sort of developments out in the world until I can get that book done. But yeah, I think the more serious responses that people have been trying to think about what's the next evolution of gun culture, and I don't know, you know, that we can really say, because we just are not very good at predicting the future as sociologists. And I don't know that, you know, if we were in 1950, you know, looking at gun culture 1.0 I was saying, what's going to be the next development in gun culture, that, you know, people wouldn't necessarily have predicted? Oh, it's certainly going to take a shift toward a defensive orientation. So, you know, with new people coming into the fold, there's always the potential for some developments, but whether those become accents on gun culture 2.0. So we see 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.3.2 you know, or whether it's going to burst through to an entirely new evolution, I think that that's to be determined.

 JJ Janflone 39:14

One of the things I'm sort of hoping and that I think is really great about this idea of like a sociology of gun culture, is, the more that we talk about these things and sort of normalize

the conversation about them, instead of it being a Boogeyman conversation we don't have the less it seems that we don't get into the weird sort of Facebook, culture wars of today where "everything I like is correct and everything I don't like is propaganda," where we can actually have resources that are really helpful that just give a flat, very non prejudice view of "this is what's happening" out in the world, which is really helpful.

D

Dr. David Yamane 39:49

Yeah, and I've been criticized for being you know, too optimistic. But, you know, I think that America has really been in a couple 100 year long struggle to live up to the ideals that were set out at its founding. And, you know, that's not easy to do. And probably our social media environment doesn't help us to engage in substantive conversations about those things. But at the same time, if we ignore all of the fraught nature of the social media discourse, and we go out into our communities, I just drove from North Carolina to California and back, and I met and interacted with many, many different people in different places. And, it's not like, we're engaging in shouting matches every day in the streets. And so the more we have opportunities to sit down with people and just recognize what we have in common, instead of always focusing on on how we differ, but also appreciating that at the end of day, we may end up differing and that's okay. You know, those are some of the ways that I think that American society and culture works better.



JJ Janflone 41:03

Well, and where can people by the way, find your website where they can find the almost novella on gun culture that you have available right now. Because we'd be very remiss not to plug it, because I found it very helpful. I have a copy of it. So where can people find you?

D

Dr. David Yamane 41:21

So I have two blogs, you know, I have my original gun culture 2.0 blog. So if you google gun culture 2.0, that should pop up. But then, because that was starting to really cater a lot towards people who already bought into gun culture, I started a new blog called gun curious. So if you google gun curious, this should also pop up. And that's really oriented more towards people who are interested but unsure about guns. So I try to, you know, put more general information there for people, regardless of their stance towards guns, they can get something out of that. So in either of those spots, you you know, can come up with links. The book you're referring to is called concealed carry revolution. And it was originally going to be a chapter of my other book, but it kind of grew and grew and grew.

And then the book morphed, and I had all of this material tracing out the history of the development of concealed carry laws in the United States that I really wanted to do something with. So I went ahead and pushed it out this year as a very short 65 or 70 pages of text and lots of notes for the academics out there. And you can find that on Amazon right now. Or, again, if you just Google concealed carry revolution, you can find lots of ways to pick that up.



JJ Janflone 42:39

It was very, very helpful for me as someone who is very much -we've talked about this on the podcast- a gun firearm novice, you know, who's trying to learn and figure things out. So very, very helpful. I highly recommend that all of our listeners go check it out and think thank you so so much for coming on. David. This was great. Hey, Kelly, are you ready for a moment of levity?



Kelly Sampson 43:03

Will this one actually be a fun story?



JJ Janflone 43:06

Maybe not. For fun things I go to Team Enough's Tik Tok account. For these unbelievable gun stories I go to the news. So yeah, not not good. But this week, I do bring you a tale from Detroit. So some points?



Kelly Sampson 43:19

Yeah, that's my hometown. That's why JJ's saying some points. Definitely some points.



JJ Janflone 43:24

Well, you know, everyone should love Detroit. Let's be honest. But in this case, early in the morning, a man in Detroit, he saw a cockroach and like many people do you know he wanted that bug dead. So he pulled a classic move throw a shoe at it. Right?



Kelly Sampson 43:40

Yeah. I mean, that's completely understandable.



JJ Janflone 43:43

Exactly. But and I'm sure you know, longtime listeners and you Kelly will be shocked by this. There is a gun inside the shoe.



Kelly Sampson 43:50

Yeah, that's absolutely not a great place for a gun. But I also think I've lost my ability to be shocked at this point.



JJ Janflone 43:56

Yeah, at this point. I'm kind of surprised when guns are in things. But of course, when the man threw the shoe, the revolver he'd been storing in there. It fell out. The gun fired.



Kelly Sampson 44:07

So okay, you know what, two questions one is the man okay? And two, please, please tell me that he at least got the roach after all of that.



JJ Janflone 44:18

Okay, so a bullet did hit the man in the foot, but the man is doing okay. Now, I don't know if though if the cockroach lived or died, did it run off to tell it's little buddies about what happened? I don't know.



Kelly Sampson 44:28

Honestly, I felt terrible for that man. Because, I mean, it's bad enough to wake up and see a roach if you ask me. And then it's even worse to shoot yourself in the foot trying to kill that Roach. And then on top of that, to have the ordeal covered by almost every local news channel. I mean, that's just like a nightmare. So for all you listeners out there if you want to avoid that happening to you. Safe storage is really the key.



JJ Janflone 44:53

Exactly. Lessons. Yes. From these stories.



Kelly Sampson 44:57

Yes, exactly. So I want to share some of the work that Brady legal has been doing. So this week, Brady announced a first of its kind lawsuit on behalf of the victims of the 2019, Dayton, Ohio mass shooting, and Brady teamed up with the Cooper Elliott law firm of Columbus, Ohio, the claggett insights law firm of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Texas trial lawyer John Sloan, to file a lawsuit against the manufacturer of the 100 round magazine used in the shooting. The manufacturer, Kung Chong industry, USA Inc, and its related South Korean company is making claims that it allegedly sold 100 round magazines without effective safeguards. And also claims that those sales are irresponsible, predictably caused violence, and importantly, harm society.



JJ Janflone 45:50

I think it's so important for people to remember that, you know, it took only 30 seconds for the shooter, in this case to kill nine people and wound 17 others. And that's because he had that 100 round magazine.



Kelly Sampson 46:02

Yeah, and I mean, to your point about the human toll, I want to also want to highlight that the clients in this case are actually the grieving family members of the people who were slain. And this case is sort of part of their continuing effort to honor their slain loved ones, and the plaintiffs are Dion Green, whose father Derek Fudge, age 57 was killed in the shooting. And Dion was actually there, and he watched his dad die in his arms. Another plaintiff is Lasondra James, the mother of Lois Olglesby, who was only 27 when she was murdered, leaving behind two young daughters. There's also Denita and Michael Turner, the parents of 30 year old Logan Turner, their only child, and one who the Turner's thought would soon be, planning a wedding. And finally, there's Nadine Warren, the mother of Nicole Warren Curtis, who was 36 when she was killed while visiting her friend Monica, who was also killed in the shooting,



JJ Janflone 46:59

Hearing these names and just even like these tiny pieces of their stories always gets to me, because I get like all of these lives are just ripped apart in 30 seconds, right? Like these people are never going to be the same. And I want to draw attention to just some more recent shootings, because the violence certainly hasn't stopped. And I was just sort of shocked. I didn't really hear about this in the news. And this I thought was a huge story. But late last Saturday, at least 10 people ages 19 to 72 were shot during a mass shooting

in New York City. City Council Member Francisco Moya, who represents the 21st Council District that includes the Corona neighborhood where the shooting happened, said something that I thought is really vital and just sort of encapsulates all of this, which is, "the uptick in gun violence has been a reality of daily life in the outer boroughs, and for communities of color. This is not just a Manhattan problem making headlines because we're concerned about scaring white tourists. We are trying to survive the covid 19 pandemic and gun violence pandemic." Hey, want to share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red Blue and Brady via phone or text message. Simply call our Texas at 480-744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever! Kelly and I are standing by.

K

Kelly Sampson 48:20

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's life saving work in Congress, the courts and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence please like and subscribe to the podcast. Get in touch with us at Bradyunited.org or on social [@bradybuzz](https://twitter.com/bradybuzz). Be brave. And remember, take action not sides.