

University of Wisconsin



**Neuroscience &
Public Policy Program**

presents

Transformation of the Juvenile Criminal Justice System is on the Horizon: How Developmental Neuroscience and Local Policy Support Official Federal Reform

Science is approaching an undeniable truth - the adolescent brain is different. Youth have decreased ability to regulate emotions, increased sensitivity to peer pressure, and an inability to appreciate long-term consequences. We can no longer continue on with a juvenile justice system that treats our children the same as adults, and local policymakers across the country are finally calling for change. In this talk, I will first present a historical overview of how our youth have and continue to be treated in the juvenile criminal justice system in the United States. Within this context, I will very briefly discuss what developmental neuroscience has concluded about the growing brain and why these conclusions prove the inherent inadequacy of our current system. The talk will conclude with a big-picture proposal of a new restorative system based upon current local and international models of juvenile justice. It is time for the federal government to make reform a national priority.

Sara Heyn, Esq.

Neuroscience & Public Policy Program Graduate Student

Thursday, March 15th

3:00 p.m.

**Biotechnology Auditorium 1111
Genetics & Biotechnology Center
(425 Henry Mall)**

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