

A black and white photograph of a classroom full of students, mostly Black, sitting at desks. A large title is overlaid on the image.

The Pathologizing of a People

The Hidden World of Law, Medicine &
Structural Oppression

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Research for Change Symposium & Social Justice Scholarship

1.24.24

AGENDA

- THE PROBLEM: COLLUSION IN HALLOWED HALLS
- THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
- METHODOLOGY
- CURRENT RESEARCH: MISCEGENATION
- OUR ROLE IN TRANSFORMATION
- FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

What does law, medicine,
and structural oppression
have to do with each
other?



EVERYTHING.



ON ITS FACE, THE LAW IS NEUTRAL AND MEDICINE IS
EVIDENCE BASED.

WOULD YOU ALLOW SOMEONE WITH THIS DISORDER TO VOTE OR RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

This disorder is characterized by a combination of neurological symptoms and psychoneurosis, including emotional excitability, and disturbances of sensory, vasomotor, and visceral functions.

Key Symptoms

anesthesia, amnesia, abulia (a lack of initiative for action, speech, and thought), loss of motor control, and an unstable personality/character.

SHOULD THIS BE LEGAL?

Sexual relations between two different species, which will result in offspring that are susceptible to diseases and psychological disorders. Additionally, there is little evidence to suggest that such offspring would be able to survive or function appropriately in their natural environment.

HYSTERIA, THE DISEASE OF WOMEN.

This disorder is characterized by a combination of neurological symptoms and psychoneurosis, including emotional excitability, and disturbances of sensory, vasomotor, and visceral functions.

Key Symptoms

anesthesia, amnesia, abulia (a lack of initiative for action, speech, and thought),
loss of motor control, and an unstable personality/character.

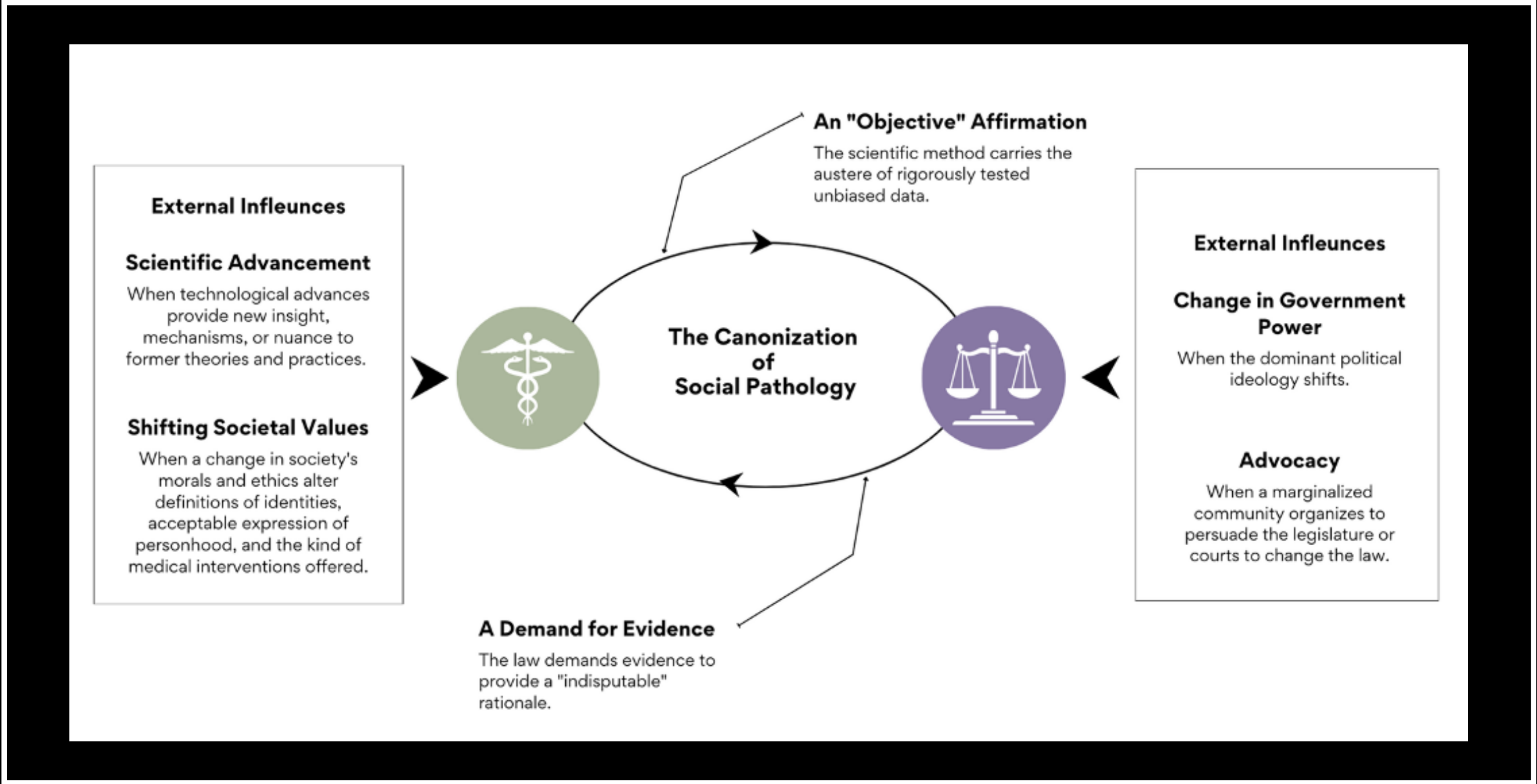
RATIONAL FOR LEGALLY BANNING INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE

Sexual relations between two different species, which will result in offspring that are susceptible to diseases and psychological disorders. Additionally, there is little evidence to suggest that such offspring would be able to survive or function appropriately in their natural environment.

synonym: mongrelization

THERE IS COLLUSION IN HALLOWED HALLS.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



METHODOLOGY

Foundational Medical Theory
Analysis
Doctrinal Evolution via Publication
Trends
Critical Medical “Anthropology”
Lens

Qualitative
Archival Study

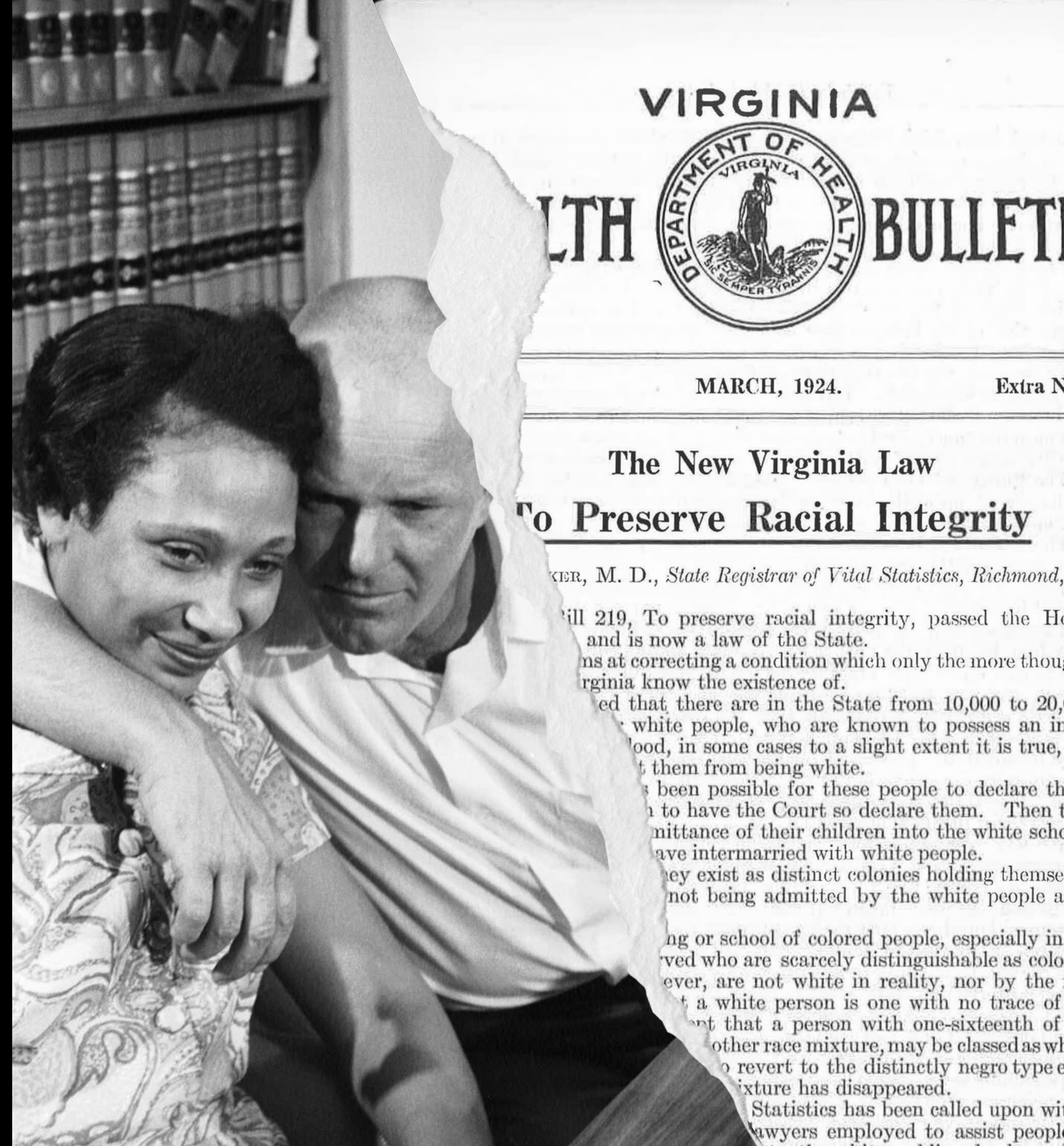
Comparative Legislation Analysis
Doctrinal Evolution via Case Law
Critical Legal Studies Lens

Modern Ideologies & Inconsistencies
Social Change Movements & Disparities Data

MISCEGENATION

miscēre - to mix

genus - species



VIRGINIA



ALTH

BULLETIN

MARCH, 1924.

Extra N

The New Virginia Law To Preserve Racial Integrity

AKER, M. D., *State Registrar of Vital Statistics, Richmond,*

Bill 219, To preserve racial integrity, passed the House and is now a law of the State.

ns at correcting a condition which only the more thoughtful Virginians know the existence of.

ed that there are in the State from 10,000 to 20,000 white people, who are known to possess an inferior blood, in some cases to a slight extent it is true, but not them from being white.

has been possible for these people to declare themselves to have the Court so declare them. Then the admittance of their children into the white schools have intermarried with white people.

they exist as distinct colonies holding themselves not being admitted by the white people and

ing or school of colored people, especially in mixed blood who are scarcely distinguishable as colored people, are not white in reality, nor by the law. A white person is one with no trace of color. That a person with one-sixteenth of color, or other race mixture, may be classed as white, and to revert to the distinctly negro type of color mixture has disappeared.

Statistics has been called upon with lawyers employed to assist people

MISCEGENATION

miscēre - to mix || *genus* - species

When a state legislature creates an anti-miscegenation law, they use medicine's "objective affirmation" of a biological "truth" to instill a discriminatory practice.

The mutualistic relationship between medicine and law established centuries of constitutionally protected oppression.



MISCEGENATION

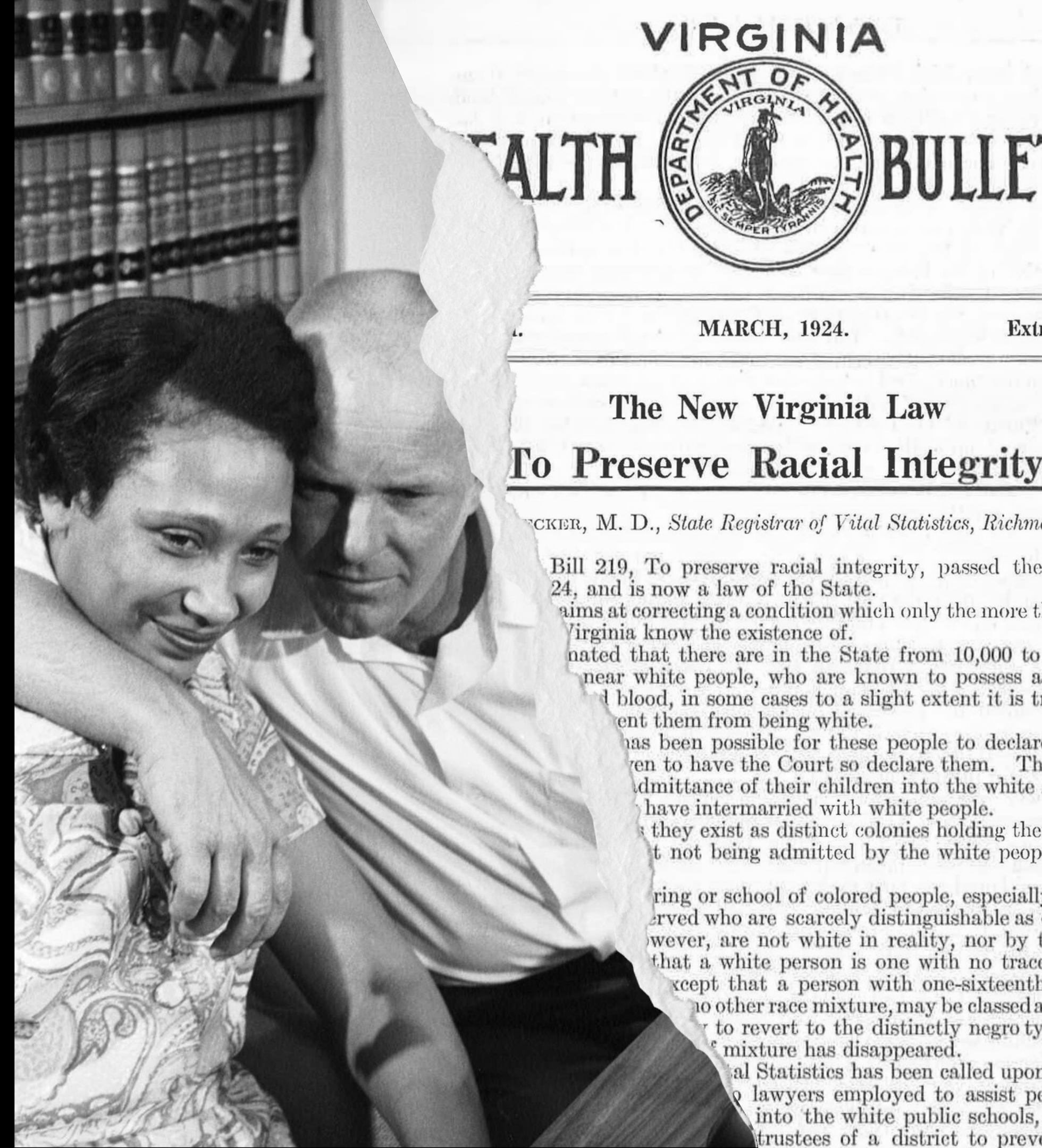
miscēre - to mix || *genus* - species

"On the biological phase there is authority for the conclusion that the crossing of the primary races leads gradually to retrogression and to eventual extinction of the resultant type unless it is fortified by reunion with the parent stock"

American Journal of Medicine

"[T]he biological experiment of interbreeding can [not] be done without risk to civilization."

Dr. Wight Ingle, Professor of Physiology at the University of Chicago



“You cannot heal what you will not unveil.”
– Sanjo Jendayi



BEARING WITNESS

“[C]reating a protected space where survivors can speak their truth **is an act of liberation**. They remind us that bearing witness, even within the confines of that sanctuary, **is an act of solidarity**.

They remind us also that **moral neutrality in the conflict between victim and perpetrator is not an option.**”

Judith Herman, MD

THE SYSTEM WILL ALWAYS PRODUCE THE RESULT IT WAS DESIGNED TO.

The unfortunate truth is that inequity was a foundational element of medical theories and the American legal system's design.



OUR ROLE IN TRANSFORMATION

- **To Choose**

- To critically examine data, historical precedence, and rationale
- Acknowledge the setting and outcome of the theory, law, or practice
- Understand why, more than what happened

- **To Act**

- Actively engage colleagues, professional societies, and arguments built on flawed or dangerous rationale

- **To Redesign**

- We can and must create a system that embeds equity.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Race
&
Miscegenation

Women
&
Hysteria

Poverty
&
Criminality

THANK YOU!



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