





Housekeeping

1. **Recording** – This event is being recorded. This main room presentation will be recorded but the breakout rooms will not be recorded.
2. **Audio** – Please leave microphone on mute. Individuals can enable closed captioning in the bottom toolbar.
3. **Breakout Room** – During the breakout session, turn your camera on, if available, to enable discussion and engagement.
4. **Chat** – Chat will be used to share information with attendees and can be used for attendees to chat with each other. We encourage you to share comments and talk to each other in this area.
5. **Questions** – Questions can be sent to CivicFellows@suny.edu and will be answered at later date.



**SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement
Fall 2024 Online Series**



Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows

- Gather and amplify civic engagement resources
- Provide learning opportunities for faculty and staff
- Participate in a General Education working group
- Coordinate with student government
- Develop a community of practice
- Contribute to a SUNY civic education convening
- Inform a civic engagement strategic plan

Upcoming Online SUNY Civic Learning Opportunities

Virtual Dialogue: Our Freedom of Speech + the Perils of Misinformation

September 17th, 2024, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Case Study: Course Development using AI and Civic Discourse

September 24th, 2024, 12:00pm-1:00pm

STEM Education IS Civic Education

October 1st, 2024, 12:00pm-1:00pm

Artificial Intelligence and Technology Effects on Politics and Civic Engagement

October 15th, 2024, 12:00pm-1:15pm

The I-81. The I-81. A new standard for addressing injustice

October 29th, 2024, 12:00pm-1:00pm





SUNY Civic Learning and Civic Engagement Fall 2024 Online Series

**Virtual Dialogue: Our Freedom of Speech +
the Perils of Misinformation**

*Civic Education and Engagement
and Civil Discourse Fellows*



Civic Fellows / Presenters

- Joe Scanlon, Associate Professor, Political Science, Monroe Community College
- Babette Faehmel, Professor, Liberal Arts, Schenectady County Community College
- Ashley Liegi, Assistant Director, Center for Civic Justice, Stony Brook University



Overview

**Introduction to
dialogue and
the issue**

15 minutes

**Breakout Rooms:
Virtual Dialogues**

75 minutes

**Regroup and
share out**

20 minutes

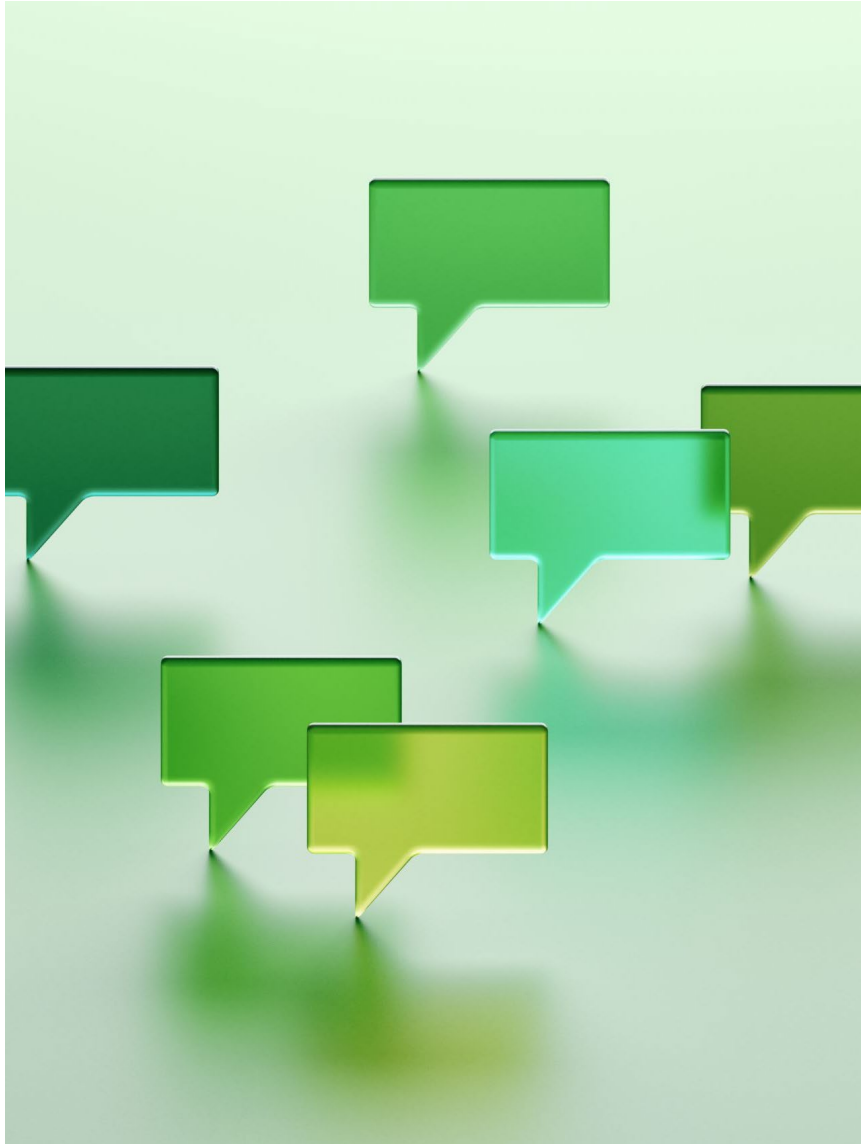
Freedom of Speech + the Perils of Misinformation



The illustration features a hand holding a megaphone, symbolizing the act of speaking or broadcasting. Surrounding the megaphone is a large circular network of icons connected by lines, representing a complex system of communication and information. The icons include a laptop, a smartphone, a lightbulb, a target, a clock, a rocket, a calculator, a pie chart, a bar chart, a globe, a calendar, a magnifying glass, a star, a chess piece, a document, a briefcase, a money bag, a person's head, a lightbulb, a target, a clock, a rocket, a calculator, a pie chart, a bar chart, a globe, a calendar, a magnifying glass, a star, a chess piece, a document, a briefcase, a money bag, and a person's head. The background is a dark blue gradient.



Polls



What is a Dialogue?

Dialogue is authentic and constructive communication

Dialogue involves careful listening and consideration of experiences, values, and ideas

Dialogue might ask you to deliberate and use critical thinking and reasoned argument to weigh tradeoffs and move toward collaborative action



Introduction to the Issue: Freedom of Speech + the Perils of Misinformation

Discussing the type of media and information landscapes we want is critical, especially during heightened polarization

Ensuring a genuinely inclusive democratic society means an independent media and equitable access to information

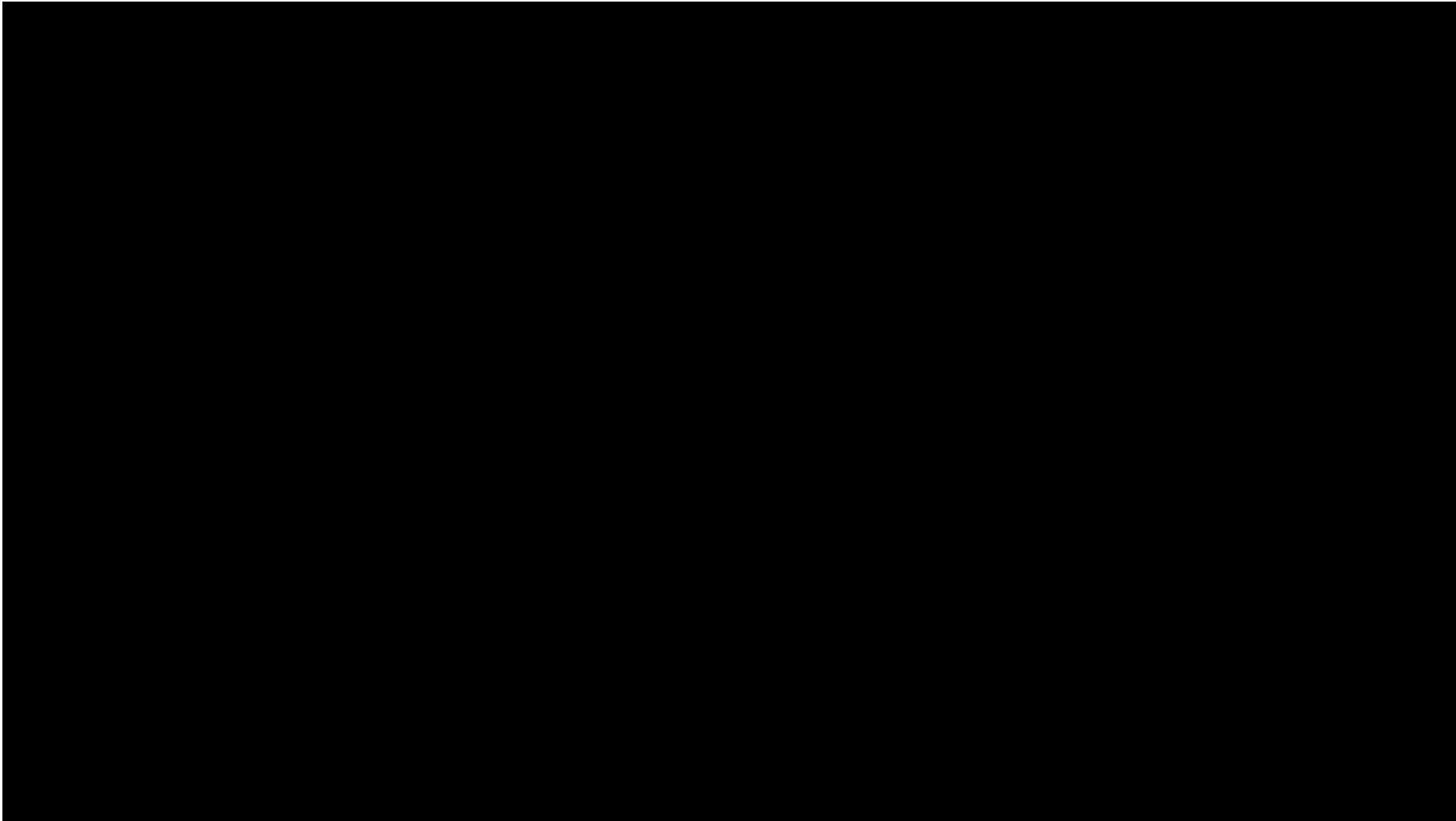
Censoring the media and curtailing access to information contracts rather than expands democratic values, even if the end is reliable and trustworthy news and information

This dialogue is an opportunity to begin discussing how we can create media and information landscapes that best serve democracy and us

Trust in America: Do Americans Trust the News Media?

Click on black
box to go to video

[https://youtu.be/
VdH7G9I30No](https://youtu.be/VdH7G9I30No)





Dialogue Ground Rules

- Everyone is encouraged to participate
- Talk *and* listen to each other
- Speak from personal experience
- Suspend judgment of others
- Fairly focus on the questions
- Treat the questions in the issue guide as starting points

Themes and Questions

Guiding Questions: Objectivity and Media Consumption Habits

1. How do you consume media?
2. Do you think that the media you consume is biased, and do you think we as consumers have a responsibility to diversify the media we consume?
3. Does the media you consume show diverse perspectives and people?
4. Today, many people get their news from social media platforms instead of legacy media. Do you think it matters?
5. Does the education system have a responsibility to teach media literacy?

Themes and Questions

Guiding Questions: The Role of A.I.

1. What are your observations of A.I.'s impact on politics? Do you see A.I. as a tool with the potential to advance democracy, or do you see it more as a threat?
2. Should there be oversight or regulation when it comes to the development of artificial intelligence? And if so, can you think of specific organizations or institutions that ought to be tasked with this?
3. Should there be a mandate for A.I. developers to be transparent about how they train their models?
4. What might be trade-offs or pitfalls in constraining developments in this area? Might there be benefits that are worth it?
5. What impact does A.I. have on human creativity and freedom?

Themes and Questions

Guiding Questions: Freedom of Speech

1. Do you believe the government should be able to restrict ideas or speech considered harmful or hateful?
2. What is the social and political impact of misinformation and disinformation? Do you think protecting the freedom of the press leads to factual errors, misinformation, and disinformation?
3. Why might media consolidation and less local journalism be a problem? How can it be resolved?
4. Should a social media platform be held accountable for the quality of information shared on it? If so how?
5. What are the tradeoffs involved if the government has more regulatory power over speech and the press?

BREAKOUT SESSION

(Breakout Session includes 3 Sections)

Section #1 (~25 mins)

GUIDING QUESTIONS: OBJECTIVITY AND MEDIA CONSUMPTION HABITS

1. How do you consume media?
2. Do you think that the media you consume is biased, and do you think we as consumers have a responsibility to diversify the media we consume?
3. Does the media you consume show diverse perspectives and people?
4. Today, many people get their news from social media platforms instead of legacy media. Do you think it matters?
5. Does the education system have a responsibility to teach media literacy?

Section #2 (~25 mins)

GUIDING QUESTIONS: THE ROLE OF A.I.



1. What are your observations of A.I.'s impact on politics? Do you see A.I. as a tool with the potential to advance democracy, or do you see it more as a threat?
2. Should there be oversight or regulation when it comes to the development of artificial intelligence? And if so, can you think of specific organizations or institutions that ought to be tasked with this?
3. Should there be a mandate for A.I. developers to be transparent about how they train their models?
4. What might be trade-offs or pitfalls in constraining developments in this area? Might there be benefits that are worth it?
5. What impact does A.I. have on human creativity and freedom?

Section #3 (~25 mins)

Guiding Questions: Freedom of Speech

1. Do you believe the government should be able to restrict ideas or speech considered harmful or hateful?
2. What is the social and political impact of misinformation and disinformation? Do you think protecting the freedom of the press leads to factual errors, misinformation, and disinformation?
3. Why might media consolidation and less local journalism be a problem? How can it be resolved?
4. Should a social media platform be held accountable for the quality of information shared on it? If so how?
5. What are the tradeoffs involved if the government has more regulatory power over speech and the press?



Breakout Rooms

Participating in Breakout Rooms

- 1 Each attendee will be randomly assigned to a room
- 2 Click Join in the pop-up box
- 3 The discussion prompts will be shared with the room moderator and will be in the chat box once you move into the breakout room



BREAKOUT SESSION

Virtual Dialogues

75 minutes

Poll



Closing Discussion

- **Did the dialogue introduce new information, thoughts, or ideas you had not previously considered?**
- **Did your group express any shared concerns about the issue? Did any aspects of the dialogue lead to the discovery of agreement? Did any aspects produce disagreement or tension?**
- **Having experienced this dialogue, are there individuals or groups you feel must be represented to understand and inclusively discuss the issue?**
- **What can you do as an individual to address the issue? What can we do?**



The Fall 2024 Online Series

September 17 “Hot Moments in the Classroom: Keeping the Temperature Comfortable ”

September 17 “Virtual Dialogue: Our Freedom of Speech + the Perils of Misinformation”

September 24 “Case Study: Course Development Using AI and Civic Discourse”

October 1 “STEM Education IS Civic Education”

October 15 “Artificial Intelligence and Technology Effects on Politics and Civic Engagement”

October 29 “The I-81. A new standard for addressing injustice”

For more information, including recordings and materials, visit the Civic Fellows Toolbox, at www.suny.edu/CivicFellows



To offer support to those interested in learning more about civic education and engagement, the Fellows have developed the SUNY Civic Fellows webpage, with information about the Fellows and resources about the following topics:

- **Curriculum, Teaching, Programming, and Assessment**
- **Student Activities**
- **Campus Governance and Policies**
- **Scholarship and Research**

For more information visit www.suny.edu/CivicFellows
or contact us at CivicFellows@suny.edu

