

As we move toward the close of a congressional session notable only for its historic lack of achievement, is today's policy gridlock an aberration or the beginning of a new era of dysfunction? In a society whose members are so deeply divided along ideological, economic, partisan, religious, and racial and ethnic lines, can our current political system deliver consensus policies -- or any policy movement at all? This conference will bring together scholars from political science, sociology, economics, history, law, and public policy who share the common goal of assessing the performance of contemporary American government, with an eye toward identifying potential reforms that could improve it.

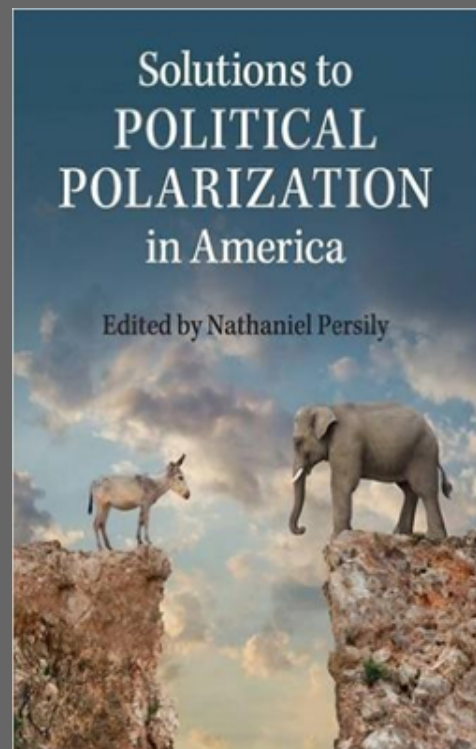
List of Speakers

Sarah Anderson (UC Santa Barbara)
Allan Cobern (UC Riverside)
Don Dripps (USD Law School)
Christian Grose (USC)
Seth Hill (UCSD)
J. Morgan Kousser (Caltech)
Pamela McCann (USC Price School of Public Policy)
Eric McGhee (Public Policy Institute of California)
Ken Miller (Claremont-McKenna)
Jordan Peterson (USC)
Jean Schroedel (Claremont Graduate University)
Charles Shipan (University of Michigan)
Andy Sinclair (New York University)
Betsy Sinclair (Washington University of St. Louis)
Mila Sohoni (USD Law School)
Rachel VanSickle-Ward (Pitzer College)
Abby Wood (USC Law School)

Southern California Law and Social
Science Forum 2016

Are We Entering an Era of Dysfunction in American Government? If So, Can It Be Stopped?

Co-Sponsored by UCSD's Center for Tomorrow's
California and The Yankelovich Center for Social Science
Research



Keynote Speaker: Nate Persily (Stanford University)

March 18, 2016

UC San Diego
The Village at Torrey Pines

Room 15A

9am-5pm

free and open to the public

RSVP at tkousser@ucsd.edu

Southern California Law and Social Sciences Forum 2016
**Are We Entering an Era of Dysfunction in American Government?
If So, Can It Be Stopped?**

Friday, March 18, 2016
University of California, San Diego
Co-Sponsored by UCSD's Center for Tomorrow's California
and The Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research
Location: Room 15A, The Village at Torrey Pines

8:30-9am. Coffee and Pastries

9:00-9:15. Welcome Remarks, Thad Kousser

9:15-10:45. The State of Union: Performance of National Political Institutions

Chair: Lane Kenworthy (UCSD)

Discussant: Mona Vakilifathi (UCSD)

Charles Shipan (Michigan), with Richard J. Anderson and David Cottrell, "The Power to Appoint: Presidential Nominations and Change on the Supreme Court"

Betsy Sinclair (Washington University St. Louis), "Dynamic Congressional Approval: An ALT-ernative Approach"

Pamela McCann (USC Price), "House and Senate Negotiations and Policy Choice"

Jordan Peterson (USC), "The Outer Limits of Bureaucratic Neutrality: Private Financial Interests and Decision Making on the National Labor Relations Board"

11:00-12:30. Politics in an Age of Societal Division

Chair: Isaac Martin (UCSD)

Discussant: Amanda Hollis-Brusky (Pomona)

Ken Miller (Claremont-McKenna), "Polarization and the Administrative State"

Sarah Anderson (UC Santa Barbara), "Voters, Partisanship, and Legislative Compromise"

Don Dripps (USD Law), "Race and Crime in the 21st Century"

Rachel VanSickle-Ward (Pitzer), "Religion, Women and Health: Gender and Issue Framing in *Hobby Lobby*"

12:30. *Lunch is Served*

1:00pm. *Keynote Address and Discussion*

Nate Persily (Stanford Law), "Political Polarization: Sociological Causes and Institutional Solutions"

1:45-3:15pm. *Laboratories for Reform: Will Changing Institutions Change Behavior?*

Chair: Michael Ramsey (USD)

Discussant: Neil Malhotra (Stanford)

Abby Wood (USC Law) and Christian Grose (USC), "Campaign Finance Transparency Improves Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls"

Seth Hill (UCSD), "Institution of Nomination and the Policy Ideology of Primary Electorates"

Andy Sinclair (NYU), "Tradeoffs in California's Top-Two Primary"

Eric McGhee (Public Policy Institute of California), "Has the Top Two Primary Elected More Moderates?"

3:30-5:00pm. *Governing Diversity: Challenges and Solutions*

Chair and Discussant: Marisa Abrajano (UCSD)

Discussant: Graeme Boushey (UCI)

Mila Sohoni (USD Law), "Crackdowns"

Jean Schroedel, Lily Rowen, and Roger Chin (Claremont Graduate University), "Whose Lives Matter? The Media's Failure to Cover Police Shootings of Native Americans"

Allan Cobern (UC Riverside), "Immigrant Inclusion and Subfederal Citizenship in the United States"

J. Morgan Kousser (Caltech), "Joaquin Avila's Noble Dream: The CVRA and the Integration of Local Government in California"

5:30pm. *Dinner for Panelists, Bella Vista Café*