



# 2026 ANNUAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE & POLICY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

THEME:

Strong Societies Need  
Good Information

**JUNE 7 - 8, 2026**

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

BEHAVIORALPOLICY.ORG



## Sunday, June 7, 2026

### 1:00 - 1:30 PM Registration and Networking

Wexner Building Lobby,  
First Floor, Wexner Building

### 1:30 - 1:45 PM Welcome Remarks

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

**Conference Co-Chairs:** Jennifer Lerner, Elizabeth Linos & Julia Minson

**BSPA Co-Presidents:** Craig Fox & Sim Sitkin

### 1:45 - 2:45 PM Plenary Session I: Fireside Chat

*Look Again: The Gift and the Curse of Habituation*

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

**Speakers:**

Tali Sharot (University College London; MIT)

Cass Sunstein (Harvard University)

### 2:45 - 3:00 PM Coffee/Tea Break

### 3:00 - 4:00 PM Breakout Paper Session I

#### TOPIC A: AI and Algorithmic Decision-Making

Wexner Building, Room 436

**Session Chair:** Don Moore (University of California, Berkeley)

**Talk 1: Don Moore**

(University of California, Berkeley)

*Confidence Calibration in Large Language Models*

**Talk 3: Juliana Schroeder**

(University of California, Berkeley)

*Spillover Effects of Deepfake Labeling on Subsequent Judgments of Video Authenticity*

**Talk 2: Sasha Brietzke (Geisinger Health)**

*A Prospective Randomized Trial of Algorithmically Selected Nudges to Increase Influenza Vaccinations*

**Talk 4: Bethany Hsiao**

(University of Pennsylvania)

*Perceptions of Fairness in Algorithmic Decision-Making*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Breakout Paper Session I (*continued*)

**TOPIC B: "Millions Served:" The Applied Behavioral Science of Influence**

Wexner 330

**Session Chair: Steve Martin** (Influence at Work)

**Session Respondent: Bob Cialdini** (Arizona State University)

**Talk 1: Steve Martin**

(Influence at Work)

*The Persuaders v. The Evaders: How Social Norms Are Helping to Reduce Public Transport's Free-Rider Problem*

**Talk 3: Eloise Copland**

(Influence at Work)

*Delivering Sustained and Beneficial Environmental Change*

**Talk 2: Markus Brauer**

(University of Wisconsin)

*Leveraging Social Norms to Promote Diversity and Inclusion*

**TOPIC C: Energy and Environmental Policy**

Wexner 332

**Session Chair: Trisha Shrum** (University of Vermont)

**Talk 1: Trisha Shrum**

(University of Vermont)

*Dear Tomorrow: Conversations with the Future*

**Talk 3: Linda Chang**

(Toyota Research Institute)

*Charging More, Charging Cleaner: Evidence from ChargeMinder*

**Talk 2: Anandita Sabherwal**

(Princeton University & Boston College) &

**Danielle Goldwert** (New York University)

*Increasing Outcome Efficacy Beliefs Galvanizes Support for Congestion Pricing*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

3:00 - 4:00 PM

Breakout Paper Session I (*continued*)

**TOPIC D: Behavioral Science for Inclusive Policy Design**

Rubenstein Building 306

Session Chair: Crystal Hall (University of Washington)

**Talk 1: Crystal Hall**

(University of Washington)

*A Structural Approach to Equity in Policy Design:  
From Bias to Systems*

**Talk 3: Rima-Maria Rahal**

(Vienna University of Economics and Business)

*From Cognition to Action: Informing Inclusive  
Policy Design with Cross-Cultural Basic Research*

**Talk 2: Danyao Li**

(University of Southern California)

*Cool the Heat: Does Deliberation Reduce  
Polarization on DEI Policies and When?*

**Talk 4: Jose Cervantez**

(University of Pennsylvania)

*Does Making it Easier to Find Racial Minorities  
Increase Diversity? A Field Experiment in STEM*

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Breakout Paper Session II

**TOPIC A: New Methods in Intervention Design**

Wexner 436

Session Chair: Michael Hallsworth (Behavioral Insights Team)

**Talk 1: Michael Hallsworth**

(Behavioral Insights Team)

*When Designing Interventions, What is the Best  
Division of Labor Between Human and Artificial  
Intelligence?*

**Talk 3: Max Spohn**

(Harvard University)

*Barriers to Evidence Adoption: A Conjoint Analysis  
of Policymakers' Preferences for Evidence*

**Talk 2: Joseph Reiff**

(University of Maryland, College Park)

*Behavioral Intervention Construal: A Framework  
for Understanding Inferences from Interventions*

**Talk 4: Felipe Araujo**

(Lehigh University)

*Policy Learning for Payment Compliance: Out-of-  
Time Evidence on the Value—and Limits—of ML  
Targeting*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Breakout Paper Session II (*continued*)

**TOPIC B: Political Polarization**

Wexner 330

**Session Chair: Morela Hernandez** (University of Michigan)

**Talk 1: Morela Hernandez**

(University of Michigan)

*The Social Dynamics of Political Polarization*

**Talk 3: Daniel Connolly**

(Princeton University)

*Does Noise Trump Bias? Evidence from Voter Beliefs*

**Talk 2: Audrey Feldman**

(Harvard University)

*Sports Fandom Is a Social Virtue*

**TOPIC C: Poverty and Social Policy**

Wexner 332

**Session Chair: Elana Safran** (OES)

**Talk 1: Elana Safran**

(OES)

*Evidence from the SSI Program*

**Talk 3: Will von Geldern**

(University of Washington)

*Administrative Burdens in Tenant Right to Counsel Programs: Evidence from a Field Experiment*

**Talk 2: Soon Hyeok Choi**

(Rochester Institute of Technology)

*The Winner's Curse in Housing Markets*

**Talk 4: Julia Brown**

(OES)

*Building a Portfolio of Evidence Through Partnership: What Works in Improving Tax Compliance*

Sunday, June 7, 2026

4:15 - 5:15 PM

Breakout Paper Session II (*continued*)

Topic D: Social Preferences and Behavioral Design

Rubenstein 306

Session Chair: Todd Rogers (Harvard University)

**Talk 1: Todd Rogers**

(Harvard University)

*OPOWER for Student Absenteeism: Scaling a Norms Intervention*

**Talk 3: Glen Spiteri**

(UCLA)

*Understanding How Global Income Rank Comparisons Influence Donations to Charity*

**Talk 2: Wen Wen Teh**

(Ideas42)

*From Scarcity to Agency: Narrative-Informed Behavioral Design for Cash Transfers*

5:30 - 6:45 PM

Poster Session & Reception

Wexner Commons and HKS Café, Ground Floor, Wexner Building

Poster Session: Various Presenters (see p. 14 for details)

7:00 PM onward

Networking Dinners

(optional; meet in lobby)

On your own or in theme-based groups (sign-up available)

## Monday, June 8, 2026

8:00 - 8:45 AM

### Breakfast Buffet and Networking

Wexner Hallway and Classrooms

Curated tables of approximately 8 people by area of interest

9:00 - 10:00 AM

### Plenary Session II:

*Predicting an Uncertain Future — Forecasting and Predicting Low-Probability, High-Consequence Events*

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

#### Speakers:

Phil Tetlock (University of Pennsylvania & Forecasting Research Institute)

Ezra Karger (Forecasting Research Institute & Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)

**Discussant:** Juliette Kayyem (Harvard University)

10:15–11:15 AM

### Breakout Paper Session III

#### TOPIC A: Institutionalizing Behavioral Science

Wexner 436

**Session Chair:** Amira Boland (New Practice Lab & Georgetown University)

#### Talk 1: Amira Boland

(New Practice Lab & Georgetown University)

*How to Win Friends and Influence Policy: Doing Behavioral Science with Government*

*Collaborators*

#### Talk 2: Irene Lee

(Harvard University)

*Leaders as Choice Architects: Scaling Decision Improvement Through Training*

#### Talk 3: Sally Toms & John Burkhardt

(International Monetary Fund)

*Why Reforms Stall: A Behavioral Lens to Make Public Sector Modernization Effective in Practice*

**Talk 4: Liliane Harue Kishi** (Brazilian School of Public & Business Administration) &

**Alexandre Galardinovic Ribeiro**

(Federal Revenue Service of Brazil)

*Nudging Taxpayers: How Behavioral Evidence and Better Information Strengthen Public Policy*

Monday, June 8, 2026

10:15–11:15 AM Breakout Paper Session III (*continued*)

**Topic B: Political Polarization and Intergroup Dynamics**

Wexner 330

**Session Chair: Einav Hart** (George Mason University)

**Talk 1: Einav Hart**

(George Mason University)

*From Disagreement to Better Information:  
Embracing Discomfort to Build Intellectual  
Humility*

**Talk 3: Tyler Salley**

(University College London)

*Ambiguous Political Cues and How They Shape  
the Way People Work Together*

**Talk 2: Dilan Tulan**

(Harvard University)

*Bridge or Sink: Reducing Partisan Animosity with a  
Cooperative Game Show*

**Topic C: Markets and Economic Behavior**

Wexner 332

**Session Chair: Judd Kessler** (University of Pennsylvania)

**Talk 1: Judd Kessler**

(University of Pennsylvania)

*The Economics of Hidden Markets and Getting  
“Lucky by Design”*

**Talk 3: Shibeal O’Flaherty**

(OES)

*Evidence from the Small Business Administration  
(SBA)*

**Talk 2: Nathaniel Posner**

(Columbia University)

*How Markets Replace Favors: The Psychological  
Process and Social Costs of Help-Seeking  
Crowd-Out*

**Talk 4: Bo Cowgill**

(Columbia University)

*Clause and Effect: Theory and Field Experimental  
Evidence on Noncompete Clauses*

Monday, June 8, 2026

10:15–11:15 AM

Breakout Paper Session III (*continued*)

**Topic D: Education and Training**

Rubenstein 306

**Session Chair: Daniel Oppenheimer** (Carnegie Mellon University)

**Talk 1: Daniel Oppenheimer**

(Carnegie Mellon University)

*Harnessing Pre-Commitment to Improve Student Attendance and Participation in Post- Secondary Classrooms*

**Talk 3: Cassie Taylor**

(ideas42)

*Why Most Educational Nudges Fail—and How Subtraction Fixes Them*

**Talk 2: Nuria Tolsa Caballero**

(Indiana University)

*Same Performance, Yet Feeling Far Behind: Lower Ranks Undermine Expectancy, Discouraging Reengagement*

11:30 - 12:30 PM

Plenary Session III: Fireside Chat

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

*Behavioral Science and Public Policy: Past, Present, and Future*

**Speakers:**

Robert Cialdini (Arizona State)

Betsy Levy Paluck (Princeton University)

**Format:** 40-minute Presentation, 20-minute Q&A

12:30 – 1:00 PM

Networking and Lunch Buffet

Wexner Commons, Ground Floor, Wexner Building

Monday, June 8, 2026

1:00 - 2:00 PM

**Seated Lunch & TED-Style Book Panel #1**

HKS John F. Kennedy Forum

**Book authors:**

Angela Duckworth (University of Pennsylvania),

*Situated: Finding the People and Places That Bring Out Your Best*

Judd Kessler (University of Pennsylvania), *Lucky by Design*

Michael Hallsworth (Behavioral Insights Team), *The Hypocrisy Trap*

2:15 - 3:15 PM

**Breakout Paper Session IV**

**Topic A: Taking Behavioral Evidence to Scale**

Wexner 436

**Session Chair: Iris Bohnet** (Harvard University)

**Talk 1: Iris Bohnet**

(Harvard University)

*Fairness at Work: Behavioral Science in Organizations*

**Talk 3: Feiyi Wang**

(University of Pennsylvania)

*Integrating Behavioral Science Theory with Large Language Models to Study Persuasion at Scale*

**Talk 2: Janna Ter Meer**

(Scripps Research Translational Institute)

*The Role of Cohort Effects on Efficacy Reduction at Scale: Evidence from the Rollout of a Large Digital Health Intervention*

Monday, June 8, 2026

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Breakout Paper Session IV (*continued*)

**Topic B: Public Narratives and Opinion Change**

Wexner 330

**Session Chair: Jan Gerrit Voelkel** (Cornell University)

**Talk 1: Jan Gerrit Voelkel**

(Cornell University)

*Using Crowdsourced Megastudies to Identify the Most Effective Strategies for Changing Public Opinion*

**Talk 3: Molly Moore**

(Washington University in St Louis)

*Stories That Move People: Examining Public Narrative in Leadership*

**Talk 2: Christian Elbaek**

(Aarhus University)

*Megastudy Testing 20 Treatments to Increase Support for Wealth Redistribution*

**Topic C: Behavior Science in Organizations**

Wexner 332

**Session Chair: Julia Lee Cunningham** (University of Michigan)

**Talk 1: Julia Lee Cunningham**

(University of Michigan)

*Humanizing the Frontlines: Individuating Connections Reduce Customer Mistreatment*

**Talk 3: Brenda Sciepora**

(University of California, Berkeley & Harvard University)

*Highlighting Pay Backfires in International Health Worker Recruitment*

**Talk 2: Cassandra Merritt**

(University of Notre Dame)

*AI Adoption, Manager Beliefs, and Hiring Intentions*

Monday, June 8, 2026

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Breakout Paper Session IV (*continued*)

**Topic D: Behavior Science in Health Policy**

Rubenstein 306

Session Chair: Gretchen Chapman (Carnegie Mellon University)

**Talk 1: Gretchen Chapman**

(Carnegie Mellon University)

*Differential Views of Influenza and COVID Vaccines*

**Talk 3: Sarah (Shih-Hua) Chen**

(Harvard University)

*Same Emotion, Opposite Effects: The Role of Emotional Relevance in Public Health Campaigns*

**Talk 2: Jeffrey Linder**

(Northwestern University)

*Effect of Personalized Risk Communication, Precommitments, and Accountability on Opioid Prescribing*

**Talk 4: Amir Goren**

(Geisinger Health)

*Nudges Can Help Crack the Nut of Emergency Department Overuse: Evidence from Five Field Trials*

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Coffee/tea break

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

3:30 - 4:30 PM

**TED-Style Book Panel #2**

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

**Book authors:**

Julia Minson (Harvard University),

*How to Disagree Better*

Baruch Fischhoff (Carnegie Mellon),

*Decisions: Studying and Supporting People Facing Hard Choices*

Nick Epley (University of Chicago),

*A Little More Social: How Small Choices Create Unexpected Happiness, Health, & Connection*

## Monday, June 8, 2026

4:45 - 5:45 PM

### Closing Plenary IV

*Behavioral Science for Strengthening Democracy*

HKS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum

**Speakers:**

Danielle Allen (Harvard University)

Archon Fung (Harvard University)

**Moderator:** Nancy Gibbs (Harvard University)

5:45 - 6:00 PM

### Awards Presentation & Closing Remarks

HKS John F. Kennedy Forum

**Presenters:** Craig Fox & Sim Sitkin, BSPA Co-Presidents

6:00 - 7:00 PM

### Reception

Wexner Commons, Ground Floor, Wexner Building

7:00 PM onward

### Networking Dinners (optional)

Meet in lobby

On your own or in groups (sign-up available)

## Poster Presentations

Sunday, June 7, 5:30–6:45 PM

**Lefteris (JASON) Anastasopoulos**

(University of Georgia)

*Rational Irreproducibility: Publication Incentives, P-Hacking, and Optimal Mechanism Design*

**Nick Byrd**

(Geisinger College of Health Sciences)

*Moral Surgery: 1st- vs. 3rd-personal Judgments About Pre- vs. Post-operation Identity*

**Romain Cadario**

(Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management)

*Effectiveness of Screen Time Management Apps Across 104 Countries: Implications for Digital Well Being*

**Declan Carroll**

(University of Colorado Boulder)

*Parlay Share and Overconfidence in Online Sports Betting*

**Laura Cojocaru**

(MDRC)

*When Does Information Work? Lessons on Strategic Information Design from Fifteen Years of Behavioral*

**Matt Darling and Karla Terroba**

(MEF Associates)

*Applying Behavioral Science at Scale: Improving Public Benefit Communications Across Hundreds of Doc*

**Yalda Daryani**

(University of Southern California)

*The Homogenizing Engine: AI's Role in Standardizing Culture and the Path to Policy*

**Brenden Eum**

(Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto)

*Cognition is the Invisible Hand: Response Times Encourage Market Efficiency*

**Carolyn Fan**

(Cornell University)

*Structural Racism and LGBTQ+ Discrimination in State Policy: Implications for Healthcare Access*

**Paula Freiría**

(Ceibal)

*Improving Secondary School Attendance through Family Engagement: Evidence from a RCT in Uruguay*

**Brunno Guarnieri Roso**

(Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration)

*When Burden Hurts: Emotions in Citizen-State Interactions*

**Ashraf Haque**

(Syracuse University)

*Behavioral Performance Feedback: Loss Aversion, Benchmarking, and Bureaucratic Behavior*

## Poster Presentations

Sunday, June 7, 5:30–6:45 PM

**Sara Kay**

(IBM/Carnegie Mellon University)

*Behavioral Patterns in Digital Financial Equity*

**Gordon Kraft-Todd**

(Blink UX / Avangrid)

*Quantifying the Climate Action Gap: Why Individual Behavior Change Needs Systemic Support*

**Huong Le**

(University of Alberta)

*Fairness as Information: How Justice Frames Shape Energy Policy Debates in Alberta*

**Do Lee**

(New York University)

*Belief Distortions, Asset Prices, and Unemployment Fluctuations*

**Lauren Lilly**

(The University of Texas at Dallas)

*Age Differences in Trust Decision and Decision Making: Evidence to Inform Policy Design*

**Christelle Ngnoumen, Sean Asbury, and Kim**

**Nguyen**

(Voya Financial)

*Smarter Frames and Visuals: Turning Information into Better Financial Decisions*

**Ross O'Hara**

(Persistence Plus LLC)

*Continuous Enrollment: Changing the Default in College from Withdrawal to Persistence*

**Grace Roebuck**

(ideas42)

*Meeting Basic Needs More Effectively: Behavioral Evidence from Real-World Systems*

**Lena Schaefer**

(Geisinger Health)

*Timely Reminders Substantially Increase Shingles Vaccination*

**Patrick Sewell**

(Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

*Attention Allocation Under Scarcity: Theory & Experiment*

**Siddharth Sekhar Singh**

(SETS Innovation Labs)

*Beyond Automation: A Socio-Technical Framework for Agentic and Human-Centered AI in the Global South*

## Poster Presentations

Sunday, June 7, 5:30–6:45 PM

### **Katie Skartvedt**

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

*Debiasing Everyday Decisions: Can Brief*

*Interventions Help Young People?*

### **Long Tran**

(The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of  
Public Affairs)

*What Appeals Can Encourage Citizens to Report*

*Public Corruption? Theory and Experimental*

*Evidence*

### **Will Wu**

(University of Colorado Boulder)

*On Consumers' Reactions to Tariffs*

### **Jiaqi Yuan**

(University of Minnesota, Twin Cities)

*When the Wind Picks Up: Technology Hype and*

*Industry Dynamics*

### **Allison Zelkowitz**

(The Center for Utilizing Behavioral Insights for  
Children (CUBIC))

*Can We Make Behavioral Science Itself Easier? Meet  
the CLIMB Cards*

### **Xiuyuan Flora Zhang**

(Brown University)

*Do People Impose a Tradeoff on Mental and Physical*

*Skills for Task and Job Performance?*

## Speakers



**Danielle Allen** is James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University. She is also Director of the Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation at the Harvard Kennedy School and Director of the Democratic Knowledge Project-Learn, a research lab focused on civic education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is a professor of political philosophy, ethics, and public policy as well as a seasoned nonprofit leader, democracy advocate, tech ethicist, distinguished author, and mom. She is a contributing columnist at *The Atlantic Magazine* and was the 2020 winner of the Library of Congress' Kluge Prize, which recognizes scholarly achievement in the disciplines not covered by the Nobel Prize. She received the Prize "for her internationally recognized scholarship in political theory and her commitment to improving democratic practice and civics education."

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**Robert B. Cialdini** is Regents' Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Marketing at Arizona State University. He has been elected president of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology and to membership in the National Academy of Sciences as well as to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professor Cialdini's book *Influence*, which was the result of a three-year program of study into the reasons that people comply with requests in everyday settings, has sold over five million copies while appearing in numerous editions and 50 languages. His more recent book *Pre-Suasion* was a *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Publisher's Weekly* bestseller.

Cialdini attributes his interest in social influences to the fact that he was raised in an entirely Italian family, in a predominantly Polish neighborhood, in a historically German city (Milwaukee), in an otherwise rural state.

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**Angela Duckworth** is the Rosa Lee and Egbert Chang Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, faculty co-director of the Penn-Wharton Behavior Change for Good Initiative, and faculty co-director of Wharton People Analytics. A 2013 Mac Arthur Fellow, Angela has advised the US Department of Education, the World Bank, NBA and NFL teams, and Fortune 500 CEOs. Angela completed her undergraduate degree in Advanced Studies Neurobiology at Harvard, her MSc with Distinction in Neuroscience at Oxford University, and her PHD in Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Angela's TED talk is among the most viewed of all time. Her book *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* is a #1 New York Times best seller.

## Speakers



**Nicholas Epley** is the John Templeton Keller Distinguished Service Professor of Behavior Science, and Director of the Roman Family Center for Decision Research, at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He studies social cognition—how thinking people think about other thinking people—to understand why smart people so routinely misunderstand each other. He teaches an ethics and wellbeing course to MBA students called Designing a Good Life. His research has been featured by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, Wired, and National Public Radio, among many others, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the Templeton Foundation. He has been awarded the 2008 Theoretical Innovation Award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, the 2011 Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology from the American Psychological Association, the 2015 Book Prize for the Promotion of Social and Personality Science, and the 2018 Career Trajectory Award from the Society for Experimental Social Psychology. Epley was named a "professor to watch" by the *Financial Times*, one of the "World's Best 40 under 40 Business School Professors" by Poets and Quants, and one of the 100 Most Influential in Business Ethics by Ethisphere. He is the author of *Mindwise: How We Understand What Others Think, Believe, Feel, and Want* (2014), and *A Little More Social: How Small Choices Create Unexpected Happiness, Health, and Connection* (2026).



**Baruch Fischhoff** is Howard Heinz University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University. A graduate of the Detroit Public Schools, he holds a BS (Mathematics, Psychology) from Wayne State University and a PhD (Psychology) from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medicine, and a past President of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making and the Society for Risk Analysis. His work bridges basic and applied research on public and private health, safety, environment, and national security decisions. His books include *Risk: A Very Short Introduction* (2011, Oxford), *Bounded Disciplines and Unbounded Problems* (2025, Oxford), and *Decisions* (2025, MIT).



**Craig R. Fox** is the Harold Williams Professor of Management and Chair of the Behavioral Decision Making area at the UCLA Anderson School, and Professor of Psychology and Medicine at UCLA. His research focuses on judgment and decision making under uncertainty, choice architecture, political psychology, and human-AI collaborative decision making—with applications to health, financial, and legal decision making as well as promoting civic engagement.

## Speakers



**Archon Fung** directs the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation and is the Winthrop Laflin McCormack Professor of Citizenship and Self-Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. He examines policies and practices that aim to deepen democracy, especially through public participation, deliberation, and transparency. His books include *Empowering Affected Interests: Democratic Inclusion in A Globalized World* (edited by Archon Fung and Sean W.D. Gray Cambridge University Press), *Full Disclosure: The Perils and Promise of Transparency* (Cambridge University Press, with Mary Graham and David Weil), and *Empowered Participation: Reinventing Urban Democracy* (Princeton University Press). He served as Academic Dean of the Kennedy School from 2014-2018 and was its Acting Dean in 2015. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and S.B.s in Physics and Philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



**Nancy Gibbs** is the director of the Shorenstein Center and the Edward R. Murrow Professor of Practice of Press, Politics and Public Policy. Until September 2017, she was Editor in Chief of TIME, directing news and feature coverage across all platforms for more than 65 million readers worldwide, as well as Editorial Director of the Time Inc. News Group. Gibbs was named TIME's 17th editor in September 2013, the first woman to hold the position, and remains an Editor at Large. Under her leadership, TIME's digital audience grew from 25 to 55 million, video streams passed 1 billion a year, and TIME won a primetime Emmy award for its two-part "A Year in Space" documentary, produced with PBS. During her three decades at TIME, she covered four presidential campaigns and is the author of more cover stories than any writer in TIME's near-100 year history, including the black-bordered "September 11" special issue, which won the National Magazine Award in 2002.

Gibbs has also served as a consultant to CBS News and an essayist for the News Hour on PBS. She is the co-author, along with Michael Duffy, of two best-selling presidential histories: *The President's Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity* (2012), and *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House* (2007). She is a Senior Fellow at the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy. Gibbs has twice served as the Ferris Professor at Princeton, where she taught a seminar on politics and the press.

## Speakers



**Dr. Michael Hallsworth** is BIT's Chief Behavioural Scientist. Before his current role, Michael was Managing Director of BIT Americas. For 20 years, he has worked as both an official and an advisor to various governments, and has been a leading figure in applying behavioural science to address practical problems. He is the co-author of the book *Behavioral Insights* from MIT Press and his new book, *The Hypocrisy Trap*, is out in 2025. His work has been published in *The Lancet*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, and *Nature Human Behaviour*, and has more than 6,000 citations.

He has a PhD in behavioral economics from Imperial College London and is currently Distinguished Lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania. He has held positions at Princeton University, Columbia University, and Imperial College London.

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**Ezra Karger** is the Director of Research at the Forecasting Research Institute (FRI), where he co-leads a team of researchers producing publicly available tools that advance the science of forecasting. Ongoing projects include an automatically updated benchmark of AI and human forecasting accuracy (ForecastBench) and the Longitudinal Expert AI Panel (LEAP), a longitudinal survey gathering and summarizing expert beliefs about the capabilities, effects, and diffusion of AI. He is also a Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, where he produces high-frequency indices of key macroeconomic indicators including the Chicago Fed Labor Market Indicators (CFLMI) and the Chicago Fed Advanced Retail Trade Summary (CARTS).

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**Judd B. Kessler** is the inaugural Howard Marks Endowed Professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His research and writing have been featured in leading media, such as *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Harvard Business Review*, NPR, Hidden Brain, and Freakonomics, among others. He is a sought-after speaker and an award-winning teacher. His courses in Wharton's Business Economics and Public Policy Department are popular among undergraduates, MBAs, PhD students, and executives. He received a bachelor's degree, MA, and PhD from Harvard University and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge. He is the author of *LUCKY BY DESIGN: The Hidden Economics You Need to Get More of What You Want*, which was released by Little, Brown Spark in 2025.

## Speakers



**Jennifer S. Lerner** is the Thornton F. Bradshaw Professor of Public Policy, Decision Science, and Management at the Harvard Kennedy School, with affiliated appointments in Harvard's Department of Psychology and Institute for Quantitative Social Science. Her research examines how emotion and social context shape judgment and decision-making, with applications spanning health, finance, national security, risk assessment, and risk communication. Her publications range from empirical journals (e.g., *PNAS* and *Nature Human Behaviour*) to synthetic review outlets (e.g., *Annual Review of Psychology* and *Psychological Bulletin*). Advising and briefing leaders across government, military, and private-sector institutions in the U.S. and internationally, she most notably served as Chief Decision Scientist for the U.S. Navy – reporting directly to the Chief of Naval Operations – while on public service leave from Harvard. Among her honors are the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the PECASE, the U.S. Navy Superior Public Service Award, and multiple Harvard teaching and mentoring awards.

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**Betsy Levy Paluck** is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology and of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and the deputy director of the Kahneman Treisman Center for Behavioral Public Policy. Her research focuses on the reduction of prejudice, conflict, and violence, including ethnic violence, youth bullying in schools, and intimate partner violence. She conducts large-scale field experiments to test the efficacy of interventions to reduce conflict both in the US and abroad. Much of her work points to the power of social norms, our perceptions of what others believe, for guiding our behavior. She is a 2017 MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, a fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, and received the Graduate Mentor award from Princeton University.

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**Dr. Elizabeth Linos** is the Emma Bloomberg Professor for Public Policy and Management and Faculty Director of The People Lab at Harvard Kennedy School. Her research uses behavioral science and public management evidence to improve government operations. She studies how to support the government workforce, improve resident-state interactions, and better integrate evidence into government. Before joining Harvard Kennedy School, Dr. Linos was an assistant professor at UC Berkeley, VP and Head of Research and Evaluation at the Behavioral Insights Team in North America, and policy advisor to Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on social innovation and public sector reform. Linos has been named one of the 100 most influential academics in government by *Apolitical*, one of the top 10 influencers in local government by *ELGL*, and the 2023 recipient of the David N. Kershaw Award, which honors people under 40 for distinguished contributions to public policy analysis and management.

## Speakers



**Julia Minson** is a Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the founder of Disagreeing Better, LLC – a behavioral science consultancy and training firm. She is a decision scientist with research interests in conflict management, negotiations, and judgment and decision making. Her main line of research addresses the “psychology of disagreement” – How do people engage with opinions, values, and judgments that conflict with their own?

Her work examines disagreements around hot-button, identity-relevant topics – conflicts around politics, values, and professional and health decision-making. She is interested in simple, scalable interventions to help people become more receptive to opposing views of others. Julia’s work has been published in top academic and business outlets as well as widely covered by popular media including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. She is the author of *How to Disagree Better*, available through Penguin Random House in March 2026.



**Tali Sharot** is a Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London and on the faculty of the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT. Sharot is a Wellcome Trust Discovery award holder, the Chief Section Editor (neuroscience) for *Science Advances* and past President of the Society of Neuroeconomics. Sharot’s research integrates neuroscience, behavioral economics and psychology. Prof. Sharot’s award winning books - *The Optimism Bias* (2011), *The Influential Mind* (2017), and *Look Again* (2024, co-authored with Cass Sunstein) – have been praised by outlets including the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Forbes*, and more. In addition to her academic role, Sharot has served as a consultant for global companies and government projects, as well as on the board of several companies. Her two TED talks have been viewed more than 17 million times total. She has written multiple Op-Eds for the *New York Times*, *Time*, *The Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, and others.

## Speakers



**Cass R. Sunstein** is currently the Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard. He is the founder and director of the Program on Behavioral Economics and Public Policy at Harvard Law School. In 2018, he received the Holberg Prize from the government of Norway, sometimes described as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for law and the humanities. In 2020, the World Health Organization appointed him as Chair of its technical advisory group on Behavioural Insights and Sciences for Health. From 2009 to 2012, he was Administrator of the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and after that, he served on the President’s Review Board on Intelligence and Communications Technologies and on the Pentagon’s Defense Innovation Board.

Mr. Sunstein is author of hundreds of articles and dozens of books, including *Manipulation* (2025).



**Sim B. Sitkin** is the Michael W. Krzyzewski University Distinguished Professor of Leadership, and Professor of Management and Public Policy at Duke University. His research focuses on the effect of leadership and formal and informal organizational control systems on risk taking, accountability, trust, learning, courage, M&A processes, and organizational change and innovation.



**Philip E. Tetlock** holds the Penn Integrates Knowledge (Annenberg) chair at the University of Pennsylvania, with cross-appointments at Wharton and the School of Arts and Science. His work crosses the boundaries of cognitive, political and organizational science and addresses topics such as accountability, value conflict, counterfactual reasoning and taboo trade-offs. He has published widely in scientific journals and has received awards from numerous scientific and professional societies. His current work focuses on forecasting tournaments and their potential to improve intelligence analysis and to depolarize unnecessarily polarized debates on domestic as well as national security issues.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors



## Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy and Harvard Kennedy School for their support to the co-chairs in hosting and organizing the conference.

## Arrival and Check-In

Attendees may check in from **12:30–1:30 p.m.** We will begin the conference **promptly at 1:30 p.m.**, so please give yourself enough time to complete check-in and be seated in the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum.

When arriving on campus, please enter the Harvard Kennedy School through the Wexner Building entrance (the main entrance; **GPS Address: 19 Eliot St., Cambridge, MA**), inside the HKS Courtyard. The attached campus map illustrates the route with a red arrow. After entering, proceed into the Wexner Building lobby, where staff will be stationed to direct you to the registration table immediately inside the lobby. At registration, you will check in with a staff member and receive your conference lanyard.

**Your conference lanyard will serve as your security badge.** Please keep it with you at all times. You will receive your badge at check-in and will need it for both days of the conference. Please do not discard it.

## KS John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum (JFK Jr. Forum)

The HKS John F. Kennedy Forum (JFK Jr. Forum) is located behind and slightly to the left of the registration desk and is easy to find from the lobby.

## Paper Session Classrooms

The four classrooms for the paper sessions are:

- Wexner Building Room 436
- Wexner Building Room 330
- Wexner Building Room 332
- Rubenstein Building Room 306

All classrooms are accessible by stairs and elevators located near the registration desk and the JFK Jr. Forum. For the rooms, the first digit indicates the floor:

- Room 436 = 4th floor
- Room 330 = 3rd floor
- Room 332 = 3rd floor
- Room 306 = 3rd floor

## Wexner Commons

Wexner Commons is on the ground floor, near and visible from the lobby.

## Accessibility

All of our meeting locations are ADA compliant. Assistive Listening Technology is available as needed. Please notify Caroline Kracunas (ckracunas@hks.harvard.edu) of any accessibility needs in advance of the meeting.

## WiFi

1. On your device, select the "Harvard University" wifi network
2. Using any web browser, navigate to <https://getonline.harvard.edu/>
3. Select "I am a guest"
4. Click "register for guest access"
5. Follow the prompts to join the Harvard guest network



