INTRODUCTION

To the Carolina community and beyond, the UNC Program for Public Discourse (PPD) is proud to report on the success of another exciting year of programming, which we could not have facilitated without the support of our students and colleagues. Continuing to build on the foundations we established, we connected with hundreds of new and returning participants and continued strengthening our students’ capacities for public discourse, enabling them to serve as better citizens, civic leaders, and stewards of our democracy.

This Annual Report lays out the ways we worked closely with Carolina students, faculty, and community members through events and workshops that centered this year’s theme of Democracy and Public Discourse. With the return to campus life, we were able to bring all of our collaborators together in-person for important discussions about how to rebuild trust in our institutions and one another.

PPD continues to position UNC as a global leader in public discourse, and we have and will continue to support and work with those on the Carolina campus and beyond reinvigorating the culture of reasoned and balanced debate in higher education.

We thank everyone who was part of the PPD this year. We look forward to meeting everyone who will be part of it during the coming academic year.

Sarah Treul
Faculty Director

Kevin Marinelli
Executive Director

OVERVIEW

Our PUBLIC events connected members of the Carolina community and broader public directly with important voices from across disciplines and professions, exposing them to new perspectives and modeling constructive debate on topics of public concern. (Read more on Page 4)

Our STUDENT programming gave students the chance to experiment with public discourse as Agora Fellows, continue the conversation with our speakers via classroom visits and small group discussions, and learn how to transform their discursive practices in classroom workshops. (Read more on Page 5)

Our UNIVERSITY collaborations saw us working with faculty and programs from across UNC to bring important conversations to campus and further consider how we can encourage a culture of productive deliberation in our classrooms. (Read more on Pages 5)
PPD AUDIENCE BY THE NUMBERS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Relation to UNC

- 9% - Student
- 9% - Faculty
- 10% - Staff
- 41% - Alumni
- 17% - Other
- 14% - No relation

Education

- 2% - HS or equiv.
- 5% - Some college
- 2% - Associate's
- 18% - Bachelor's
- 41% - Master's
- 32% - Doctorate

Age

- 8% - 18 - 24
- 6% - 25 - 35
- 9% - 36 - 50
- 30% - 51 - 65
- 30% - 66 - 74
- 7% - 75+

Political Identification

79% of our audience follows politics "A good deal" or more, and they describe their political views in the following ways:

- 15% - Very Liberal
- 33% - Liberal
- 23% - Somewhat Liberal
- 17% - Moderate
- 5% - Somewhat Conservative
- 7% - Conservative
- 1% - Very Conservative

ENGAGEMENT

- Over 1,700 attendees across all public PPD events
- 94% rated events as "Good" or better
- + 911 subscriptions for email updates
- Over 500 UNC students participated in PPD events
## PUBLIC Events

This academic year, we explored the theme of Democracy and Public Discourse across our Abbey Speaker and Debating Public Policy Series events, modeling how we can better communicate with one another to discuss the interplay of science and politics, rebuilding trust in the electoral process and journalism, and the ways social media and the communities in which we live shape our relationships with one another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbey Speaker Series: Social Media and Democracy: Helping or Hurting?</td>
<td>OCTOBER 2021</td>
<td>Panelists: Siva Vaidhyanathan and Rumman Chowdhury and moderator Yascha Mounk came together to contend with the implications of social media's unprecedented scale and varied role in the communities and political systems of countries throughout the globe.</td>
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<td>Abbey Speaker Series: Bridging the Rural-Urban Divide</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 2021</td>
<td>Moderated by PPD faculty affiliate Marc Hetherington, this panel discussion featuring Samar Ali, Chris Arnade, and Eliza Corey explored how rural and urban residents can better understand disparities in how the other values a sense of place, adjudicates truth, and defines and strives to have flourishing, fulfilling lives.</td>
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<td>Debating Public Policy Series: Voting Reform - an Agnostic Dialogue</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 2021</td>
<td>As part of UNC Research Week, we brought together faculty members Rick Su and Jason Roberts and alumnus Douglas Heye '94 to discuss the contentious issue of voting reform and how to restore trust in the electoral process.</td>
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<td>Abbey Speaker Series: Science and Democracy</td>
<td>FEBRUARY 2022</td>
<td>UNC Provost Chris Clemens moderated a conversation between Luana Maroja and former UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp '86 about how the roles scientists inhabit - be it as citizens, educators, or communicators - complicate their positions in a democracy.</td>
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<td>Debating Public Policy Series: Taiwan and the Future of US-China Relations</td>
<td>MARCH 2022</td>
<td>Our panel discussion with June Teufel Dryer, Eric Yu-Chua Huang, Shelley Rigger, and moderator and UNC professor Klaus Larres laid out the economic, defensive, and ideological factors informing the relationship between the US and Taiwan and how each views Beijing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbey Speaker Series: Journalism and Democracy</td>
<td>APRIL 2022</td>
<td>McKay Coppins, alumnus John Hood '88, and Nafari Vanaski joined moderator Molly Worthen to consider the crucial role journalism - particularly local journalism - plays in democratic societies and the ways individuals and organizations can address the technological and economic factors driving the decline of local news and trust in the media.</td>
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**STUDENT Opportunities**

Our undergraduate Agora Fellows met bi-weekly to experiment with public discourse in a collaborative environment with guidance from Prof. Kevin Marinelli and graduate students Nicholas Gerstner and Josh Youakim. Fellows engaged with subjects of timely concern, including the politics of academia, the meaning of gender, and affirmative action in higher education, through dialogues, debates, and reading groups.

As part of our co-curricular efforts, our numerous student workshops modeled how to articulate positions effectively, engage opposing views responsibly, consume information critically, and, above all, transform discursive landscapes creatively.

UNC students had the opportunity to continue the conversation with our events’ panelists, getting face-to-face time with Rumman Chowdhury to discuss careers in data science, or taking part in classroom visits from Chris Arnade, Samar Ali, and Nafari Vanaski.

**FACULTY Collaborations**

To kick off this year’s theme of Democracy and Public Discourse, we convened a panel of faculty experts for an interdisciplinary discussion. PPD faculty affiliates Claude Clegg, Kurt Gray, and Marc Hetherington and Hussman School of Journalism professor Shannon Mcgregor laid out how research happening at UNC can help us better understand challenges and opportunities for public discourse.

In Spring 2022, PPD partnered with faculty affiliate Emily Boehm to present “Leading Controversial Conversations,” a three-part workshop series hosted through the Center for Faculty Excellence. Across the sessions, dozens of faculty met to learn and discuss methods for setting ground rules for discussion, facilitating productive dialogue, and encouraging students to take argumentative risks.

Throughout the year, PPD worked with various UNC programs to bring timely conversations to Carolina’s campus. Partnering with the UNC Graduate School, Democracy Initiative, and several others, PPD brought Johns Hopkins University President Ronald J. Daniels to the campus to discuss the role of universities in modern democracies, and convened a panel of military, media, and legal experts to discuss the information war taking place in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
**PPD Leadership**

Sarah Treul  
Faculty Director  
*Department of Political Science*

Kevin Marinelli  
Executive Director  
*Department of Communication*

Nora Hanagan  
Event Coordinator  
*Department of Political Science*

**PPD Staff**

Hunter Matthews  
Special Program Assistant

Jonathan Nichols  
Special Program Assistant

**Graduate Agora Fellows**

Nicholas Gerstner  
*Department of Communication*

Josh Youakim  
*Department of Communication*

**Faculty Affiliates**

*Adams School of Dentistry*  
Lance Thurlow

*Department of African, African American, & Diaspora Studies*  
Claude Clegg

*Department of Biology*  
Emily Boehm

*Department of Communication*  
Aaron Shapiro

*Department of Computer Science*  
Jay Aikat

*Department of Economics*  
Luca Flabbi

*Department of English & Comparative Literature*  
Jennifer Larson

*Department of Geography*  
Jon Lepofsky

*Department of History*  
Lloyd Kramer  
Michael Morgan

*Department of Nutrition*  
Elizabeth Mayer-Davis  
Lindsey Smith  
Emma Tzioumis

*Department of Peace, War, & Defense*  
David Delaney

*Department of Philosophy*  
Matthew Kotzen  
Michael Vazquez

*Department of Physics & Astronomy*  
Fabian Heitsch

*Department of Political Science*  
Marc Hetherington  
Kevin McGuire  
Tim Ryan  
Jason Roberts

*Department of Psychology & Neuroscience*  
Kurt Gray

*Department of Public Policy*  
Doug MacKay

*Hussman School of Journalism & Media*  
Deb Aikat  
Victoria Ekstrand

*Public Health Leadership Program*  
Aimee McHale

*School of Education*  
Suzanne Gulledge  
Keith Sawyer

*School of Social Work*  
Travis Albritton  
Tanya Jisa  
Allison De Marco