

DEMOCRACY BOOTCAMP 2022

FEATURING:

politalks



Toronto, ON | November 24-25, 2022

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AGENDA

Thursday, November 24

The Globe and Mail Centre (351 King St E, Level 17, Toronto, ON)

6:30–6:45p.m.	Welcome/Introduction
6:45–8:00p.m.	<p>Panel: Democracy in Crisis Experts discuss current challenges to democracy, including divisive politics, distrust in institutions and disinformation, as well as how to address them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anita Li, journalist, media consultant and educator • Eric Merkley, University of Toronto • Joel Westheimer, University of Ottawa • Moderator: Dr. Sanjay Ruparelia, Toronto Metropolitan University
8:00–10:00p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception

Friday, November 25

The Globe and Mail Centre (351 King St E, Level 17, Toronto, ON)

7:45–8:30a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:30–8:45a.m.	Session Overview + Icebreaker Activity
8:45–9:15a.m.	<p>Facilitating Effective Discussions Guiding principles and approaches for building discussion-friendly classrooms.</p>
9:15–10:00a.m.	<p>Perspectives and Biases Exploring PoliTalks themes and activities focused on perspectives, values and biases, and strategies for fostering constructive discourse.</p>

10:00-10:15a.m. **BREAK**

10:15-11:00a.m. **Discussing Controversial Issues**

Best practices for facilitating political discussions in the classroom, including table discussion using a Structured Academic Controversy protocol.

Digital Platforms & Verification Skills

11:00a.m.-12:00p.m. An introduction to the relationship between online information and informed citizenship, followed by a hands-on practice session using CTRL-F lateral reading skills.

12:00-12:45p.m. **LUNCH**

Panel: The State of Political Discourse

12:45–1:55p.m. Current and past members of Parliament discuss what they are observing and experiencing as part of their roles in the current political climate.

- Charlie Angus, NDP MP for Timmins-James Bay
- Michelle Rempel Garner, CPC MP for Calgary-Nose Hill
- Maryam Monsef, former LPC MP for Peterborough—Kawartha
- Moderator: Ian Bailey, The Globe & Mail

1:55p.m.-2:50p.m. **Challenges in Classroom Discussion**

Developing a process-based framework, while working through common challenges in classroom discussion.

2:50–3:00p.m. **Closing remarks**



CHARLIE ANGUS

Charlie Angus has been the Member of Parliament for Timmins-James Bay since 2004. He is the NDP's Critic for Natural Resources and Indigenous Youth. He has published 8 books on northern and resource issues including his most recent book *Cobalt: Cradle of the Demon Metals/Birthplace of a Mining Superpower*. He is the lead singer of the band *Grievous Angels*. He has won multiple awards for his work in politics and social activism.



IAN BAILEY

Ian Bailey is a reporter with The Globe and Mail's Ottawa bureau and author of the Globe's daily Politics Briefing newsletter. He previously was with The Globe's Vancouver bureau, covering politics and general news. Prior to arriving at The Globe, he reported from Toronto and St. John's for The Canadian Press. He has also covered British Columbia for the Canadian Press, The National Post and The Province. He was born in the U.K., raised in the Toronto area and graduated from York University and Toronto Metropolitan University.



MICHELLE REMPEL GARNER

Michelle is a Canadian Member of Parliament, who has served in a number of senior roles in both government and opposition. She has served in Canada's federal cabinet as the Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, and as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment. Her previous roles in opposition include serving as the Shadow Minister for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Shadow Minister for Industry and Economic Development, the Shadow Minister for Health in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Shadow Minister for Natural Resources. She has also held the roles of Vice Chair of the House Standing Committees on Industry, on Immigration, on Health, and on Natural Resources.



ANITA LI

Anita Li is a longtime journalist, news entrepreneur, media consultant and educator with over two decades of experience as a multi-platform journalist at outlets across North America. Currently, she is the founder, CEO and editor-in-chief of *The Green Line*, a local Toronto-based news outlet. Anita is also a journalism instructor at Toronto Metropolitan University, the City University of New York and Centennial College. Her areas of expertise include community-driven journalism, audience engagement, journalism entrepreneurship, consumer revenue business models, newsroom diversity, media ethics and journalism innovation. Anita co-founded Canadian Journalists of Colour in 2018, and is also a member of the board of directors for the Online News Association and LION (Local Independent Online News) Publishers. To keep up with Anita, subscribe to *The Other Wave*, her journalism innovation newsletter about challenging the status quo in Canadian media.



ERIC MERKLEY

Dr. Eric Merkley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto. His work focuses on the causes and consequences of mass polarization in Canada, highlighting the increasing relationship between ideology and partisan identity and the downstream implications for inter-party animus. He is also interested in the individual and contextual factors shaping citizen attitudes towards areas of expert consensus and behavioural compliance with public health recommendations. He has published articles in the *American Political Science Review*, *Nature Human Behaviour*, the *Journal of Politics*, the *British Journal of Political Science*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Communication*, and the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, among others.



MARYAM MONSEF

Maryam Monsef is the Founder and CEO of ONWARD. She is a globally recognized feminist, leader, and changemaker. This Afghan-Canadian activist comes from a long line of strong and resilient women. Against all odds, she escaped war and survived poverty and displacement. She rose from refugee, to community organizer, to Cabinet Minister where she drove social and economic justice files for the Government of Canada at home and abroad.



SANJAY RUPARELIA

Sanjay Ruparelia is an Associate Professor of Politics, and the Jarislowsky Democracy Chair, at Toronto Metropolitan University. His major publications include *Divided We Govern: coalition politics in modern India*; *The Indian Ideology*; and *Understanding India's New Political Economy*. He regularly contributes op-eds and commentary to various media (including the CBC, CTV, *Globe and Mail*, *Open Canada*, *Policy Options*, and *Toronto Star*). Sanjay is a co-chair of the Participedia network, which examines democratic innovations around the world; associate editor of *Pacific Affairs*; and a country expert for *V-Dem: the Varieties of Democracy Project*. He co-hosts *On the Frontlines of Democracy*, a monthly public lecture series, with the Toronto Public Library.



JOEL WESTHEIMER

Dr. Joel Westheimer is the University Research Chair in Democracy and Education at the University of Ottawa and an education columnist for CBC Radio (The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation). Author, speaker, and education advocate, he also co-directs (with John Rogers, UCLA) The Inequality Project, investigating what North American schools are teaching about economic inequality. He is the author of more than 200 academic and professional journal articles, book chapters, and books, including the critically acclaimed *What Kind of Citizen: Educating Our Children for the Common Good*, *Pledging Allegiance: The Politics of Patriotism in America's Schools* (foreword by Howard Zinn) and *Among Schoolteachers: Community, Autonomy and Ideology in Teachers' Work*.

CIVIX (civix.ca)

CIVIX is a non-partisan registered Canadian charity dedicated to strengthening democracy through experiential civic education.

CIVIX programming focuses on elections, government budgets, elected representatives, digital media literacy and constructive discourse.

PoliTalks (politalks.ca)

PoliTalks supports educators in bringing political discussions to the classroom. Resources and tools are designed to help students practice active listening, perspective-taking, and respectful self-expression skills, and build relevant contextual awareness.

CTRL-F (ctrl-f.ca)

Named for the keyboard shortcut for 'find,' CTRL-F is an evidence-based program that equips students with lateral reading skills to evaluate online information and to determine what to trust.

Rep Day

Rep Day connects students with their elected representatives for a virtual or in-person meeting. Rep Day aims to help students develop a better understanding of and sense of trust in the people and institutions within our democracy.

Student Budget Consultation (budgetconsultation.ca)

The Budget Consultation combines civic education and financial literacy. Students learn about budgeting, examine the government's revenue and expenses, and explore current issues and political perspectives, before offering their own opinions on the upcoming federal budget.