

MIT History Faculty, Anthropology Program, & the Program in Science, Technology and Society present the
Democracy, Citizenship, and Technology Series

SOCIAL MEDIA and DEMOCRACY

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Panel Discussion featuring:



JENNIFER LIGHT, Moderator

MIT

Director of the MIT Program in Science, Technology, and Society; Bern Dibner Professor of the History of Science and Technology; and, Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, her eclectic interests span the history of science and technology in America over the past 150 years. She is especially fascinated by smart peoples' bad ideas: efforts by well-intentioned scientists and engineers to apply scientific methods and technological tools to solve social and political problems. She is the author of *From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in a Digital Age*.



SIVA VAIDHYANATHAN, Panelist

University of Virginia

Author of *Anti-Social Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy*; and, *The Googlization of Everything*. He has argued that academics from many fields associated with what he calls "Critical Information Studies" (which synthesizes, yet also goes beyond, key aspects of both Cultural Studies and Political Economy) should be engaged in interrogating the "structures, functions, habits, norms, and practices" of particular aspects of information culture and in analyzing how these issues go beyond simple arguments about digital "rights" to include consideration of the more subtle impacts of cost and access that have the potential for chilling effects on a "semiotic democracy" that is situated in "global flows of information."



JOAN DONOVAN, Panelist

Data and Society

Project lead on media manipulation. For several years, Dr. Donovan has conducted action research with different networked social movements in order to map and improve the communication infrastructures built by protesters. In her role as a participant, she identifies information bottlenecks, decodes algorithmic behavior, and connects organizations with other like-minded networks.



DANIEL WEITZNER, Panelist

MIT

A leader in the development of Internet public policy from its inception, Prof. Weitzner is making fundamental contributions to the successful fight for strong online free expression protection in the United States Supreme Court, crafting laws that provide protection against government surveillance of email and web browsing data. His work on US legislation limiting the liability of Internet Service Providers laid the foundations for social media services and supporting the global free flow of information online.



R. DAVID EDELMAN, Panelist

MIT

Formerly Special Assistant to the President for Economic and Technology Policy at the National Economic Council (NEC), he led the White House team focusing on the digital economy — including broadband, spectrum telecommunications, and technology trade — as well as consumer cybersecurity, domestic and international data privacy, high-tech patent and copyright issues, and antitrust/competition.

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

MIT Building 10 - Room 250

4:30pm - 6:30pm

Pizza will be provided at the end of the discussion outside the lecture hall.

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