

Protecting our Democracy: Understanding American Political Talk in the Age of Infotainment

A talk by linguist Kathryn Ruud

**Sunday, March 27th 4 – 6 p.m.
Hood College Whitaker Center**

What is happening to political dialogue in the US?

Why did we stop listening to each other?

What can we do to bring civility and respect back?

How can we make political discussion less polarizing and more helpful?

Linguist Kathryn Ruud has studied the manipulative language used by fascists in interwar Germany and by communists in post-World War II East Germany. She applies her understanding to the analysis of polarized political discourse, arguing that many of the tactics used by propagandists from both extremes are undermining political discussion in the U.S. today. She outlines seven major strategies of polarization, and introduces personal strategies for public and private communication to counter destructive political talk.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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