

# Representative Government and Political Polarization

Association of Centers for the Study of Congress  
Annual Meeting  
May 8-10, 2019

Hosted by the Center for Legislative Archives  
National Archives and Records Administration – Washington, DC



# Representative Government and Political Polarization

ACSC 2019

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## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF CONGRESS (ACSC)

The Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) was founded in 2003 as an independent alliance of organizations and institutions which promote the study of the U.S. Congress.

ACSC draws on the talents and resources of its members to promote a wide range of programs and research opportunities related to Congress. Many of the member institutions house archival collections of the papers of current and former members of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and other related research collections.

The membership of ACSC incorporates over sixty institutions located in thirty-two states.

Connect with ACSC:

[congresscenters.org](http://congresscenters.org) | [facebook.com/congresscenters](https://facebook.com/congresscenters) | [twitter.com/congresscenters](https://twitter.com/congresscenters)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

**8:30 am—12:30 pm Convening and Moderating a Deliberative Forum Workshop**

This workshop fulfills an ACSC goal to provide its member institutions training and experience in establishing civic engagement programs that foster public deliberation on important issues that come before Congress and the nation. Attendees will use *A Discussion Guide for Community Dialogue* and *A Guide for Forum Conveners and Moderators* prepared by ACSC-member congressional centers in partnership with Kettering Foundation.

The workshop will cover:

- What is Deliberation and Why it Matters
- Components of an Issues Forum
- The Moderator's Role
- How to Construct Questions for Deliberation
- Opportunities to Practice Moderating
- Resources

**Instructor:**

Margaret Holt, Charles F. Kettering Foundation

**Noon**

Check-In

**12:30 pm**

Lunch

Welcome by Program Committee

Welcome by ACSC President and introduction of officers and committee chairs

Membership report and Introduction of New Members

Preview of Business Meeting and Announcements of Award Winners

**1:30 pm**

Session 1

**Keynote: *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War* with Joanne B. Freeman**

After more than fifteen years of research, historian Joanne Freeman -- a leading authority on early American political culture -- has uncovered roughly seventy physically violent incidents in the antebellum Congress, most of them long forgotten. Fistfights, guns and knives, out-and-out brawls: essentially censored out of the period's equivalent of the Congressional Record, these incidents show how violence was a tool of debate in the polarized pre-Civil War Congress, and reveal how new technologies like the telegraph increasingly tangled the give-and-take of national politics at a time of trial.

**2:30 pm**

Break

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, May 8, 2019

- 2:45 pm**  
Session 2
- Outreach Programs that Connect with Teachers and Promote Civic Education**  
Teachers are vital allies in helping centers education today's students to be tomorrow's informed and active voters. This panel presents three programs that model effective ways to engage state-wide audiences of teachers with educational materials that have improved student achievement.
- Moderator**  
Charlie Flanagan, Outreach Supervisor, Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives
- Panelists**  
Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas  
Valerie McVey, Florida Joint Center for Citizenship  
Jay Wyatt, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education
- 3:45 pm**  
Break
- 4:00 pm**  
Session 3
- News Round Up**  
ACSC goes speed-geeking is back! Join your colleagues for a brief roundtable discussion that is immersive, invigorating, and fun. Come to connect with colleagues and follow the exciting work happening around the country in our centers.
- Moderator**  
Blynn Olivieri, University of West Georgia
- Participants**  
Jody Brumage, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education  
Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate  
Hope Grebner Bibens, Drake University  
Rebecca Sherman, Emory University  
Mary Goolsby, Baylor University  
Ryan Semmes, Mississippi State University  
Mike Berry, University of South Carolina  
Zach Johnson, Vanderbilt University
- 5:00 pm**  
**Adjourn**  
Executive Committee Meeting

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

- 8:30 am** Coffee and Danish
- 9:15 am** **Are Your Programs as Good as You Think They Are? A Hands-On Workshop for Evaluation Strategies**  
Session 4
- How do you know if your educational programs are hitting their goals? How can you measure success and isolate areas for improvement? In this session, we'll learn about foundational evaluation strategies and take a hands on approach to program evaluation, by participating in and then evaluating a Senatorial role play program called Today's Vote. By getting a hands-on perspective, attendees will consider what evaluation tools can (and cannot) tell us about the efficacy of a program, and how attendees can apply what they learn in their own institutions.
- Panelists**  
Caroline Angel Burke, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate  
Kelly Bovio, Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate  
Rey Junco, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), Tufts University
- 10:15 am** Break
- 10:25 am** **Founders Panel**  
Session 5
- ACSC was founded in 2003 and has since grown significantly. This session gathers several members who were there at the start of it all to discuss the core concepts and ideas that led to the creation of ACSC, how those ideas were realized, and how the organization has evolved over the past decade and a half.
- Moderator**  
Frank Mackaman, The Dirksen Congressional Center
- Panelists**  
Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office  
Ray Smock, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education  
Sheryl Vogt, University of Georgia  
Michael L. Gillette, Humanities Texas
- 11:25 am** Break
- 11:35 am** **Business Meeting**  
Session 6
- 12:10 pm** Lunch

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

**1:15 pm**  
Session 7

**The *America Contacts Congress* Project: Preserving the Data of Representative Government**

Constituent correspondence with members of Congress captures the interactions between Americans and their elected representatives. Congress manages correspondence with proprietary systems, and data exported from these systems poses major challenges. No repository has processed these large data sets in a replicable way, and data is at risk of disappearing. The America Contacts Congress project, funded by a LYRASIS Catalyst Fund grant, considers how to preserve the data and how researchers will use this unique resource.

**Panelists**

Hope Bibens, Drake University  
John Caldwell, University of Delaware  
Danielle Emerling, West Virginia University  
M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

**2:15 pm**

Break

**2:25 pm**  
Session 8

**Researching in Congressional Collections**

These are extraordinary political times—or are they? Join scholars and archivists for a roundtable discussion of what they have learned from congressional archival collections about the polarized politics of earlier eras.

**Moderator**

M. Alison White, Senate Historical Office

**Panelists**

John Lawrence, University of California Washington Center  
Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston  
Kate Scott, Senate Historical Office

**3:25 pm**

Break

**3:35 pm**  
Session 9

**Members Panel**

This year's members spotlight features a former member and a current member. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin served the people of Iowa together for 40 years, in both the House and Senate.

**Moderator**

Betty Koed, Senate Historical Office

**Panelists**

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Thursday, May 9, 2019

4:35 pm Adjourn

6:30 pm Dinner at “The Loft at The Hamilton” (1600 14th Street NW)

### Friday, May 10, 2019

8:30 am Coffee and Danish

9:00 am **Roundtable: Recent Publications about Congress**

Session 10

Sponsored by The Dirksen Congressional Center

The roundtable, a new addition to the ACSC annual meeting, will feature authors of recent books about Congress who base their work in archival resources. The highlighted publication this year is Robert H. Michel: Leading the Republican House Minority (University Press of Kansas, Spring 2019) edited by Frank H. Mackaman and Sean Q Kelly. An innovative approach to biography, the book includes chapters by more than a dozen political scientists and historians who examine Michel’s career as the longest serving House Republican leader in history. The panelists will explore the challenges they faced in conducting their research and suggest how those of us who manage congressional archives can support research and scholarship about Congress. In addition, a representative of the University Press of Kansas will introduce UPK’s new book series focused on congressional leadership.

**Moderator:**

Frank H. Mackaman, Dirksen Congressional Center

**Panelists:**

Matthew N. Green, Professor of Politics at The Catholic University of America

Douglas B. Harris, Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Maryland

Scott R. Meinke, Professor of Political Science at Bucknell University

David W. Cogdon, Acquisitions Editor, University Press of Kansas

10:05 am Break

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Friday, May 10, 2019**

**10:15 am**

Session 11

### **Sharing Knowledge through Civil Discourse**

The Arlen Specter Center at Jefferson University is dedicated to sharing knowledge with the University and the community through active conversation and presentation. Senator Specter, a leading moderate voice in the Senate, placed the efficacy of policy or law ahead of party politics. In an effort to continue this legacy, the Center instituted two successful programs based on education and evidence based discussion. The first, the Roxboro House Roundtables, are safe place informal discussions led by faculty, community, students and/or staff. In the 50+ to date topics, presenters and roundtable members argued controversial topics in politics, health, culture, law, business and psychology. The recorded Roundtables have been listened to thousands of times as podcasts both nationally and internationally. The format, which encourages the expression of opinion with the purpose of achieving negotiated solutions, instead of acrimony, serves as a model for effective political interaction, debate and compromise. Second, the Knowledge Exchange is a lecture series that shares original research, practice-based creative work. It has successfully featured over twenty research presentations, some of which were subsequently published in national and international academic journals. Since its launch, the Exchange has promoted productive sharing and networking among faculty members, encouraged mentoring of student research, and contributed to an interdisciplinary that has enriched the University community of teacher/scholars, teacher/practitioners, and learners .

#### **Panelists**

Evan Laine, Arlen Specter Center, Jefferson University

Raju Parakkal, Arlen Specter Center, Jefferson University

**11:30 am**

Executive Committee Meeting [If Necessary]

Conference Ends

Lunch

**12:30 pm**

**National Archives Vault Tour**

## 2019-2020 ACSC COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE MEMBERS

### ACSC OFFICERS

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Vice President: John Caldwell, University of Delaware

Treasurer: Danielle Emerling, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University

Secretary: Lori Schwartz, Dr. C.C. & Mabel Criss Library, University of Nebraska Omaha

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Jay Wyatt, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education, Shepherd University

Karen Paul, U.S. Senate Historical Office

Heather Bourk, U.S. House Office of Art and Archives

Richard Hunt, Center for Legislative Archives

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Hope Grebner Bibens, The Harkin Institute, Drake University (ex officio)

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Brandon Pieczko, Co-chair, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia

Michelle Belco, University of Houston

Rebecca Johnson Melvin, University of Delaware

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Samantha Sauer, Co-chair, Paul Findley Congressional Office Museum, Illinois College

Ryan Semmes, Congressional and Political Research Center, Mississippi State University Libraries

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