

## AMICUS CURIAE

LECTURES BEGIN AT 7:00 PM • BRAD D. SMITH FOUNDATION HALL

**CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018****Ask Not: What Each of Us Can Do to Make Our Democracy All It Can Be**

Christopher Phillips is a best-selling author and Socratic Method scholar who founded and directs the internationally-lauded Democracy Café and Socrates Café dialogue movements. He has spent more than 20 years using these initiatives to create more open societies. He will discuss why these thriving initiatives are more needed now than ever, not just in the United States, but also in unanticipated places like Saudi Arabia, where one of the two flourishing groups was started by a young student in dentistry, who sees this as a vital way to open up her society. While focusing on civil discourse to “unrig” democracy and create greater participation, he will illuminate the impact of individuals in shaping our democracy and the laws that govern society and explain how his approaches create far greater reasonableness, thoughtfulness, and inclusivity in this increasingly polarized world.

**CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS** has served as Network Fellow for the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University and as Senior Education Fellow at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. His many ongoing endeavors include co-hosting Socrates Café on New Hampshire Public Radio and moderating Socrates Café dialogues on public radio programs in various states, as well as being a regular guest on interview programs on National Public Radio. He earned his Ph.D. from Edith Cowan University in Perth, Australia, holds Master’s degrees in Humanities (Philosophy), Teaching and Natural Sciences, and earned his B.A. in Government from the College of William & Mary.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Christopher Phillips, *Constitution Cafe: Jefferson’s Brew for a True Revolution* (W.W. Norton 2011)  
Christopher Phillips, *Six Questions of Socrates: A Modern Day Journey of Discovery through World Philosophy* (W.W. Norton 2004)

**CHARLES LEWIS | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018****Twist and Shout: Public Discourse, Political Dysfunction and Democracy in America**

In 395 A.D, the Roman philosopher St. Augustine wrote, “When regard for truth has been broken down or even slightly weakened, all things will remain doubtful.” Fourteen centuries later, in 1816, former president Thomas Jefferson wrote that “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.” Increasingly in the United States today, basic, previously incontrovertible facts and truth are considered debatable, merely matters of opinion. If there is limited – or worse, substantially misinformed – public understanding about our current challenges and realities, how can the American people make intelligent, thoughtful decisions about the present and future of this nation?

**CHARLES LEWIS** is a tenured professor of journalism and the founding executive editor of the Investigative Reporting Workshop at the American University School of Communication in Washington, D.C. A former ABC News and CBS News *60 Minutes* producer, Lewis founded two Pulitzer Prize-winning news organizations -- the Center for Public Integrity, winner of more than 30 national journalism awards, and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, the first global network of premier investigative reporters developing online multimedia exposés across borders. He is the author of *935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America’s Moral Integrity*. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2004 and has been recognized as one of the “most notable investigative reporters in the U.S. since World War I.” In 2018, the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University awarded him the I.F. Stone Medal for Independence in Journalism.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Sissela Bok, *Lying: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life* (Vintage 1999) (Updated)  
Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel. *The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect* (Three Rivers Press 2007) (Updated)  
Charles Lewis, *935 Lies: The Future of Truth and the Decline of America’s Moral Integrity* (Public Affairs 2014)  
Steven Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die* (Crown 2018)



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**JAN-WERNER MÜLLER | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018****After Populism**

In the introduction to his highly-acclaimed book, *What Is Populism?*, Jan-Werner Müller asks, “Is everyone a populist?” After all, as he points out, “No US election in living memory has seen as many invocations of ‘populism’ as that of 2015-2016, in which *both* Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders were labeled ‘populists.’ As Dr. Müller explains, “the term is regularly used as a synonym for ‘anti-establishment’ irrespective, it seems, of any particular political ideas; content, as opposed to attitude, simply doesn’t seem to matter.” Might the popularity of calling all kinds of different phenomena “populism” be a failure of political judgment? In this lecture, Dr. Müller will address the question how best to understand populism and also what structural changes in modern democracies might facilitate its emergence. He will particularly focus on the impact of populism on constitutionalism and legal systems and consider how professional politicians and citizens at large should deal with the challenge of populism. Finally, he will make some suggestions as to how the structural problems associated with contemporary democracies might be addressed.

**JAN-WERNER MÜLLER** is Professor of Politics at Princeton University, where he also directs the Project in the History of Political Thought. He studied at the Free University, Berlin; University College, London; St. Antony’s College, Oxford, and Princeton University. He earned his D. Phil from Oxford University. His most recent publication is *What is Populism?* which has been translated into more than twenty languages.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Jan-Werner Müller, *What is Populism?* (University of Pennsylvania Press 2016)

**CHARLES A. SMITH | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018****Gerrymandering in America: Revenge of the Anti-Federalists**

This lecture will explore the acceleration of partisan gerrymandering after the Supreme Court’s 2004 decision in *Vieth v Jubelirer*, as well as its causes, impact, and legal history. As part of this discussion, Dr. Smith will focus on the emergence of partisan gerrymandering as a serious threat to democratic representation. Although, during the summer of 2017, the Supreme Court had the opportunity, it avoided making any substantive decision on the issue, but left the door open to doing so in the future. Dr. Smith will describe a Constitutional basis the Court could use for evaluating and striking down partisan gerrymandering and will discuss the reasons it is important for the Court to do so.

**CHARLES A. “TONY” SMITH** is Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. He earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California–San Diego, his M.S. in Political Science at Utah State University and his B.A., with honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned his law degree at the University of Florida.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Anthony J. McGann, Charles A Smith, Michael Latner, and Alex Keena,  
*Gerrymandering in America, the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the Future of Popular Sovereignty* (Cambridge University Press 2016)

David Daley, *Ratf\*\*ked: Why Your Vote Doesn’t Count* (Liveright 2017)

Anthony J. McGann, Charles Anthony Smith, Michael Latner and Alex Keena,  
“We have a standard for judging partisan gerrymandering. The Supreme Court should use it.”  
*Washington Post, Monkeycage*: February 2, 2017