CAN WE TALK?

Dialogue and Debate in the Contemporary Academy

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 3, 2019

REGISTER AT
http://sites.bu.edu/humanitiesforums
As director of the Boston University Center for the Humanities, I take great pleasure in inviting you to our third public forum: *Can We Talk? Dialogue and Debate in the Contemporary Academy.*

Forum 2019 will explore one of the biggest challenges facing universities today: the question of how to promote honest intellectual exchange. In seeking a topic that would serve the Boston University community we concluded that no subject was of greater moment than free speech and open debate within our own institutional borders.

Any academic environment depends on its capacity to generate and articulate ideas, while protecting the rights of its various members—faculty, students, administrators, staff—to express and defend those ideas. This capacity, and its status as a value, has become a point of controversy on college campuses and a focus of public discourse.

Our purpose in convening this forum is to address the very subjects that are neglected because they are difficult and generate conflict.

We hope that our dialogue about dialogue will provide a model of open discussion for the larger academic community and the public.

Susan Mizruchi  
William Arrowsmith Professor in the Humanities  
Boston University
BOSTON UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST and
COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES
present

CAN WE TALK?

DIALOGUE AND DEBATE IN THE CONTEMPORARY ACADEMY
8:30 – 9:15   COFFEE // PASTRIES // REGISTRATION

9:15 – 9:30   INTRODUCTION
Susan Mizruchi, Director, Center for the Humanities and William Arrowsmith Professor in the Humanities

9:30 – 11:00

Language Matters: Discussing Difficult Texts

MODERATOR
Gregory Williams, Associate Professor, Department of History of Art & Architecture

PANELISTS
Kimberly Arkin, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
Emily Gowen, PhD Candidate, Department of English
Stephen Prothero, C. Allyn and Elizabeth V. Russell Professor of Religion
Takeo Rivera, Assistant Professor, Department of English
Crystal Williams, Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion

11:00 – 11:15   COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:45

Corporate University: Acknowledging Student, Faculty, and Administration Fault Lines

MODERATOR
Nazli Kibria, Associate Dean of the Faculty: Social Sciences and Professor, Department of Sociology

PANELISTS
Kimber Chewning, PhD Candidate, Department of History of Art & Architecture
Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Peter Schwartz, Associate Professor, Department of World Languages & Literatures
Cady Steinberg, Administrator, Department of History
Jonathan Zatlin, Associate Professor, Department of History

12:45 – 1:45   LUNCH
Shop Talk: Nurturing Honest Dialogue Across Labor Divides

MODERATOR
Jeffrey Rubin, Associate Professor, Department of History

PANELISTS
Charles Chang, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics
Nancy Geourantas, Executive Assistant to the Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Daniel Kleinman, Associate Provost for Graduate Affairs
Jessica Lambert, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology
Marisa Milanese, Master Lecturer, Writing Program

3:15 – 3:45 COFFEE // TEA // SNACKS

3:45 – 5:00

ROUNDTABLE Further Reflections: Looking Ahead Together

MODERATOR
Maurice Lee, Professor, Department of English

PANELISTS
Julie Levy, PhD Candidate, Department of Classical Studies
David Lyons, Professor Emeritus, Department of Philosophy and School of Law
William Moore, Director, American & New England Studies Program
Adela Pineda, Professor, Department of Romance Studies
Carrie Preston, Arvind and Chandan Nandlal Kilachand Professor and Director, Kilachand Honors College

5:00 – 5:15 CLOSING REMARKS Susan Mizruchi

SEE BACK CENTER PANEL FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS.
**COSPONRSORS:**
BU Office of the Provost
BU Arts & Sciences

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**Audience Participation**

We are eager to hear from you!

We will be taking questions using an interactive polling app called Slido.

Go to [Slido.com](http://slido.com) on the web browser on your phone, tablet, or laptop, and enter the code #BUCH103.

We encourage you to submit questions to panelists throughout the conversations and upvote the questions you like.

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Our thanks to WBUR CitySpace for hosting this event.

890 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA

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