



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

KARSH INSTITUTE OF
DEMOCRACY

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

AGENDA BOOKLET

MARCH 22, 2024 | CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 3** **Welcome, New Board Members**
- 5** **Agenda**
- 6** **Program Spotlight**
Elections: 2024 and Beyond
- 7** **Program Spotlight**
Protecting and Advancing Democracy Across the Globe
- 8** **Speaker Biographies**



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

*The Karsh Institute of Democracy
is pleased to welcome nine new
members to the Advisory Board.*

Matthew Barzun

Former U.S. Ambassador to the UK and Sweden
Chair & Publisher, Tortoise Media

Mary Schmidt Campbell

President Emerita, Spelman College

Benjamin L. Ginsberg

Hoover Institution Volker Distinguished Visiting Fellow
Co-Chair, Pillars of the Community
Co-Chair, Election Official Legal Defense Network

Judge Thomas B. Griffith

Fellow, Wheatley Institute at Brigham Young University
Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law and Stanford Law
Special Counsel, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLC

Alondra Nelson

Harold F. Linder Professor, Institute for Advanced Study
Distinguished Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

Pete N. Peterson

Dean, School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University

William L. Polk Jr.

Partner, Egis Capital Partners

Eric Scorsone

Executive Director, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

Evan Smith

Co-founder, *The Texas Tribune*
Senior Advisor, Emerson Collective
Professor of Practice, The LBJ School of Public Affairs

View the [biographies](#) of all Advisory Board members.



AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

Bond House

600 Brandon Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903

8:30 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM **Opening Remarks and Executive Director Report**

Program Spotlight & Discussion

Elections: 2024 and Beyond

Program Spotlight & Discussion

Protecting and Advancing Democracy Across the Globe

12:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM **Small Group Discussions**

Group 1 *Our Semiquincentennial: The 250th Anniversary
of the Declaration of Independence*

Group 2 *General Assembly Training*

Group 3 *Digital Technology for Democracy Lab*

2:00 PM **Closing Remarks**

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Elections: 2024 and Beyond

As Americans become immersed in another presidential election cycle, the Karsh Institute of Democracy is developing an Election 2024 portfolio that explores the importance of U.S. presidential elections for American democratic norms and institutions and the implications of the historic number of elections taking place across the world this year.

Regardless of the outcome in November, this presidential election will have long-term effects on American democracy. For that reason, the Karsh Institute's Election 2024 series is focused on the current election—but with an eye to the future. It includes a robust public programming schedule for local, regional, and national audiences; surveys and other research that can influence policy and inform the public; and private convenings to connect students and scholars with practitioners and other leaders. The Karsh Institute is cultivating partnerships and collaborations at UVA and beyond to design and advance programs and disseminate research to help shape the understanding of this pivotal election.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. One of the Election 2024 projects we will discuss is an expansion of the Elections 2021 report (bit.ly/KarshInstituteElection2021) prepared by UVA's Jennifer L. Lawless, department of politics chair and professor of politics, and Paul Freedman, associate professor in the department of politics.
 - a. What applications do you see for this type of reporting?
 - b. Are there other opportunities to disseminate this information to additional stakeholders or sectors?
 - c. Who might see this as a valuable resource?
2. Are there other organizations doing similar work about elections with whom we might want to explore partnerships?

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Protecting and Advancing Democracy Across the Globe

This year, more than half the world's population—four billion people—will vote in their countries' democratic elections. At the same time, throughout the world, many people in countries with authoritarian regimes or those threatened by democratic backsliding continue to advocate for democracy. The United States is embedded in these developments, as its own democracy influences—and is influenced by—the larger global landscape.

The Karsh Institute is supporting research and facilitating connections to help leaders secure democratic futures in their countries. Through practitioner fellowships and research-practice partnerships, questions that emerge from the field help inform faculty research directions, and research findings, in turn, help to inform the work of practitioners. These fellowships and partnerships—along with convenings that connect democracy advocates, scholars, and policymakers from around the world—shape understanding, build skill sets, and influence the way in which all participants approach and execute their work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do we tell audiences about our work with practitioners and researchers to demonstrate the impact of this model and to raise the profile of the Karsh Institute's approach to complicated issues?
2. We have forged research-practitioner partnerships in the area described, but are there other sectors (from private to public sectors—including technology, education, media, government) that would benefit from this kind of approach? Or other areas of research on democracy that could benefit from practitioner input?
3. How can we most effectively connect conversations on democracy in the United States with efforts to establish or stabilize democracies in other countries? Do you see value in ensuring public audiences are aware of explicit connections between the two?

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Stefanie Georgakis Abbott

Stefanie Georgakis Abbott is the director of programming at the Karsh Institute of Democracy at the University of Virginia. She served as associate director of presidential studies at UVA's Miller Center of Public Affairs from 2014 to 2022, where she also co-directed the Hillary Rodham Clinton Oral History Project. Previously, Georgakis Abbott taught courses on political science and international relations at Virginia Tech and Radford University and supported project management for the U.S. Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security. She is the co-editor of *Crucible: The President's First Year*, with Michael Nelson and Jeff Chidester, and *Addressing Integration and Exclusion: Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Intervention*, with Yannis Stivachtis. She has published journal articles and book chapters on immigration and nationalism, EU integration, the American presidency, and international relations theory.



Christopher Carter

Christopher Carter is an assistant professor in the department of politics and John L. Nau III Assistant Professor of the History and Principles of Democracy at the University of Virginia. He also is a research associate at the Center on the Politics of Development at the University of California, Berkeley. His research examines the historical foundations of Indigenous groups' demands for autonomy in the Americas. The research for his book project won the 2020 APSA Best Fieldwork Award and the 2021 Juan Linz Prize for Best Dissertation in the Comparative Study of Democracy. His work has been published or is forthcoming in *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Party Politics*, and the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*.



Jessica Kimpell Johnson

Jessica Kimpell Johnson is the director of research for the Karsh Institute of Democracy and manager of the John L. Nau III Lab on the History & Principles of Democracy at the University of Virginia. She received her doctorate in politics from the University of Oxford, where she was a Harry S. Truman Scholar. Previously, she was on the faculty at Columbia University in the department of political science for almost a decade. While at Columbia, she created several new courses for her department and taught the year-long "Contemporary Civilization" course as part of Columbia's renowned Core

Curriculum. Her research has been published in the *European Political Science Review*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, and on OpenDemocracy.net. She has edited and annotated a collection of the works of Thomas Paine, has recently written a chapter on civic ethos for the book *Wealth and Power* (Routledge), and has written opinion essays for various media outlets.



Srđa Popović

Srđa Popović is a Practitioner Fellow in Democracy at the Karsh Institute of Democracy at the University of Virginia. He is founder and executive director of the Center for Applied Nonviolent Actions and Strategies (CANVAS), a nonprofit organization based in Belgrade, Serbia, that aims to teach the use of nonviolence to effect change. Popović was born and raised in Belgrade (then part of Yugoslavia). Popović graduated from the Faculty of Biology in Belgrade, holding a master's degree in animal ecology. Since his early 20s, he has focused on activism, democracy, and human rights issues. In 1998, Popović founded the student movement "Otpor!" ("Resistance!"), which played a crucial role in ousting president Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian dictator who was accused of war crimes. After Milosevic was defeated in 2000, Popović was elected to the Serbian Parliament, where he served from 2000 until 2004. He was a visiting lecturer at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, University of Essex (UK), and NYU, and regularly lectures at Colorado College, Grinnell College, and UVA. From 2017–2020 he served as the 53rd Rector of the University of St Andrews.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 17–18, 2024, Charlottesville, Virginia



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