

# SYMPOSIUM AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

## Truth in the Age of Disinformation

The College of Arts and Sciences at Ashland University inaugurated the Symposium Against Indifference in 2001 as a biennial series of events and lectures dedicated to overcoming apathy in the face of human concerns by raising awareness and promoting compassionate engagement. The Symposium seeks to challenge the University community -- as well as the wider Ashland community -- toward a deeper understanding of difficult affairs and creative personal and corporate responses. Symposium themes from previous years include:

- The Holocaust
- Human nature
- Terrorism
- The promises and perils of technology
- Inquiry into what makes a hero
- Against global indifference
- Engaging in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Environmental sustainability
- Building bridges through dialogue

The 2021-2022 Symposium Against Indifference theme seeks to understand the nature of truth during a time in our history when disinformation, in its various forms, appears more prevalent. We want to encourage conversation and discussion to find productive responses to overcoming obstacles in the search for truth in the midst of confusion and uncertainty.

*"We are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."*

- Thomas Jefferson

**ASHLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

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**SYMPOSIUM  
AGAINST INDIFFERENCE**

Truth in the Age of Disinformation

**FALL 2021 EVENT SCHEDULE**

visit: [cas-symposium.blogspot.com](http://cas-symposium.blogspot.com)



# SYMPOSIUM AGAINST INDIFFERENCE

## Truth in the Age of Disinformation

**2021-2022 EVENT SCHEDULE**

**ASHLAND  
UNIVERSITY**



## Screening of "The Social Dilemma"

Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m.  
Hawkins Conard Student Center Auditorium

This docu-drama explores the dangerous human impact of social networking with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations. A must-see film for anyone who uses social media. This film will be the subject of a panel discussion on

Wednesday, Sept. 22

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence

## Are We Victims of Social Media? A Panel Discussion on "The Social Dilemma"

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m.  
Hawkins Conard Student Center Auditorium

Faculty members and student participants will respond to issues raised by "The Social Dilemma" film.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence

### FACULTY PANELIST



**Gwen Hullman** has over 20 years experience in higher education and over 10 years experience in conflict resolution. She is associate professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies at Ashland University.



**John Moser** is a professor of history and the chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Ashland University.



**Rick Ford** is an experienced, licensed mental health therapist who currently serves as the director of the Ashland County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.



## Hush II-Porcelain Sculptures by Kimberly Chapman

Opening Reception Oct. 7, 2021 from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Exhibition runs through Nov. 7, 2021  
Coburn Art Gallery

This exhibition features three groupings of porcelain sculptures by artist Kimberly Chapman: Bridled Women, Elsie's Arsenal and the Refugee Series. There is a history of disinformation and false claims being used against women. This exhibition centers on what's left behind after terrible things happen through the lens of women and children. The eerie, delicate white porcelain sculptures shed light on these dark topics. The artwork calls upon past experiences as well as emotionally charged sociopolitical issues for its content. By exploring topics like silencing women, the danger of the refugee plight and domestic violence, viewers are given an opportunity to contemplate such prevalent issues in today's contemporary culture.

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Art + Design



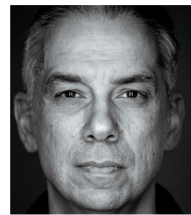
## Is There Free Speech on Social Media?

Friday, Oct. 15, 2021, 7 p.m.  
Hugo Young Theater

Social media companies like Facebook and Twitter are at the center of debates about the integrity of U.S. elections and the limits of free speech. Are these platforms responsible for policing disinformation? What free-speech rights should citizens, journalists, and politicians have online?

Sohrab Ahmari is the op-ed editor of the New York Post, a columnist for First Things, and a contributing editor of the Catholic Herald. Previously, he served as a columnist and editor with the Wall Street Journal opinion pages in New York and London, and as senior writer at Commentary. In addition to those publications, his writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Times Literary Supplement, The Chronicle of Higher Education, The Spectator, Dissent, and America.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashbrook Center



## How to Talk to a Science Denier

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.  
Trustees' Room, Upper Convocation Center

"Climate change is a hoax—and so is coronavirus." "Vaccines are bad for you." These days, many of our fellow citizens reject scientific expertise and prefer ideology to facts. They are not merely uninformed—they are misinformed. They cite cherry-picked evidence, rely on fake experts, and believe conspiracy theories. How can we convince such people otherwise? How can we get them to change their minds and accept the facts when they don't believe in facts? In this talk, Lee McIntyre will argue that anyone can fight back against science deniers, and that it's important to do so, because science denial can kill. His talk will offer tools and techniques for communicating the truth and values of science, emphasizing that the most important way to reach science deniers is to talk to them calmly and respectfully—to put ourselves out there, to meet them face to face.

Lee McIntyre is a research fellow at the Center for Philosophy and History of Science at Boston University and an Instructor in Ethics at Harvard Extension School. He is the author of several books, including The Scientific Attitude, Post-Truth, and Respecting Truth.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland University Honors Program



## The Truth-Telling Project and the Violence of Institutional Racism

Friday, Feb. 25, 2022 at 7 p.m.  
Dauch 105

Since its inception in 2014 after the Michael Brown shooting in the St. Louis area, the Truth-Telling Project has engaged communities in thoughtful and empathetic responses to the problems of racism and violence in our society. For this event, we will have a member of this organization share their commitment to structural change, truth-telling and healing in our society.

Dr. David Ragland is one of the co-founders and co-executive director of the Truth Telling Project and the director of the Grassroots Reparations Campaign. Ragland is a writer, scholar and activist. Ragland recently published a series on reparations in Yes magazine. He currently teaches In-Depth Psychology, Eco-Psychology and Community Liberation at Pacifica Graduate Institute. Ragland co-founded the Truth Telling Project so that marginalized voices could be heard and move society to lay a groundwork for healing, reconciliation and social transformation. Georgetown University's Advocacy lab included Ragland's research as part of the "most important research on advocacy" in the last 40 years. Ragland was recently inducted into the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College. In the past, Ragland served as the Senior Bayard Rustin Fellow at the Fellowship of Reconciliation, board member for the Peace and Justice Studies Association and was the United Nations representative for the International Peace Research Association.

Co-Sponsored by the Ashland Center for Nonviolence



## Filled with Falsehoods and Errors: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and the Battle Over Freedom of the Press -- Then and Now.

Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7 p.m.  
Schar College of Education Room 138, Ronk Lecture Hall

Ever since the Founding Era, Americans have been debating the problem of disinformation in a country committed to freedom of the press. This event will bring an historic perspective to "Truth in the Age of Disinformation" by discussing the ways in which the contentious political atmosphere of the 1790s led to one of the most acrimonious elections in our history, as well as a controversial 1798 law that made it illegal to criticize the federal government.

Robert M.S. McDonald is professor of History at the United States Military Academy. He is author of Confounding Father: Thomas Jefferson's Image in His Own Time (University of Virginia Press, 2016).

Co-Sponsored by the Ashbrook Center