

Building an Active and Engaged Public: Discourse, Media Literacy, and Civic Education

Special Pre-Conference Plenary

October 6, 2020

Link to the recording: <https://youtu.be/jd6qRqAeaE0>

Speakers:

Jimmeka Anderson, The Urban Education Collaborative at UNC Charlotte

<https://www.iamnotthemedial.org/>

Mary Ellen Daneels, Illinois Civic Mission Coalition

<https://www.illinoiscivics.org/>

John Silva, News Literacy Project

www.newslit.org

Moderated by: Dr. Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, Tufts University

www.circle.tufts.edu

Highlights of the chat transcript:

Welcome!

- Bora SIMMONS: Bora Simmons, Eugene, OR
- Shelly Lawson: Hi I'm Shelly Lawson. I live in Kodiak, Alaska which is Suqpiq/Alutiiq homeland.
- Derek Ferguson: Derek Ferguson, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, Basalt, CO
- GraceAnne Taylor: Hi there! Graceanne from NJ...ANJEE and Save Barnegat Bay
- Grace Edinger: Grace Edinger, Earth Force, Traverse City MI
- Kenneth Rainer: Kenneth Rainer, St. Augustine, Florida
- Martha Monroe: Martha Monroe from Univ of Florida from hot and humid FL.
- Benjamin Breslau: Ben Breslau (he/him) - John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, Philadelphia
- Kei Kawashima Ginsberg: Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, CIRCLE at Tufts University. Hello everyone, thanks for coming!
- Cathy Regan: Hello - Cathy Regan, Education Coordinator at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History in Boulder
- Becca Franzen: Becca Franzen, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

- Kelsey McNicholas: Hi there, Kelsey McNicholas here from Atlanta GA. Coordinator of Georgia Mountains Children's Forest Network
- Joy Hazell: Joy Hazell, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- Tania Pollak: Tania Pollak, San Francisco State University
- Gregory Goebel: Gregory Goebel: Educational Program Coordinator @ FAU Pine Jog Environmental Education Center in West Palm Beach, FL
- Chaneen Haler: Chaneen H (she/her), Greenville County Soil and Water Conservation District in Greenville, SC
- Allison Collins: Allison Collins, San Joaquin County Office of Education, La Honda, CA
- Anne Umali (she/her), NAAEE: Hello! Anne, joining you all from Virginia :) too.
- Kathryn Kurtz: Kathryn Kurtz Pacific Education Institute - Squaxin and Nisqually traditional lands - Olympia WA
- Alyssa McConkey: Alyssa McConkey from Earth Force—Ft Collins CO
- T'Noya Thompson: T'Noya, joining in from Houston TX! Hello all!
- Katherine Smith: Katherine Smith. Lexington, KY. AmeriCorps member with Environmental Education Leadership Corps
- Sarah Davis: Sarah Davis joining from Sarasota, FL - UF/IFAS Extension - EE Affiliates LEEF and SEEA
- Pearl Lam: Pearl from Tucson, AZ! Arizona Project WET, University of Arizona.
- Billy Bennett: Billy Bennett, Executive Director, Kentucky Environmental Education Council
- Sarah Davis: @Judy I always love all of your fun graphics and powerpoint images - thank you for the smiles they put on my face=)

What is one thing that relaxes you/brings you joy right now?

- Benjamin Breslau: Dinner with my family
- Kenneth Rainer: Nature outside my window
- Kathryn Kurtz: garen vegetables and herbs
- Judy Braus: I love biking!!!
- Heather Kuhlken: Spending time in nature with my children
- Cathy Regan: Time in my garden
- Susan Cox: Watching the sun rise (now that it comes up later)
- Ashley Belle: Long hikes
- Betsy Wilkening: Play with my dogs
- Elisa Rudolph: deep breaths!
- Derek Ferguson: Recreating outdoors
- Renee Strnad: Kayaking

- Katherine Smith: Biking, quilting
- Katie-Lyn Bunney: Hiking, knitting
- Grace Edinger: Journal + hiking
- Shelly Lawson: Facetiming with my nieces - having zoom talent shows with them. Art!
- Kelsey McNicholas: Yard/garden
- Billy Spitzer: I have found it really helpful to read (not watch) the news. Also, lots of time outside, every day!
- Alyssa McConkey: also the garden!
- Becca Franzen: spending time on the water
- Barbara Martinez-Guerrero: cooking with my kids
- Joy Hazell: adopted a dog!
- Billy Bennett: Long walks in the early morning
- Allison Collins: Reading stories with my four year old.
- Mandy Baily: surf and yoga
- T'Noya Thompson: Playing outside with my daughter!
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Home Reno inside and out
- Anne Ackerman: Daily walks with my dog and family- working in the garden
- Martha Monroe: Baking -- AND Eating!
- Kya-Marina Le: drives on Pacific Coast Highway
- Mary Ford: Calms my nerves to take action related to the election, helping get out the vote.
- Shayla Bruce: Cooking :)
- Julie Watson: Hiking and running!
- Sarah Fisher: Creating a food forest in my yard
- Shelly Lawson: Daily dog walks, nature photography
- Billy Spitzer: Lots of cooking and baking
- R Laurence Davis: Getting up into the mountains here in NH during this glorious fall season
- Sarah Davis: spending time on the water
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Can I come visit you folks to help me destress?

Resources & Chat Highlights

- Mary Ellen Daneels: You might find this segment from **CBS Sunday Morning about the importance of civil discourse as we get closer to election day.** <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-importance-of-civics-lessons/>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Here is a segment on **NPR featuring Kei** from last month about **youth engagement this election season.**

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/05/910102497/young-voter-engagement-in-this-years-election>

- Mary Ellen Daneels: **Mikva Challenge** is hosting a FREE event tomorrow from 6-7 p.m. Chicago time on Teaching During this Time of Polarization if anyone is interested. <https://mikvachallenge.org/blog/the-impact-of-political-polarization-on-teaching/>
- **CIRCLE has a great Youth Electoral Significance (YES) Index** that you might find interesting post webinar. <https://circle.tufts.edu/explore-our-data/youth-electoral-significance-index>
- Sarah Johnson: I've noticed over and over the lack of teen boys participating in climate change work I'm involved in... it's an interesting observation
- Mary Ellen Daneels: if this is intriguing to you, you might like this white paper helpful. **Let's Go There: Race, Ethnicity, and a Lived Civics Approach to Civic Education**
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e20c70a7802d9509b9aeff2/t/5e66cd4feddd0f57bb759f21/1583795568756/LetsGoThere_Paper_V17.pdf
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Here is a great **article from CIRCLE describing 18 things those under 18 can do to engage in the elections.**
<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/growing-voters-18-ways-youth-under-18-can-contribute-elections>
- Sarah Johnson: I know of high school students who don't know about post offices, where they are located and how they work...
- Mary Ellen Daneels: We have more **cross curricular resources to #teach 2020** and foster authentic engagement in our **Election 2020 Toolkit**
<https://www.illinoiscivics.org/resources/election-2020-toolkit>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: The kids I work with say I am old if I am on FB LOL
- Katrina Thomas: I have a feeling that Facebook percentage is going to get lower.
- Mary Ellen Daneels: **Stanford has great open resources to teach and measure civic online reasoning.** <https://cor.stanford.edu/>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: @Rebecca Rolnick- I created a digital breakout on how to vote if interested. Happy to share for your webinar on the same topic. It is not a breakout session. It is **a breakout room/escape room activity** to engage people during your webinar. Here is the lesson plan you can adapt for your use. <http://documents.mccormickfoundation.org/lesson-plans/illinois-voting-101.pdf>
- Betsy Wilkening: **Fake news game** <https://www.getbadnews.com/#intro> And **Cranky Uncle from John Cook** <https://crankyuncle.com/>

- R Laurence Davis: When I taught Env Sci at the University level (retired now), evaluating credibility of news and internet sites was a theme that ran through the whole class. Would have been interesting to survey them before and after (not in my wheelhouse-I'm a geologist).
- Judy Braus: How should we live together?
- Sarah Johnson: this is such a great conversation! Thank you NAAEE for hosting this
- Martha Monroe: Thomas Jefferson in 1820: I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control without a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.
- Sara Burrell: How do we teach and encourage news literacy when so many of our older role models demonstrate and propagate such poor media literacy and civic engagement?
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Here is a great **one pager about dialogue vs. debate.**
<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/Dialogue%2Bvs%2BDebate%2B-%2BUSIP%2BGlobal%2BCampus.pdf>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: For those interested, I did a **webinar for NAAEE on how to create a climate for navigating difficult conversations.**
<https://naaee.org/eepro/learning/webinars/webinar-navigating-difficult>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Here is a link to the second webinar that specifically shares how to structure dialogues and match the right strategy with your purpose. <https://naaee.org/eepro/learning/webinars/webinar-navigating-difficult-0>
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Here is a link to Jimmeka's great website!
<https://www.iamnotthedia.org/>
- Kelsey McNicholas: What hopeful and powerful work, Jimmeka! Thank you for sharing it with us!
- Molly Gillespie: Jimmeka, I am so thrilled to know this work exists- so important for our youth! Thank you!
- T'Noya Thompson: This is such a wonderful conversation and such great information! Thank you all for all of the work you do!
- R Laurence Davis: This discussion is particularly relevant to science education and science-based EE. We have to separate "beliefs from facts. In the end, we, as scientists, have to ask the Earth in order to verify things. This is where it gets messy as the Earth refuses to be tidy. Most of the public does

not understand this and with the bombardment of material on the web, it becomes even harder to know.

- Mary Ellen Daneels: We do I **microcredential on current and controversial issue discussions** that is cross curricular if interested, oh, and it is FREE! We really dig into open vs closed issue, strategies, etc.
<https://guardiansofdemocracyteachers.org/>
- Katherine Smith: I would say understanding/teaching an intersectional framework can help lend support to students dealing with the nuances of overlapping political issues.
- Kei Kawashima Ginsberg: as an evaluator of this microcredential program, I can say that it's epic.
- Mary Ellen Daneels: Policy Issues are not just one thing/question...this resource from CERG might help. I would start with the **Root Cause tree**.
<https://learn.teachingchannel.com/ed4democracy/investigation-research>
Here is a link to all of the **CERG videos**.
<https://www.civicsurvey.org/resources>
- Kelsey McNicholas: This was *awesome* thank you everyone!!
- John Silva: If anyone would like to contact me about News Literacy Project resources, my email is jsilva@newslit.org or follow me Twitter @MrSilva
- Judy Braus (she, her): Thanks to all of you and thank you for the great chatter in the chat room! I hope to see you all at the research symposium and conference! :-)
- Molly Gillespie: Thank you to NAAEE for the incredible financial support to be able to join the conference!
- Kya-Marina Le: Thank you so much for an engaging conversation!
- Bart Merrick: Agreed - really appreciated this session. Very informative, even more inspiring.
- Crystal Sandoval: Thank you very much for the information and resources! Awesome to virtually engage with so many amazing and knowledgeable people.
- Billy Bennett: Thank you all!
- Katrina Thomas: Thank you so much! Very interesting!
- Katherine Smith: Thank you!
- Renee Strnad: Thanks!