

Ford Hall Forum - *SPRING 2015 PROGRAMS*

Thurs., April 2: GOOD ENOUGH FOR GOVERNMENT WORK

Old South Meeting House, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Alan Solomont (Dean, Tufts University College of Citizenship and Public Service)

Jim Stergios (Executive Director, Pioneer Institute)

David Paleologos (Director, Suffolk University Political Research Center)

With so many representatives of the people pushing policies that the people don't like, one wonders how we got to this point. If we insist on a modicum of qualification for all who determine how the state runs our lives – including ourselves – it follows that we will reap better results. But should a citizen have to pass a test on current events to vote? Or should our members of Congress have to pass a simple science test to serve on a science-oriented committee? Most importantly, would this method of civic testing break through voter apathy, particularly among young adults, or further alienate them? Let's review whether Americans are savvy enough to participate in a democracy and, if not, how we might adjust our civic processes to encourage us all to rise to the occasion.

Wed., April 8: VIRUS

Main Function Room, SU Law School, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Carl Sciortino (Executive Director, AIDS Action Committee)

Dr. Nahid Bhadelia (Associate Hospital Epidemiologist, Boston Medical Center and Director of Infection Control, Boston University)

TBA (associate, Network for Public Health Law)

Moderator: Jean McGuire (professor of Health Sciences, Northeastern University; former Assistant Commissioner for Public Health and Assistant Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services)

Are community health policies up to speed on the viruses we face in the 21st century? Quarantining is so antiquated – does it even work, particularly when the state can't enforce it? Do the CDC's policies really mitigate the passing of HIV? Where does border law come into play regarding the spread of disease? Ford Hall Forum discusses curbing the transmission of contagious diseases at the intersection of science, politics, and human nature.

Thurs., April 16: VICIOUS ANONYMITY

C. Walsh Theatre, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Arthur Chu (blogger, *The Daily Beast* and repeat winner, *Jeopardy*)

Jason Tuohey (Editor, BostonGlobe.com)

Sarah Sobieraj (Associate Professor of sociology, Tufts University and author, *The Outrage Industry*)

The online world grapples daily with the struggle between freedom of expression and the right to privacy with one's internet presence, particularly in comment sections of popular blogs. Nearly all internet comments are allowed to be anonymous but many people regularly take advantage of that with shockingly abusive comments. Does the American public deserve online privacy? Does the current environment have a chilling effect on others' freedom of speech? Can journalists be expected to take this abuse as part of their jobs, day in and day out? And short of compulsory identity verification, is there something we can do to mitigate the ill effects of this sociological phenomenon?

Thurs., April 23: A BUMPY RIDE

C. Walsh Theatre, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Stephanie Pollack (Secretary, MassDOT)

Steve Regan (spokesman, MA Regional Taxi Advocacy Group)

Steve DelBianco (Executive Director, NetChoice)

Sabrina Maloney (driver, Lyft)

Uber and Lyft are warring with cab companies in every major city and the controversy is heating up in Boston. Are Lyft and Uber skirting regulations and is this related to the safety issues that have arisen with these services? Or are the taxi companies simply crying foul because their business model is outdated? In this conversation on a pivotal local issue, we talk about what's fair to the companies when the rules of the road change, and what's best for Bostonians on the move.