

heterodox academy

April 23-24, 2026

West Coast  
Regional Conference

# The Value of Viewpoint Diversity: Why It Matters and How to Practice It Well

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - BERKELEY

ANNA HEAD ALUMNAE HALL 2537 HASTE ST, BERKELEY, CA 94720

*Thursday, April 23*

3:00 <sub>PM</sub>	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>Julia Schaletzky, UC Berkeley</i>
3:05-4:00 <sub>PM</sub>	<i>PLENARY KEYNOTE</i> <b>Opening Keynote Address</b> <i>Chancellor Daniel Diermeier, Vanderbilt University</i>
4:15-5:15 <sub>PM</sub>	<i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i> <b>Viewpoint Diversity: Meanings, Rationales, Forms, and Limits</b> <i>Justin McBrayer, Heterodox Academy</i> <i>Anna Krylov, University of Southern California</i> <i>Diego Zambrano, Stanford University</i> <i>Moderated by Paul Brest, Stanford University</i>
5:15-6:00 <sub>PM</sub>	<b>Networking Reception</b>
6:00-7:00 <sub>PM</sub>	<b>Dinner</b>

*Friday, April 24*

8:00-8:30 <sub>AM</sub>	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
8:30-9:30 <sub>AM</sub>	<i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i> <b>Is the Political Right or the Campus Left a Bigger Threat to Academic Freedom and Intellectual Diversity?</b> <i>Sean Gailmard, UC Berkeley</i> <i>Daniel Sargent, UC Berkeley</i> <i>Steven Brint, UC Riverside</i> <i>Moderated by Rick Sander, UC Los Angeles</i>

<p>9:35-10:30<sub>AM</sub></p>	<p><i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i></p> <p><b>Civics Initiatives &amp; Viewpoint Diversity</b></p> <p>Paul Carrese, <i>Arizona State University</i>  Dan Edelstein, <i>Stanford University</i>  Dylan Selterman, <i>Heterodox Academy</i>  Moderated by Paul Brest, <i>Stanford University</i></p>
<p>10:30-10:50<sub>AM</sub></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break and Networking</b></p>
<p>10:50-11:50<sub>AM</sub></p>	<p><i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i></p> <p><b>Shields et al, Closed Classrooms?  An Analysis of College Syllabi on Contentious Issues</b></p> <p>Jon Shields, <i>Claremont McKenna College</i>  Brian Soucek, <i>UC Davis</i>  Will Fithian, <i>UC Berkeley</i>  Moderated by Steven Brint, <i>UC Riverside</i></p>
<p>11:55-1:25<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><i>PLENARY LUNCH AND KEYNOTE</i></p> <p><b>What's Wrong With Those People? How Researcher  Homogeneity Distorts Knowledge Production</b></p> <p>Musa al-Gharbi, <i>Stony Brook University</i></p>
<p>1:30-2:30<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i></p> <p><b>Teaching Strategies for Viewpoint Diversity</b></p> <p>Richard Ashcroft, <i>UC Berkeley</i>  Paul Brest, <i>Stanford University</i>  Miriam Thompson, <i>UC Santa Barbara</i>  Erika Weissinger, <i>UC Berkeley</i>  Moderated by Smriti Mehta, <i>UC Berkeley</i></p>
<p>2:30-2:50<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p>2:50-3:50<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><b>Unconference Sessions</b></p>
<p>4:00-5:00<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><i>PANEL DISCUSSION</i></p> <p><b>Truth, Dissent, and the Limits of Viewpoint Diversity</b></p> <p>Jesse Singal, <i>New York Magazine</i>  Tomas Aragon, <i>UC Berkeley</i>  Moderated by Julia Schaletzky, <i>UC Berkeley</i></p>
<p>5:00<sub>PM</sub></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Paul Brest, <i>Stanford University</i></p>