



Conference Program

MONDAY, JUNE 23

11:00am - 7:00pm <i>Promenade</i>	Check-in and Registration		
3:00 - 4:00pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Welcome and Opening Keynote John Tomasi, <i>Heterodox Academy</i> <i>HxA President John Tomasi will kick off the conference by reflecting on HxA's history over the past decade and sharing major achievements since the 2024 conference, key priorities for the year ahead, and our vision for the future of open inquiry in higher education</i>		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
	GREENPOINT	NAVY YARD	BALLROOM F
4:20 - 5:40pm	(WORKSHOP) <i>Become an 'Honest Broker': Learn Communication Strategies that Resist Political Pressures and Restore Trust in Research</i> Bryan Gentry, <i>University of South Carolina</i> Matt Burgess, <i>University of Wyoming</i> Learn about key science communication styles, including the "honest broker" approach, which separates expertise from advocacy to build trust and reduce polarization. Through real-world examples and hands-on activities, attendees will identify politically charged communication challenges in their work and develop strategies to navigate them effectively in public writing, interviews, and policy discussions.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) <i>STEM Strikes Back: How Elevating STEM Voices Can Restore the Academy's Reputation – and How to Get Them in the Room</i> Ian Hutchinson, <i>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i> Frank Laukien, <i>Brucker Corporation and Harvard University</i> Luana Maroja, <i>Williams College</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Wayne Stargardt <i>MIT Free Speech Alliance</i> This panel explores how STEM faculty can help restore a culture of free inquiry and neutral principles in higher education by applying a scientific approach to institutional challenges. Panelists will discuss strategies to increase STEM faculty involvement in governance and protect their fields from unscientific, anti-intellectual trends.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) <i>The Left-Wing Case for Open Inquiry, Viewpoint Diversity, and Constructive Disagreement in Higher Education</i> Chris Cutrone, <i>School of the Art Institute of Chicago</i> Benjamin Studebaker, <i>University of Cambridge</i> James Livingston, <i>Professor Emeritus of History at Rutgers</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Edward Remus, Northeastern Illinois University This panel discussion will convene explicitly left-wing scholars who support open inquiry and viewpoint diversity in higher education, informed by diverse and sometimes differing intellectual-political viewpoints, including classical political theory, Marxism, pragmatism, social democracy, and the Frankfurt School.
	BALLROOM G	BALLROOM H	BALLROOM I
	(SYMPOSIUM) <i>Beyond the Constraints: Protecting and Promoting Heterodox Thinking</i> Lessons Learned from Soviet/Russian Political Overreach in Universities: Parallels to Modern Western Academia Alexandra Lysova, <i>Simon Fraser University</i> Is GenAI the best adversary when no adversary will come forward? Discussing Indigenization at Wilfrid Laurier University Michael Pavlin, <i>Wilfrid Laurier University</i> Women Are Not Rubik's Cubes: Why We Keep Having to 'Solve' the (Non) Mystery of the Female Orgasm Robert King, <i>University College Cork</i>	(SYMPOSIUM) <i>Sharing Actionable Tools for Achieving Better Scholarship and Teaching</i> Reflexivity Toolkit to Open True Dialogue: Enhancing Educator's Self-Awareness, Self-Inquiry and Responsibility in Higher Education Andrea Valente, <i>York University</i> Three Tools for Protecting the 'Heterodox Way' in Academia Justin Kalef, <i>Rutgers University</i> Moral Values Education: A Framework for Ethical Responsibility in Higher Education Jillian Meyer, <i>Indiana University Bloomington</i>	(PANEL DISCUSSION) <i>Sociopolitical Bias in Medical and Mental Healthcare: Emerging Threats to Patients and Practitioners</i> Andrew Hartz, <i>Open Therapy Institute</i> Sally Satel, <i>Yale University School of Medicine</i> Michael Strambler, <i>Yale University School of Medicine</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Dean McKay, Fordham University This panel examines the influence of socio-political bias and social justice imperatives on medical and mental health fields, leading to discrimination, self-censorship, and overlooked issues in patient care. Panelists will explore the risks of prioritizing activism over professional excellence and propose ways to restore balance and universalism in healthcare.



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7:00 - 8:30pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Open Inquiry Awards Dinner and Ceremony Hosted by Jonathan Haidt, <i>New York University</i> <i>Join us to celebrate our working together to create a healthier culture of higher ed!</i>
8:30 - 9:30pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Networking Reception <i>Open bar and live entertainment</i>





Conference Program

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

7:30am - 6:00pm <i>Promenade</i>	Check-in and Registration		
7:45 - 8:30am <i>Grand Ballroom Foyer</i>	Coffee Service & Light Breakfast		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
	GREENPOINT	NAVY YARD	BALLROOM F
8:30 - 9:50am	(WORKSHOP) <i>What's Emotion Got To Do With It? Critical Thinking AND Emotional Intelligence as Tools for Open Inquiry</i> Catherine Johnson, <i>University of Wyoming</i> Whitney Graff, <i>University of Chicago</i> This workshop explores the role of emotions in critical thinking, addressing how emotional awareness and metacognition can enhance students' ability to engage in evidence-based, productive discourse. Participants will learn a hands-on classroom exercise that integrates emotions into critical thinking pedagogy, fostering open inquiry and meaningful learning.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) <i>Persuading Universities to Take Free Expression Seriously</i> Laura Beltz, <i>Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression</i> Sean Stevens, <i>Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression</i> Nathan Honeycutt, <i>Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Nadine Strossen, <i>Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression</i> This panel will explore how data-driven insights can effectively diagnose challenges related to free expression and self-censorship in higher education and motivate campus leaders to enact reforms. Panelists will share how such data has successfully influenced policies and practices, offering practical recommendations for creating a more supportive climate for free speech on college campuses.	(SYMPOSIUM) <i>The Uses (and Abuses) of Psychology in Academic Settings</i> Post Traumatic Post Truth Disorder (PTPD): How the Politicized Appropriation of Traumatic Experiences Interferes with Open Inquiry Lawrence Amsel, <i>Columbia University</i> Investigating the Impact of a Psychology-Based Online Educational Tool for Improving Constructive Dialogue in a University Classroom Dane Mauer-Vakil, <i>Institute for Multipartisan Education</i> Kelly Anthony, <i>University of Waterloo</i> Embracing Empowerment as a Theory to Reconceptualize Issues in School Psychology Miriam Thompson, <i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i>
	BALLROOM G	BALLROOM H	BALLROOM I
	(SYMPOSIUM) <i>Freeing Science Amid Conflicting Values</i> Breaking the Social Feedback Loops that Constrain Climate Science Patrick Brown, <i>The Breakthrough Institute</i> Open Science and Social Responsiveness: Conflicting Values in Psychology Benjamin Lovett, <i>Teachers College, Columbia University</i> Does Privileging Liberationist Sociology Constitute Pedagogical Malpractice? Anthony Haynor, <i>Seton Hall University</i>	(SYMPOSIUM) <i>The Skeptics' Panel</i> Sign Up or Get Out? How "The HxA Way" Undermines Open Inquiry and Viewpoint Diversity Michael Veber, <i>East Carolina University</i> Kalven's Complicit Executioners: A Critique of the Kalven Committee Report Irfan Khawaja, <i>CorroHealth LLC</i> HxA's Approach to Advocacy and Collaboration within our Community Joe Cohn, <i>Heterodox Academy</i>	(PANEL DISCUSSION) <i>Promoting Pluralism in Practice: Social Work at the Intersection of Truth, Power, and Responsibility</i> Nafees Alam, <i>University of Nebraska</i> Matthew Watson, <i>ProSocial Workers</i> Tiffanie Jones, <i>Grambling State University</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Elizabeth Spievak, <i>Bridgewater State University</i> This panel brings together leaders from the Heterodox Social Work Community and ProSocial Workers to explore how viewpoint diversity and open inquiry can strengthen social work. Panelists will share strategies and tools, such as continuing education resources and methods for fostering constructive dialogue, to promote intellectual humility and uphold ethical principles amid increasing polarization.
9:50 - 10:10am <i>Grand Ballroom Foyer</i>	Coffee Service		



Conference Program

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	GREENPOINT	NAVY YARD	BALLROOM F
	(WORKSHOP) Cultivating Pluralism in the Classroom Mike Whitenon, <i>Interfaith America</i> Discover practical tools to cultivate pluralism in the classroom by transforming diversity into connection and cooperation. Through case studies, role-playing, and Interfaith America's "Respect, Relate, Cooperate" model, participants will learn strategies to foster open inquiry, reduce conflict, and create authentic engagement with diverse perspectives.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) How Should We Respond to the Cancellation of Sociology by the State of Florida? Bradley Campbell, <i>California State University, Los Angeles</i> Rosemary Hopcroft, <i>University of North Carolina, Charlotte</i> Fabio Rojas, <i>Indiana University</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Jukka Savolainen, <i>Wayne State University</i> This panel examines the Florida Board of Governors' 2024 decision to remove sociology as a core course. Four sociologists will discuss the decision's context, evaluate the American Sociological Association's response, propose strategies to engage skeptics, and seek audience input on the role of government intervention in addressing perceived ideological capture in academia.	(SYMPOSIUM) The Intellectual Journey: Helping Students Learn to Think Like Scholars Inviting Undergraduates to the Scholarly Conversation Craig Gibson, <i>The Ohio State University</i> Heterodox Pedagogy for Science Graduate Students Geoff Horsman, <i>Wilfrid Laurier University</i> Preparing for Practice: Fostering HxA Values in Today's Cautious Students Matt Recla, <i>Boise State University</i>
10:10-11:30am	BALLROOM G	BALLROOM H	BALLROOM I
	(SYMPOSIUM) The Battle to Remove Political Intentions Off the Road to Scientific Truth: Three Physician Perspectives Truth in Crisis: The Silenced Resistance to School Closures During the COVID-19 Pandemic Carol Vidal, <i>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</i> From Politics to Truth: Leading the Charge for Scientific Integrity David Atkinson, <i>University of Texas Southwestern</i> Power, Responsibility, and Truth: Increasing Open Expression Regarding Race and Gender in Medicine Kristopher Kaliebe, <i>University of South Florida</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Kristopher Kaliebe, <i>University of South Florida</i>	(SYMPOSIUM) Interrogating DEI Presumptions and Practices (sponsored by AIER) Meritocracy or Inclusion? Unpacking the Tensions and Missteps in DEI Practices in Academia and Beyond Paolo Gaudiano, <i>New York University</i> Diversity for What? Interrogating Ten Rationales for Diversity in Faculty Hiring Azim Shariff, <i>University of British Columbia</i> DEI and Child Clinical Psychology Programs: Implications for Graduate Student Recruitment and Clinical Training Kelly Schwartz, <i>University of Calgary</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Paul Meuller, <i>American Institute for Economic Research</i>	(COMMUNITY MEETING) HxA Arts & Culture Community Meeting The Arts and Culture Heterodox Community will explore how viewpoint diversity and open inquiry can support creativity and strengthen cultural work. We look forward to connecting, exchanging perspectives, challenging our own assumptions, and discovering new ways to collaborate and learn from one another.
11:45am - 1:00pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	The View from the Top: University Presidential Panel Sian Beilock, <i>Dartmouth</i> Michael Roth, <i>Wesleyan University</i> Jeremy Haefner, <i>University of Denver</i> Brian W. Casey, <i>Colgate University</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Nadine Strossen, <i>New York Law School</i> <i>Hear how university presidents understand and manage academic freedom, political pressures, campus crises, and more.</i>		
1:00 - 3:00pm	Afternoon Break		
1:15 - 2:30pm <i>Greenpoint</i>	HxCANADA Community Luncheon <i>All Canadian attendees are invited to join for an overview of HxCANADA, updates from Canadian Campus Communities, and a small group activity on goals for 2025–26 and beyond. A lunch buffet will be provided.</i>		



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	GREENPOINT	BALLROOM I	BALLROOM F
	(WORKSHOP) Breaking the Fourth Wall: Improvisational Theater as a Catalyst for Authentic Academic Discourse Ashley Pryor, <i>University of Toledo</i> Learn improvisational theater techniques to foster trust, open inquiry, and intellectual risk-taking in higher education classrooms. Participants will engage in hands-on activities and leave with tools and strategies designed to enhance listening, normalize disagreement, and create spaces for rigorous examination of diverse ideas in the classroom.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) Academic Freedom Without Responsibility? Social Justice in the Aftermath of the Flint Water Crisis Siddhartha Roy, <i>Rutgers University</i> Marc Edwards, <i>Virginia Tech</i> Hernan Gomez, <i>Hurley Medical Center and University of Michigan</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Siddhartha Roy, <i>Rutgers University</i> This panel will examine cases of data manipulation during the Flint Water Crisis, exploring how well-intentioned advocacy can sometimes distort research and harm the communities it aims to help. Panelists will discuss lessons for academic responsibility in STEM, addressing the challenges of hyperpolarization, media influence, and the balance between validating community concerns and maintaining scientific integrity.	(SYMPOSIUM) Cultivating Freer Speech on Campus Frameworks for Fostering Discourse: Implementing Free Speech Instruction in Different Contexts Across Campus Matt Moreali, <i>Southern Oregon University</i> Willingness to Self-Censor: A Meta-Analysis James Shanahan, <i>Indiana University</i> Campus Speech Behavior by Religious Identity and Observance Shira Hoffer, <i>Institute for Multipartisan Education</i>
3:00 - 4:20pm	BALLROOM G	BALLROOM H	SUNSET PARK
	(SYMPOSIUM) Academic Freedom Under Pressure: Strategic, Legal, and Institutional Responses Encoding Open Inquiry and Academic Freedom in a University Strategic Plan Chris Younkin, <i>Southern Utah University</i> Universities, Faculty Unions, and States in the System of Academic Freedom Mark Crawford, <i>Athabasca University</i> Using the Law to Restore the Purpose of Canadian Universities Rachel Altman, <i>Simon Fraser University</i> Alexandra Lysova, <i>Simon Fraser University</i>	(SYMPOSIUM) Making Change: Live Possibilities in Hiring, Training, and Campus Policy Viewpoint Diversity and Law School Faculty Hiring Byron Stier, <i>Southwestern Law School</i> Truth, Power, and Responsibility in the Training of Mental Health Practitioners Annemarie Slobig, <i>The Chicago School</i> Grace Mannix-Slobig, <i>Psychotherapist</i> Promising the First Amendment: (De)Regulating Speech in Higher Education Max Schanzenbach, <i>Northwestern University</i> Kimberly Yuracko, <i>Northwestern Pritzker School of Law</i>	(COMMUNITY MEETING) HxSociology Community Meeting The HxSociology community will be meeting to discuss our collective response to the decision by Florida to remove sociology from the general studies curriculum, and - by extension - our statement for bringing sociology back on track.
4:20 - 4:40pm Grand Ballroom Foyer	Coffee Service		



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TUESDAY, JUNE 24

4:40 - 6:00pm
Grand Ballroom

**Intervention or Interference: The Role of Legislation in Reforming the Academy —
A Heterodox Conversation**

Mark Bauerlein, *New College of Florida*

Steven Brint, *University of California, Riverside*

Moderated by: Martha McCaughey, *University of Wyoming*

From court decisions protecting the First Amendment to state legislation that seeks to tell us what we can't or must do on campus, there's a lot happening legislatively on the higher ed front. Come hear experts in dialogue on the question of what governments are doing to help and hurt open inquiry in higher ed.

6:00 - 7:30pm
Grand Ballroom

Unconference Networking Session

Light apps and wine & beer bar





Conference Program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

<div>7:45 - 8:30am</div> <div>Grand Ballroom Foyer</div>	<div>Coffee Service & Light Breakfast</div>		
CONCURRENT SESSIONS			
	<div>GREENPOINT</div>	<div>NAVY YARD</div>	<div>BALLROOM F</div>
<div>8:30 - 9:50am</div>	<div>(WORKSHOP)</div> <div><div><div>When Conversations Go Wrong, What Do We Do?</div><div>Carla Silver, Leadership+Design Diego Duran-Medina, Leadership+Design</div><div>Learn strategies to manage difficult conversations while preserving inclusion and open dialogue. Participants will explore proven protocols for addressing conflict, maintaining group norms, and fostering shared responsibility in discussions. Through scenarios and case studies, attendees will build confidence and leave with actionable tools to handle challenging yet constructive conversations.</div></div></div>	<div>(PANEL DISCUSSION)</div> <div><div><div>Creating a Student-Led Culture of Free Speech at Universities Nationwide</div><div>Aimee Guidera, Commonwealth of Virginia Doug Sprei, American Council of Trustees and Alumni Connor Murnane, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression</div><div>Moderated by: Mary Kate Cary, University of Virginia</div></div><div><div>Last month, the HxA Campus Community at the University of Virginia convened free speech leaders to identify best practices for fostering free inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and civil discourse among students. This panel will share their progress and invite HxA members to join us in identifying, promoting, and implementing best-practice solutions across higher education in order to create a roadmap for the future.</div></div></div>	<div>(SYMPOSIUM)</div> <div><div><div>Professors Speak Out: The Truth About Campus Investigations</div><div>Weaponizing the Academic Bureaucracy Lee Jussim, Rutgers University</div><div>Stomp on Jesus: The True Story of What Happened Deandre Poole, Florida Atlantic University</div><div>Dreams from My Father Nicholas Wolfinger, University of Utah</div><div>Moderated by: Nicholas Wolfinger, University of Utah</div></div></div>
	<div>BALLROOM G</div>	<div>BALLROOM H</div>	<div>BALLROOM I</div>
	<div>(SYMPOSIUM)</div> <div><div><div>Frontiers in Viewpoint Diversity</div><div>Has Business Education on CSR Gone Too Far Kimberlee Josephson, Lebanon Valley College</div><div>Broadening Perspectives: The Need to Champion Viewpoint Diversity in Criminal Justice Education Virginia Gleason, Seattle University</div><div>The Question Remains: Philosophy, Heterodoxy, and the Role of Bartleby in Modern Universities Ashley Pryor, The University of Toledo</div></div></div>	<div>(SYMPOSIUM)</div> <div><div><div>Engaging Across Divides: Civility, Authority, and Responsibility in Higher Education</div><div>Don't Do It, Jimmy: James Baldwin & the Duty to Engage Nicholas Buccola, Claremont McKenna College</div><div>Civil Discourse, Judgment, and Institutional Authority Marie Newhouse, University of Surrey</div><div>Antisemitism, Title VI, and the Need for Civil Discourse on College Campuses Sonja Wentling, Concordia College</div></div></div>	<div><div>Special Programming to be Announced</div></div>
<div>9:50 - 10:10am</div> <div>Grand Ballroom Foyer</div>	<div>Coffee Service</div>		



Conference Program

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

	GREENPOINT	NAVY YARD	BALLROOM F
	(WORKSHOP) Curious Approaches to Difference and Disagreement in Educational Settings: The Institute for Multipartisan Education (IME) Way Dane Mauer-Vakil, <i>Institute for Multipartisan Education</i> Shira Hoffer, <i>Institute for Multipartisan Education</i> Develop the skills to maintain trust and integrity while facilitating challenging conversations across differences. Through group activities, attendees will learn about psychological and pedagogical barriers to open inquiry, reflect on personal dialogue experiences, and practice evidence-based strategies for curious listening and facilitation. Attendees will walk away with practical tools to foster constructive dialogue in educational settings.	(PANEL DISCUSSION) Positioning Anthropology for a Heterodox Academic Future David Stoll, <i>Middlebury College</i> Rachel Adler, <i>University of Arizona</i> Michael Jindra, <i>Boston University</i> <i>Moderated by:</i> Andrew Gardner, <i>University of Puget Sound</i> This panel explores how anthropology can contribute to rebuilding a heterodox academic landscape by addressing challenges in contemporary American academia. Drawing on experiences across the discipline's subfields, panelists highlight enduring principles and pathways to transcend current issues and envision anthropology's role in fostering a vibrant, diverse, and heterodox future for higher education.	(SYMPOSIUM) Challenging the Challengers of Free Speech From Mill to Marcuse? Responding to the 'Postliberal' Challenge to Academic Freedom Jacob Williams, <i>University of Oxford</i> Responding to Campus Opponents of Free Speech Aeon Skoble, <i>Bridgewater State University</i> Comfort Women and Communist Spies: Transnational Networks for and Against Open Discourse in South Korea and North America's East Asian Studies Joseph Yi, <i>Hanyang University</i>
10:10 - 11:30am	BALLROOM G	BALLROOM H	BALLROOM I
	(SYMPOSIUM) Pedagogical Tools for Meaningful Student Engagement in the Classroom Executing Campus-Wide Surveys as both a Climate Report and a Pedagogical Tool for College Students Lindsay Hoffman, <i>University of Delaware</i> Using Behavior Analysis to Increase Student Engagement in the Classroom Whitney Graff, <i>University of Chicago</i> Fostering Student Capacities for Civil Discourse: The Empirical Results of a Debate Across the Curriculum Program in Cultivating Intellectual Virtues and Decreasing Affective Polarization Darrin Hicks, <i>University of Denver</i> Steve Johnson, <i>University of Denver</i>	(SYMPOSIUM) Tensions of Truth: Diversity, Open Science, and Gatekeeping in Peer Review Gatekeeping in Peer Review: Is Beneficial Knowledge Being Suppressed? Andrea Clements, <i>East Tennessee State University</i> AI, Campus Culture and Commoditized Peer Review Daniel Coffing, <i>OpenVetting.ai</i> Does Diversity Increase Scientific Productivity? Jordan Beck, <i>Concordia University Wisconsin</i>	Special Programming to be Announced
11:45am - 12:30pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Plated Luncheon		
12:30 - 1:50pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	The Duties and Responsibilities of Scholars Jerry Coyne, <i>University of Chicago</i> Jennifer Frey, <i>University of Tulsa</i> Louis Menand, <i>Harvard University</i> John McWhorter, <i>Columbia University</i> Moderated by: Colleen Eren, <i>William Paterson University</i> <i>Are there universal norms of scholarship that exist -- or should exist -- regardless of discipline? Where are today's faculty getting their ideas about their duties and responsibilities? Join us as our esteemed panelists discuss these and related questions.</i>		



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

1:50 - 2:00pm <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	Conference Closing Remarks John Tomasi, <i>Heterodox Academy</i>
2:00 - 2:30pm <i>Promenade</i>	Resource Table and Meet Team HxA

