

DEMOCRACY BOOTCAMP – PDTCA

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Delta Calgary Downtown, 209 4 Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2G 0C6

8:30 am to 8:45 am — Welcome + Icebreaker Activity

8:45 am to 9:25 am — Facilitating Effective Discussions

Guiding principles and approaches for building discussion-friendly classrooms.

9:30 am to 10:10 am — Perspectives and Biases

Exploring the PoliTalks program themes and activities focused on perspectives, values and biases, and strategies for fostering constructive discourse.

10:10 am to 10:20 am — BREAK

10:20 am to 11:35 am — Discussing Controversial Issues

Best practices for facilitating political discussions in the classroom, including table discussion using a Structured Academic Controversy protocol. This session will also address common challenges that can arise in discussion.

11:45 am to 12:20 pm — Digital Platforms & Verification Skills

An introduction to the relationship between online information and informed citizenship, followed by a hands-on practice session using CTRL-F lateral reading skills.

12:20 pm to 1:00 pm — LUNCH

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm — Panel Discussion

Experts discuss the upcoming Alberta provincial election and current challenges to democracy, including polarization, distrust in institutions and disinformation, as well as how to address them.

- Kelly Cryderman, *Globe and Mail*
- Amy Mack, University of Alberta
- Zain Velji, Northweather
- Jason Markusoff, *CBC* (moderator)

2:05 pm to 2:55 pm — Student Vote Alberta

An introduction to the rationale for the program, followed by a preview of the materials and activities for Student Vote Alberta, followed by a discussion about best practices.

2:55 pm to 3:00 pm — Closing remarks

PANELIST BIOS



Kelly Cryderman is a *Globe and Mail* reporter and columnist who has been writing about politics and all things Alberta for two decades. She has a journalism and political science degree from Carleton University and a master's degree in international history from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has worked for the *Ottawa Citizen*, *Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald*. Kelly makes regular appearances on CBC political panels, and has been a member of the Globe's Calgary bureau since 2013.



Dr. Amy Mack is a co-founder of the Canadian Institute for Far-Right Studies and is currently the Co-Director of Research. She is also a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta, where she co-leads a digital literacy project for young people in rural southern Alberta, and teaches at the University of Lethbridge. She specializes in critical far-right and male supremacy studies and received her doctorate from the University of Alberta in 2022.



Zain Velji is Partner and VP Strategy for Northweather. Zain is a frequent public speaker and regular political commentator who appears on CBC radio and television and election coverage for CTV and Bell Media. In addition, Zain chairs the board of The YMCA Calgary and serves on the boards of the Canadian Children Book Centre, The Samara Centre for Democracy, and Pillar 9. Zain served as campaign manager for Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi in 2017. Zain is also the host of the award-winning podcast *The Strategists* and *The Zain Velji Show* on Newstalk 1010.



Jason Markusoff writes and edits commentary pieces for CBC Calgary, and has reported on Alberta politics and public policy for nearly two decades with the *Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Maclean's* magazine.

PARTNER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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