

ACR-GNY Roundtable Breakfast | June 3, 2021

ZOOM MEETING PUBLIC CHAT TRANSCRIPT

- 01:35:56 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: This meeting is being recorded, and the video and public chat transcript will be available by next week on the ACR-GNY website at: <https://acrzny.org/RTB-Videos>
- 01:40:38 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Introducing Peter T. Coleman (a Roundtable Breakfast regular!): <https://sps.columbia.edu/faculty/peter-t-coleman-phd>
- 01:42:00 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Peter's latest book | The Way Out: How to Overcome Toxic Polarization | <https://www.thewayoutofpolarization.com/>
- 01:43:46 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: The Morton Deutsch Center: <https://iccr.tc.columbia.edu/>
- 01:46:04 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: My Country Talks: <https://www.mycountrytalks.org/>
- 01:46:59 Sunita Kumar: Listen First will be adapting and working with My Country Talks during National Conversation Week June 14-21, as America Talks
- 01:47:32 İdil Elveriş: I read that story
- 01:51:36 Elizabeth Larsen's iPhone: We want a two party system where both parties mostly agree with each other, at least on the biggest thing (democracy)
- 01:51:49 Elizabeth Larsen's iPhone: I'm not saying that's right or wrong, just pointing it out
- 01:52:57 İdil Elveriş: In Civic fusion, susan Podziba also talks about this repellent factor and she mediates divisive public policy disputes
- 01:53:18 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Ezra Klein's "Why We're Polarized" | <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52098718-why-we-re-polarized>
- 01:55:18 Mike Lampert-NYC: How does this accord with the Hamilton/Burr duel and fist fights on the floor of Congress? Time line in these analyses is shorter than the republic; does it have a principled selection of time frame?
- 01:56:44 Almitra Gasper - NYC (she/her): Wow legacy of redlining

01:57:02 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: NYT: Do You Live in a Political Bubble? | <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/30/opinion/politics/bubble-politics.html>

01:59:08 Simara Zicarelli Brazil, SP: We can observe this Polarization in many countries right now. Here in Brazil, for instance

02:00:15 İdil Elveriş: Yes...UK, Turkey, Poland, Hungary

02:01:04 Dennis McCoy: Does Congressional polarization-deadlock mirror trends in state legislatures as well?

02:02:55 bob kaplan: polarization seems to be global

02:03:28 Ferda Paksoy: In Turkey , yes, unfortunately

02:04:02 Ariel Lublin - upstate NY: Ron Heifetz talked about this in terms of Technical Work and Adaptive Work (which tends to be more values-based) in his Exercising Leadership work on “Adaptive Leadership”

02:04:09 Jess Kent: Will this PowerPoint be available after the presentation? I’m having difficulty jotting everything down before the slides changes

02:04:33 Karen Tibbals from NJ: The presentation is being recorded, so you can look at the slides later

02:05:12 Maria R. Volpe - NYC: All breakfast recordings are posted on www.acrgny.org

02:05:23 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Yes, as a reminder, this meeting is being recorded and the video and public chat transcript will be available by next week on the ACR-GNY website at: <https://acrgny.org/RTB-Videos>

02:05:57 Pierre de Ravel d'Esclapon NYC: In your view, how much of the increase in polarization is attributable to the so-called French Theory and its American epigones such as Butler, theory of intersectionality, critical race theory, gender studies.All these increase differences and divisions resulting in greater tribalization.Also what role do you think the impoverishment of vocabulary leads to an inability to express complex thoughts hence increased frustration leading to emotional shoutouts instead of reasoned debates?

02:11:52 Graham Salinger Elkhart Indiana: but Congress and public opinion are not on the same page even under the conditions named...

02:15:41 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress | <https://modernizecongress.house.gov/>

02:18:16 Susan Glatki Massachusetts: <https://braverangels.org/>

02:18:28 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Bridging Divides Initiative:
<https://bridgingdivides.princeton.edu/>

02:19:16 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Building peace in America through positive deviance | <https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/517583-building-peace-in-america-through-positive-deviance>

02:20:25 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Niki, thank you so much, for all of the valuable information and links you are posting in this chat. You're the Best!

02:21:42 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Amanda Ripley's book "High Conflict" | <https://www.amandaripley.com/high-conflict>

02:21:45 Laura McGrew-DC: I had same thought, Niki, thanks!

02:26:12 Sunita Kumar: How can we then steer the upcoming America Talks initiative into a better space (now and 2 weeks from now)

02:26:28 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Webb's article "Stepping forward together: Could walking facilitate interpersonal conflict resolution?" | <https://content.apa.org/record/2017-19038-005> (access is not free...)

02:26:36 Dr. Barbara Manousso-Houston TX: Great movie, The Journey on Northern Ireland show how the parties share in productive conversation in an unorthodox mediation. Spoiler alert: The chauffer is the mediator. 1:30 hour movie

02:27:07 Mark Kleiman: BRILLIANT!

02:27:09 O Gigliotti: excellent! thank you

02:27:10 Dr. Barbara Manousso-Houston TX: The parties, the Irish leader, walk and talk

02:27:13 Pratāp Rughani, London: Great Peter! Do you have any observations about how the Arts can contribute to reconnection/restoration?

02:27:25 Susan Cushman: Excellent presentation - thank you!!!

02:27:27 Dr. Barbara Manousso-Houston TX: Thank you for a great talk!

02:27:39 Janice Tudy-Jackson: The use of participant movement and physical exercises/problem-solving is why I often use "Retreat" settings--rather than sitting in confined spaces.

02:27:51 Sabeeha Rehman, NYC: Thank you for a wonderfully enlightening talk.

02:27:59 Frances Jeffries:Great perspective. Thanks for the new view!

- 02:28:00 E Haavi Morreim: Right now in Israel, a surprising coalition is coming together (from far right to moderate to left), to identify leadership other than Netanyahu. Might this be an example of the phase you described as, hitting bottom and truly wanting change?
- 02:28:01 Karen Tibbals from NJ: In your opinion, would learning how to talk to each other's moral foundations be helpful?
- 02:28:14 Richard Samson: Thank you to my old friend and former neighbor Peter for this great presentation.
- 02:28:59 Jess Kent: I raised my hand to ask a question if there's time
- 02:29:03 Timothy Lyon - Utica, New York: A need for positive deviance facilitation was mentioned, and that it is likely different from mediation and requires its own separate skills. Are you aware of any notable trainers for this form of facilitation, where a mediator who is interested in this could begin to branch out and do positive deviance facilitation?
- 02:29:43 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: StoryCorps | <https://storycorps.org/discover/archive/>
- 02:29:52 Graham Salinger Elkhart Indiana: <https://narrative4.com/> is doing just that ..
- 02:30:33 Tom Valenti: Human Library is similar and interesting as well: <https://humanlibrary.org/>
- 02:30:35 Katerina Apostolides, GR: My question is: when trying to get people from opposite sides to talk to each other, maybe it would be more effective if instead of allowing a free-ranging conversation about many topics at once, you encouraged them to focus on one specific incident in order to analyze it. Even better would be if it was not an incident that had already drawn a lot of hype from the press. When people realize that they disagree on many different issues at once, they are more likely to see the other person as "evil." Whereas if they disagree on something specific, maybe they would be more open to hearing the other person's viewpoint. Do you think this could be effective? Thank you for a very helpful and interesting talk.
- 02:30:49 Janice Tudy-Jackson: I have found incorporating arts, music, and food are very effective in working with groups of people, who are highly emotionally charged and polarized.
- 02:30:57 Maggie Gamberton - Hampsthwaite, North Yorkshire: The presentation has emphasised the emergent, non-volitional aspect of toxic polarisation. My question focuses on the volitional aspect of toxic polarisation (I study narrative warfare). Can Peter speak to the intentional, conscious, deliberate aspects of toxic polarisation?
- 02:31:00 Diane OConnell: What is the full name of The Logic of Failure?

- 02:31:03 İdil Elveriş, London: The forgiveness project, is also about storytelling which started with the Iraq war and now moved to restorative justice issues
- 02:31:28 Dr. Barbara Manouso-Houston TX: Theoretically, it all makes sense; however, when obviously lies and misinformation is on one side of the great divide, how is this addressed? If both are looking at the glass and see the same glass, that appears more at a better starting point. Please comment.
- 02:31:54 Gill Mansfield (Mediator): humanlibrary.org is an interesting example of the use of stories and narratives to change perspectives and create dialogue.
- 02:32:03 Frances Calafiore: Terrific presentation! Engaging, enlightening. Thank you!
- 02:33:30 John Lande: I think that getting to know each other personally is really important. I have suggested that in litigation, "opposing counsel" -- better called counterpart lawyers -- should get to know each other personally at the beginning of a case, before talking about the case itself. Getting Good Results for Clients by Building Good Working Relationships with 'Opposing Counsel'
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1968619
- 02:34:43 Susan Glatki Massachusetts: Can you site some context about the early statement about rage hitting the same centers of our brain as heroin? I would love to hear/read more about this. Thanks
- 02:36:32 Kira Nurieli: The Media has a serious problem with the world of Bloggers who are rewarded by clicks, and due to human negativity bias, we are more likely to pay attention to a blog (and click) if we read/see negative things. Read Ryan Holiday's "Trust Me, I'm Lying" for a fascinating expose on the world of blogging.
- 02:36:59 Elizabeth Larsen's iPhone: I appreciate this inquiry on "dialog"
- 02:37:24 Rhetta Barron: You see dialogue in the Talking Circles that are done in many NYC public schools.
- 02:38:17 John Lande: Here's a collection of Resources for Truth and Reconciliation -
<http://indisputably.org/2019/02/resources-for-truth-and-reconciliation/>
- 02:38:31 Imma Armadans: Great presentation!!! Could you talk about how the people can transform in self-awareness?
- 02:38:45 Rhetta Barron: Dialogue is also used as a teaching modality, particularly in Literature and Social Studies classes.
- 02:38:48 Monae Ollivierre: This is why I avoid social media.
- 02:38:49 Kim Reisch - Geneva, NY: This idea of sharing of stories is built into the use of talking circles, which comes from indigenous cultures around the world.

02:39:11 Monae Ollivierre: very true @Maria

02:39:25 Howard Gadlin: What if the relative harmony of the fifties was illusory - a cover for structural inequalities and deep nor addressed? polarizations that could not be spoken about

02:41:09 Graham Salinger Elkhart Indiana: Just ask Liz Cheney ..

02:43:52 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Our guest speaker has a hard stop at 10:00 am - please keep your questions as brief as possible in consideration of everyone who has questions.

02:45:44 Gregg Bradstock: What-Aboutism

02:45:59 Robin Beckhard NYC: We often say that curiosity is a key part of overcoming kneejerk prejudice/distrust of the other. But what do we do when we try it in conversation, and receive nothing but defensiveness and attack?

02:46:31 Althea Seaborn-Connecticut: I have had that experience and backed off because of the traumatic experience if the process is not handled properly. It was not worth the pain of the experience.

02:46:48 Pratāp Rughani, London: Design for Dialogue: Valuing Doubt in an Age of Conviction <https://ualresearchonline.arts.ac.uk/id/eprint/16609/>

02:47:18 Kim Reisch - Geneva, NY: The recognition of people's individual trauma caused by a history of oppression in this country is helpful for me as a mediator to avoid judging any person's particular choices to be in dialogue or not.

02:47:48 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Many African-Americans are EXHAUSTED and re-traumatized by discussions and attempts to resolve racial disputes.

02:47:53 Pratāp Rughani, London: <https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/press-office/stories/social-design-institute-meet-the-practitioner-pratap-rughani>

02:48:34 Ann Barber: The white teachers need to ask themselves how they can improve their behaviors in general.

02:48:38 Teresa Calabrese she/her Brooklyn, NY: @janice -agreed!

02:48:44 Mark Kleiman: These are examples for the inclusion of restorative practice techniques into mediation. Eliciting the history, emotional impact, history into process at the inception of exposure of the issues that cause polarization. Creating a process that integrates self and other into the process emotionally as well as behaviorally.

02:49:12 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Acknowledging the historical trauma of the African-American teacher, might encourage her to participate in the mediation with the two White teachers.

02:49:26 Andrea Hirshman: @janice -agreed!

02:49:33 Stacey M. Cameron: @ Janice— Thank you.

02:50:17 Kathy Orchen: Yes, yet I hear people of color trying to get those in the present tense to resolve history and there is no step aside from their relentness demands upon those of us who are working towards making shifts. No forgiveness is functioning and introduced.

02:50:21 Ferda Paksoy: Very impressive, inspiring meeting and presentations.. thnx a lot

02:50:35 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Mark Kleiman, I agree with you 100%

02:50:36 Lavinia Hall: julie- may I ask a question?

02:51:44 Andrea Hirshman: @kathy orchen - are you feeling your efforts are unappreciated?

02:53:09 İdil Elveriş, London: Here is the podcast story where Susan talks about it:
<https://soundcloud.com/anlasabiliriz-wecanfaway/we-lost-our-curiosity-about-others-guest-susan-podziba>

02:53:14 Ariel Lublin - upstate NY: @Robin - first the perceived threat needs to be de-escalated so the person is not in self-defense/attack (aka fight/flight) mode - which is one of the things that can happen when we deeply listen and people feel truly heard so that they don't feel they have to defend themselves or their point of view -so they don't feel under threat in the moment (of course is more complex with history of trauma and/or current realities of social trauma, the power dynamics in the mediation, etc) - otherwise questions intended to be curiosity can be experienced as challenge/threat

02:53:21 Susan Glatki Massachusetts: What you are talking about now is Jimmy Carter at Camp David having the others view themselves and each other as grandparents

02:53:56 Graham Salinger Elkhart Indiana: Great example Susan

02:54:23 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Kathy Orchen, you raise a significant point. I would love to speak with you and learn more about what you wrote. Please feel free to reach out to me at jtudyjackson@gmail.com

02:55:25 Shreya Shankar:Thank you so much for this very informative session!

02:55:52 Sabeeha Rehman, NYC: This has been an enriching dialogue. Great question, enlightening responses.

02:56:47 Robin Beckhard NYC: Yes, @Ariel, good point. I was thinking of a very personal example, and you're right, the person did feel threatened, though it was certainly not the intent.

02:57:43 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Boston Globe: Talking With the Enemy | https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/57e552041c882348567f1676/593c1ebf230b5002a4a2179b_1.1.%20Talking%20with%20the%20Enemy%2C%20Boston%20Globe.pdf

02:58:33 Mark Kleiman: Conflict is the basic creative force of change. It reflects the nature of energy and its elements of individuality and relationship. The answer to effective change is to incorporate this reality. Blend relational and individuality.

02:59:10 Maria R. Volpe - NYC: Hope in the Cities, Richmond, Va

02:59:32 Stacey M. Cameron: Interesting and informative talk. Thank you.

02:59:42 Kishor Dere: Can we avoid polarisation in a functioning democratic system?

03:00:11 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Hope in the Cities | <https://us.iofc.org/hope-in-the-cities>

03:00:39 Jessica Laus: That sounds similar to Coming To The Table: <https://comingtothetable.org/>

03:01:07 Eric Rundbaken: Thanks very much for an excellent program.

03:01:14 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Official book website: <https://www.thewayoutofpolarization.com/>

03:01:34 Marcella Calabi: The TRUST Network was founded to connect people and organizations for this very purpose. About to launch new website but for now go to <https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/trust>

03:01:50 Jeanette Batiz, PSC/CUNY CLT Chapter Chair: thank you

03:01:53 Margo Cates: Excellent lecture. thanks much.

03:02:04 Carol szamatowicz: thank you all, helpful dialogue, peace

03:03:02 Pratāp Rughani, London: thank you so much Peter - an inspiration and connecting disciplines...

03:03:08 David J. Smith- Rockville, MD: Great conversation. Thank you Peter for spending some time with us this morning. www.davidjsmithconsulting.com

03:03:31 Richard Samson: Looking forward to reading Peter's book.
<https://www.thewayoutofpolarization.com/>

03:04:15 Robin Beckhard NYC: Consilience.

03:06:22 Jess Kent: @kathy orchen: can you kindly share a link for mediators without borders?

03:06:54 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: MBB: <https://mediatorsbeyondborders.org/>

03:07:30 Marcella Calabi: mediatorswithoutborders.org which is also one of three founding organizations for the TRUST Network, which is standing up the first EWEA system in the US and also coalescing organizational and individual energies around exactly the kinds of efforts being discussed.

03:07:46 Kim Reisch - Geneva, NY: Expectation of forgiveness when harm has occurred and accountability and repairing of the harm has not been done seems presumptive on the part of mediators.

03:08:39 Althea Seaborn-Connecticut: @KimReisch agree!

03:09:19 David Thaler - FMCS: <https://www.publicconversations.org/>

03:09:28 Marcella Calabi: "Listen First" is another angle — and the name of an org

03:09:53 Andrea Hirshman: brilliant. thank you Peter

03:09:53 kk peabody (nyc): Thank you so much Peter!

03:09:53 Kim Reisch - Geneva, NY: Thanks so much for this conversstion!

03:10:03 Susan Glatki Massachusetts: THANK YOU

03:10:06 Marcella Calabi: National Week of Conversation is coming up; some participants are quite sophisticated about dialog (not debate)

03:10:07 Tania Ochoteco: Thank you!

03:10:09 Robin Beckhard NYC: Thank you, Peter, superb.

03:10:09 Niki Borofsky | JAMS, NY & the World!: Baruch Bush's article | <https://scholarship.law.missouri.edu/jdr/vol2018/iss1/7/>

03:10:10 Amy Carron Day in NYC: THANK YOU

03:10:10 Melissa (she/her): thanks Peter and all

03:10:12 David Thaler - FMCS: Thank you!!!!

03:10:13 Chris Daly: Great convo - thank you!!

03:10:14 Frances Calafiore: Superb!

03:10:19 Chris: Wonderful meeting, Chris Berry

03:10:19 Allen Zerkin: Thanks, Peter. Very important work.

03:10:23 Cheryl Prewitt: Thank you

03:10:30 Ferda Paksoy: Thank you a lot

03:10:31 Barbara Wilson UK: Thank you do much for an excellent presentation, Peter.

03:10:31 Althea Seaborn-Connecticut: Thank you for a fantastic presentation and comments.

03:10:43 ronnyberlin: Thank you for the wonderful presentation.

03:10:49 Gill Mansfield (Mediator): Great presentation and conversation. Many thanks Peter.

03:10:58 Janice Tudy-Jackson: Thank you, so much, Peter! I am looking forward to reading your new book