



Understanding the Contemporary Challenges to Our Democracy

SNAPSHOT

Fellows: Each year, we welcome a community of emerging and established scholars working at the intersection of democracy and urgent social problems.

Practitioners: We actively bridge the divide between scholars and practitioners working on the ground to make government more participatory, transparent, and democratic.

Scholarship: Our scholars are helping to lead the national discourse on democracy reform.

Democracy Programs at the Ash Center

The Ash Center's Democratic Governance Program explores the relationships between democratic governance and the persistence of urgent social problems. Ranging from voting rights to legislative negotiation, our many research projects, events, and student opportunities span the most pressing issues facing democracies around the globe.

“At a time when democracies around the world are under stress, our work reimagining democracy is all the more critical.”



ARCHON FUNG Winthrop Laflin McCormack Professor of Citizenship and Self-Government, Ash Center Democracy Program Director

Fellows Program

The Democracy Program has built an intellectual community of scholars and practitioners whose research and real-world expertise illuminates unique aspects of democratic governance. The Center offers fellowships for those examining issues such as democracy in “hard places”, citizen participation, democratic innovations at the regional and local level, challenges to democracy, technology, and other academic areas of interest relevant to the Democracy Program.

What Justice Looks Like

Convened by Assistant Professor Yanilda González this event series takes a perspective of “public policy from below” by centering the voices of those on the ground level of struggles for justice, but traditionally excluded from the halls of power.

Legislative Negotiation

When Adams Professor of Political Leadership and Democratic Values Jane Mansbridge and her HKS colleagues noticed that the current curriculum in negotiation contained little information on legislative negotiation, they developed the first-ever teaching materials designed specifically to train state and federal legislators on how to collaborate and find common ground.

Transparency

The Transparency Policy Project studies the effectiveness of a broad array of disclosure systems designed to improve public health and safety, reduce risks to investors, minimize corruption, and improve public services.

Democracy in Hard Places

The Initiative on Democracy in Hard Places aims to foster social science research on democratic experiments—both successful and failed—throughout the developing world to learn how democracy can be built and maintained in a variety of terrains.

American Politics Speaker Series

This series aims to bring together scholars who are doing research related to American democracy and politics. Hosted jointly with the Center for American Political Studies and chaired by Professor Maya Sen, Assistant Professor Benjamin Schneer, and Assistant Professor Justin de Benedictis-Kessner, each session will highlight a scholar whose research is at the forefront of the study of American politics.