



# The Internet and Democracy in Crisis in the US

October 5 & 6, 2023

UCen Flying A Studios Room

University of California, Santa Barbara

This retreat addresses the role of the Internet in the democratic crisis in the US, at a time of unprecedented public scrutiny of Internet corporations after three decades of unrestrained “disruption” of markets, societies, and politics. The retreat is occasioned by the milestone of Bruce Bimber’s 30<sup>th</sup> year at UC Santa Barbara and it is organized by his former and current doctoral students.

We will consider the question of how the discipline of political communication should respond to the crisis, with discussion of both research and teaching. Research panels will discuss the challenge of public-facing research in light of the state of democracy and public scrutiny of Internet businesses. Is there an imperative for the academy to reorient toward solving applied problems, even at the expense of traditional advances in basic science? What are the most urgent problems to which we might contribute? How can the incentive system in the academy best be navigated by scholars committed to improving the state of democracy? Teaching workshops will showcase tools and techniques for teaching in a time of political crisis and in the post-pandemic context.

## Tentative Agenda

Wed., Oct. 5,	1pm:	Welcome; Keynote Address by Dave Karpf, George Washington University Introductory Speed Talks by All Participants Workshop 1 on Teaching Tools and Technique
	6pm:	Reception and Dinner
Thr., Oct. 6,	9am:	Workshop 2 on Teaching Tools and Techniques Research Panels 1 & 2 on the Challenges of Public-Facing Research Closing Remarks: Bruce Bimber, UCSB
	6pm:	Reception and Dinner

## Style of the Retreat

The retreat is designed for informal engagement by all. Panel participants will not present formal papers, in favor of discussion and interaction.

## Suggested Hotels

There are many hotels in the area from which to choose. Here are three suggestions.

[UCSB Guest House](#) (on campus)

[Leta Hotel](#) (formerly Goodland in Goleta; [use this link](#) for event rate, or ask for “UCSB Technology Society” discount)

[The Upham Hotel](#) (downtown Santa Barbara; ask for the UCSB rate using the code “UCSB-CITS”)

Meals during the retreat will be provided.

## Organizing Committee

Meredith Conroy, California State University - San Bernardino | Lauren Copeland, Baldwin Wallace University | Jessica Feezell, University of New Mexico | Ariel Hasell, University of Michigan | Julien Labarre, UCSB | Bruce Bimber, UCSB

