HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

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Upcoming Discussion(s)

Future Zoom Discussions are subject to being replaced by a speaker or a presentation.

Not all meetings are on Zoom

- For upcoming events please see https://hcuuf.org

HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

20240512 – Open Zoom Discussion

- Possible Topic: Democracy is Losing the Propaganda War
  - 20240506-TheAtlantic-The New Propaganda War.pdf
  - Rachel Maddow 5/6/24 – topic starts at 15:21 https://youtu.be/3jUWWUzOnwo?si=qpeFyZhGiWcr3Bg_
  - 20240506-NYT-Trump Knows Dominance Wins -- Someone Tell Democrats_.pdf

Possible Future and Continuing Discussion Areas

Miscellaneous Topics

The Revival Of Unions

Unionization has been increasingly in the news. Lots of Starbucks locations have had union elections. President Biden walks a union picket line. Auto workers get big pay increases. Now an auto plant in the south has voted to unionize which threatens a power structure that has been solid in the south since the days of slavery.

- 20240419-NYT-Southern Republican Governors Are Suddenly Afraid

US Health Care: The Weaponization of Pre-Approval

- 20230314-NYT-What's My Life Worth?' The Big Business of Denying Medical Care (Video)
- 20240308-AMA-9 states pass bills to fix prior authorization
- 20240315-NPR-Her insurer stopped approving her medicine that worked. Will a new state law help? – New Jersey to require companies to respond to pre-approval requests within 3 days.

What Dangers does AI pose for the Election?

- 20240225-MSCopilot-Generative Artificial Intelligence.pdf
- State of .NET - State of AI 2024 - The webinar begins with an overview of the current AI landscape, focusing on groundbreaking technologies like OpenAI's ChatGPT and DALL-E, as well as Microsoft Azure Cognitive Services. Webinar slides and recordings: https://codemag.com/event/SODN-24-01

Our Groundwater (Aquifer) Crisis

All over the nation our available groundwater is being used with no limits or plans for replacement.

- 20231224-NYT-How America's Diet Is Feeding the Groundwater Crisis.pdf – note that this is a large file due to the number of pictures included.

How Safe Are the Clothes We Wear

Do our clothes make us sick?

- NPR: Is 'Toxic Fashion' making us sick? A look at the chemicals lurking in our clothes

https://www.npr.org/2023/07/19/1188343293/is-toxic-fashion-making-us-sick-a-look-at-the-chemicals-lurking-in-our-clothes
- Book: To Dye For by Alden Wicker (Kindle, Audible)

The Tyranny of the Minority

A call to reform our antiquated political institutions before it's too late—from the New York Times bestselling authors of How Democracies Die.

- Book: Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democracy Reached the Breaking Point by Steven Levitsk, Daniel Ziblat, Crown (September 12, 2023), Kindle Edition, Audible Edition

Political Strategy, The National Debt, Other Items

This topic is a catch-all for items that seem important but did not fit nicely into one of the other topics and were not large enough for a topic of their own.

- The "Two Santas" Strategy
  - The Debt Ceiling Is Just "Two Santas" in Drag
  - Jude Wanniski (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude_Wanniski) – The originator of the "Two Santas" strategy

The Supreme Court

- Previously discussed: 20230129 – The Supreme Court
- The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic by Stephen Vladeck, Jonathan Todd Ross, et al. (Kindle Book), Basic Books, May 16, 2023 (see 93 second video from the author about The Shadow Docket on the Kindle book page).
  - Author Interview: CNN Politics: How Congress lost control of the Supreme Court, What Matters, Zachary B. Wolf, May 13, 2023
- 20230529-NYT-The Supreme Court Is Crippling Environmental Protections - Where Is Congress.pdf

COVID

- A Collection of COVID Articles
- Book: The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis
  - Review: 20210506-NYT-Michael Lewis Chronicles the Story of Covid's Cassandras.pdf
  - NPR: Michael Lewis' 'The Premonition' Is A Sweeping Indictment Of The CDC

The Transition to Electric Vehicles

It is clear from the investments that Governments and Auto Manufacturers are making that the future of ground transportation is in electric vehicles.

- EVs are 80% of new sales in Norway - 20230508-NYT-In Norway, the Electric Vehicle Future Has Already Arrived.pdf

- 20230504-NYT-We Desperately Need a New Power Grid. Here's How to Make It Happen.pdf

Private Equity Firms Are Gutting America

Through the use of leveraged buyouts private equity firms are corporate vampires extracting the value from businesses and leaving behind a debt-ridden husk.

- Book: These Are the Plunderers: How Private Equity Runs—and Wrecks—America, Gretchen Morgenson, Joshua Rosner, John Bedford Lloyd, Simon & Schuster (April 25, 2023), Kindle Edition, Audible Edition
- Interview: How private equity firms are widening the income gap in the U.S.; Gretchen Morgenson is interviewed by Fresh Air's Terry Gross; NPR Fresh Air 4/26/2023
- 20230428-NYT-Private Equity Is Gutting America and Getting Away With It.pdf
- Vulture Capitalism? How Private Equity Firms Work, NPR Talk of the Nation, 20210119
- 20191030-Forbes-Private Equity Firms Have Caused Painful Job Losses And More Are Coming.pdf
- 20231226-NYT-Serious Medical Errors Rose After Private Equity Firms Bought Hospitals.pdf
- Leveraged Buyout (Wikipedia)

The Body's Electrome – You Can't Live Without It

In recent years there has been much progress in understanding and manipulating the body's natural electric fields. Terry Gross, host of NPR's Fresh Air interviewed Sally Adee on March 6, 2023 and states "Her new book, "We Are Electric," is about how medical and tech researchers are experimenting with possible ways to manipulate the body's electrical fields to treat or cure diseases and conditions, including depression, wounds, broken bones, cancer and paralysis."

- Fresh Air interview with Sally Adee on her book "We Are Electric" -- https://www.npr.org/2023/03/08/1161897128/how-researchers-are-trying-to-harness-the-electricity-in-the-human-body
- Sally Adee's book "We Are Electric" on Amazon -- https://www.amazon.com/We-Are-Electric-200-Year-Bioelectric-ebook/dp/B0B38SVPBZ
- 20230323-Guardian-Smart bandage with biosensors could help chronic wounds heal

HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

Fundamentalist Capitalism and the anti-Government Cabal

Was "Little House on the Prairie" an industry marketing campaign? Was Ronald Reagan bought and paid for by GE? Did deregulation and lack of enforcement cause many of today's problems? Who removed the section on regulation from Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations? The right wing conservatives have been working on making industry look good and government look bad since the 1920s or earlier. They have propagandized school textbooks, technical papers, as well as radio and TV programs.

- The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market, Kindle Edition, Audible Edition, Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway, Bloomsbury Publishing
- 'The Big Myth' explores the belief that free markets are a fundamental American right, NPR Here & Now Podcast, February 28, 2023
- 20230412-NYT-The Republican Strategists Who Have Carefully Planned All of This.pdf
- 20230425-NYT-Republicans Did Something Most People Don't Like, So They're Changing the Rules.pdf
- 20230428-NYT-The Most Dangerous Person in the World Is Randi Weingarten.pdf

Conservatives/Republicans and Racial/Religious Intolerance

Is the right terminally infected with racist tendencies? Is condemning antisemitism non-survivable for an elected Republican?

- 20221129-NYT-The Table for Trump's Antisemitic Banquet Was Set Long Ago.pdf

Are Liberals their Own Worst Enemy?

Does Liberalism block solutions for homelessness? Does Liberalism increase crime?

- 20221212-Atlantic-The Obvious Answer to Homelessness.pdf
- 20221212-NYT-The Root Cause of Violent Crime Is Not What We Think It Is.pdf
- 20230617-NYT-In the Age of Trump It is Hard to Be Humble.pdf
- Blue States, You're the Problem (NYT Video)

Do Social Security and Medicare Need Fixing?

- 20230218-NYT-Fixing Social Security and Medicare Where the Parties Stand.pdf

2024 – What matters? Age? Other things?

- 20230219-NYT-We're Not Asking the Right Question About Biden

HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

COVID, Public Health, Are we ready for the next one?

- 20230627-NYT-CDC Director Rochelle Walensky Shares a Message About Covid and Public Health.pdf
- 20230222-NYT-Is the United States Ready for Back-to-Back Pandemics
- 20230203-NYT-An Even Deadlier Pandemic Could Soon Be Here
- Book: The Premonition: A Pandemic Story by Michael Lewis
- 20230720-Marketplace-Fragmented medical records are a danger to our health (Google Podcasts, Download, Starts about 6 minutes into the cast)
  - Book: Fragmented: A Doctor's Quest to Piece Together American Health Care (Kindle)

Rural Health Care in Crisis / Drug Costs too

- 20230226-NYT-Rural Hospitals Are Shuttering Their Maternity Units
- 20230228-NYT-A Drug Company Exploited a Safety Requirement to Make Money.pdf

Environmentalism (this topic under development)

- https://blackgirlenvironmentalist.org/
- 20231013-NYT- I Study Climate Change. The Data Is Telling Us Something New.pdf

Previous Discussions

20240505 – Zoom Discussion

The following articles were discussed

- 20240502-NewYorker-Is 2024 Doomed to Repeat 1968 or 2020—or Both?
- 20240504-NYT-The Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez You Don't Know

20240317 – Zoom Discussion – Topic TBD

Check in followed by a discussion of the topic list item "The Weaponization of Pre-Approval."

20240414 – Zoom Discussion – The Churchgoing Bust

- 20240403-Atlantic-The True Cost of the Churchgoing Bust
- 20230709-Atlantic-The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church

20240324 – HCUUF Book Club

- The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory by Tim Alberta
- NYT Book Review
- Terry Gross Interview with Tim Alberta
- Amazon (Kindle, Audiobook)

20240303 – Zoom Discussion – Is Christian Nationalism a Threat to Democracy?

Is the U.S. becoming a theocracy?

- 20240225-NYT-What Is Christian Nationalism, Exactly.pdf

- Wikipedia - Seven Mountain Mandate
- 20240225-NPR-On The Media - Matthew D. Taylor [**@TaylorMatthewD**], senior scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, & Jewish Studies, on how a particular strain of Christian Nationalism, once on the fringe of America's religious landscape, is slowly emerging as a political force. **Listen** (especially 6:00-17:19); Transcript: 20240223-OnTheMedia-Christian Nationalism is Reshaping Fertility Rights.pdf
- 20231204-NPR-All Things Considered - Speaker Mike Johnson draws scrutiny for ties to far-right Christian movements (7 minutes, more general info than the title would suggest)
- 20240228-NPR-Christian nationalism's support is strongest in rural, conservative states

20240218 – Should Biden Drop Out?

- 20220218-Atlantic-Democrats Should Pick a New Presidential Candidate Now.pdf
- 20240213-NYT-Why the Age Issue Is Hurting Biden So Much More Than Trump
- 20240210-NYT-The Question Is Not if Biden Should Step Aside. It's How
- 20240210-NYT-How Old Is Too Old to Be President? An Uncomfortable Question Arises Again

20231015 – Open Zoom Discussion

Referenced items

- 20231013-NYT- I Study Climate Change. The Data Is Telling Us Something New.pdf
- Are our Clothes Killing Us
  - https://www.npr.org/2023/07/19/1188343293/is-toxic-fashion-making-us-sick-a-look-at-the-chemicals-lurking-in-our-clothes
  - Book: To Dye For by Alden Wicker (Kindle, Audible)

20230820 – Zoom Discussion

20230813 – Zoom Discussion

20230730 – Zoom Discussion – Robert Reich's Classes

After checkin, this Zoom discussion will start with a discussion of Robert Reich's commentary and class

- Robert Reich was Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration for more info on him see the Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Reich
- He has delivered a series of classes on Wealth and Poverty
  - https://robertreich.substack.com/p/wealth-and-poverty-announcement
  - Also on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOLArO56vjuoeaIPzKQibBDbx2m_Rfsit
  - His last class in this series was said to be the best: "The Future of Inequality (& You?)" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z1iToALkzE

HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

20230723 – Zoom Discussion – Check-in, then open discussion

Caused by a cancellation. Likely to be an open discussion. Our open discussions are always interesting and usually have some valuable info in them.

20230716 – Open Zoom Discussion

This session was attended by eight people. Here are some of the things discussed or mentioned.

- Robert Reich – Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration
  - Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Reich
  - Has a series of classes on Wealth and Poverty at https://robertreich.substack.com/p/wealth-and-poverty-announcement
  - Also on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOLArO56vjuoeaIPzKQibBDbx2m_Rfsit
  - His last class in this series was said to be the best "The Future of Inequality (& You?)" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z1iToALkzE
- How to use Zoom screen sharing (demo by Bill Hyde)
- Pat McShane is planning a talk on the importance of species diversity to be delivered at a future Zoom session

20230625 – Open Zoom Discussion

This was an open discussion where we discussed topics as they came up.

- New York Times Video "Blue States, You're the Problem" - https://nyti.ms/3F1xtSu
- Acorn Creek Loop hiking trail - https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/colorado/acorn-creek-loop
- Non-steroid treatments for high cholesterol
  ZETIA (ezetimibe), Bile acid-binding resins, like cholestyramine (Locholest, Prevalite, Questran), colesevelam (WelChol), and colestipol (Colestid), see also https://www.webmd.com/cholesterol-management/features/are-there-statin-alternatives

20230521 – Chat AIs – demo and discussion

Chat AIs are being made available on the internet from various sources such as OpenAI, Microsoft, and Google. These AIs are designed in such a way that a user can hold a limited conversation with them and/or ask them to produce a specific document.

- 20230521 Zoom Discussion Notes.pdf
- If you want to try Chat type AIs yourself:
  - https://chat.openai.com – ChatGPT, the Open AI created the one you hear about most

- Microsoft's AI that is built into the Microsoft Edge Browser and some other related tools may be obtained from https://www.microsoftedgeinsider.com/en-us/download/dev

20230430 – Gun Culture

Can anything be done about America's Toxic Gun Culture?

- 20221210-NYT-America's Toxic Gun Culture Is Invading Our Politics.pdf
- 20221213-NYT-Republicans Are Breaking With the N.R.A., and It's Because of Us.pdf
- 20230227-NYT-New Yorks Gun Laws Sow Confusion as Nation Rethinks Regulation.pdf
- 20230414-NYT-Republican 2024 Hopefuls Embrace Gun Politics at NRA Meeting
- 20230414-NYT-Republican 2024 Hopefuls Embrace Gun Politics at NRA Meeting With Visible Links
- 20230422-NYT-It Is a Delusion to Think Having a Gun in the Home Makes Us Safer.pdf
- 20230423-NYT-What Should Christians Do About Guns.pdf
- Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence
- Colorado Ceasefire Legislation Page
- Gun Violence Archive (https://gunviolencearchive.org) – Need statistics about gun violence? This likely has everything you need.

- Other NY Times Gun Violence Links (to NYT Website)
  - **The Emotional Toll:** We asked Times readers how the threat of gun violence has affected their mental state and the way they lead their lives. Here's what they told us.
  - **A Growing Tally:** Gun violence is a persistent American problem. A partial list of mass shootings this year offers a glimpse at the scope.
  - **Gun Control:** U.S. gun laws are at the center of heated exchanges between those in favor and against tougher regulations. Here is what to know about that debate.

20230129 – The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court – Can / Should it be limited?

How can we keep the court bipartisan? Should the court reflect the will of the majority of the populace? Make sure you read at least the intro on the first article below (How We Got Here).

- 20201027-NYT-How to Fix the Supreme Court.pdf (8 sub-articles)
- 20220930-NYT-The Supreme Court Is Broken. Where's Biden.pdf
- 20221001-NYT-The Supreme Court Isn't Listening, and It's No Secret Why.pdf
- 20221122-NYT-The Case for Supreme Court Term Limits Just Got a Lot Better.pdf
- 20221129-NYT-How the Supreme Court Is Erasing Consequential Decisions in the Lower Courts.pdf

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- The Case Against the Supreme Court, Erwin Chemerinsky, Penguin 2014

20230101 - Overpopulation

Presentation (10 min) – Frank Lilly

- Overpopulation: Why it is a problem and how we can help
  - Brief overview of the problems associated with overpopulation
  - Where overpopulation is occurring
  - Which organizations are trying to do something about it
  - Link to presentation slides – pdf | pptx
- Note that the overpopulation topic was also considered for discussion at our November 20, 2022 Zoom discussion with the title "Do we need more or fewer people in the world?"

20221218 – Grief and Loss

Grief and Loss

- Anderson Cooper has a podcast "All There Is" (Listen on Spotify)
- When My Father Died I Discovered the Unmentionable Stage of Mourning Relief
- What My Father's Death Taught Me About Living

20221211 - FIRC

Family & Intercultural Resource Center – Sarah Grant

- Presentation Slides

20221120 – Plastic Recycling

Plastic Recycling - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- Why most plastic isn't getting recycled

20221030 – COVID, Descendant, RSV

- New COVID variants - BQ.1, BQ.1.1, BF.7 - NYT Article
- Are we prepared for the next pandemic? What needs to change? - NatGeo Article
- "Descendant" (Netflix documentary) - LINKS: watch trailer, watch movie, IMDB Listing, Movieweb Review, Barracoon (Amazon)
- RSV - new treatments and vaccine on the way - NatGeo Article

20221016 – Third Party Candidates

- Third Party Presidential Candidates in the USA

20220918 – Court Decisions on Abortions

- Court Decision on Abortion - References

20220822 – General Discussion

- Generic Discussion Topic List

20220814 – Climate Crisis Responses

- What Constitutes a Moral Response to Climate Crisis

HCUUF Zoom Discussion Topics

Previous Undated Discussions

Calcification, Parity, and Cultural Backlash - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- Three Theories That Explain This Strange Moment
- Hillary Clinton Accepted Her Loss, but a Lot Has Changed Since 2016

Did Dems Win Because of COVID? - From Don Parsons and Thats Another Fine Mess

- Making America Great Again

What is 219,000 deaths year-to-date? Pandemic? Epidemic? Nothing? - From Bill Hyde and The New York Times

- As the Pandemic Drags On, Americans Struggle for New Balance
- The End of Vaccines at Warp Speed

Do we need more or fewer people in the world? - From Joanne Michalski and Scientific American

- The World Population Just Hit 8 Billion and Here's How It Will Continue to Grow
- The Population Question