




MANAGING DISAGREEMENT

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MANAGING DISAGREEMENT

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- A network graph background with blue and red clusters. The blue cluster is on the left and the red cluster is on the right, both with many nodes and connecting lines.
- I. The Democratic Ideal
 - II. Two Kinds of Polarization
 - III. What Polarization Does to Us
 - IV. The World is an Echo Chamber
 - V. What Can We Do?

THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL



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Self-government Among Equals



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Amidst

Persistent Political Disagreement



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About

Justice



THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL

A background illustration of a diverse crowd of people with their hands raised, suggesting a public gathering or protest. The style is a light-colored line drawing with some shading on the faces and hands.

**We tend to see our political opponents
as not simply *mistaken*,
but on the side of *injustice***

Civic Friendship

The capacity to regard political opponents as *nonetheless* political equals



POLITICAL POLARIZATION



- ◆ Platform Polarization
- ◆ Partisan Polarization
- ◆ Affective Polarization

BELIEF POLARIZATION

**Interaction with like-minded others
turns us into more
extreme versions of ourselves**



BELIEF POLARIZATION

- ◆ Widely Studied & Uncommonly Robust
- ◆ Found in Groups of Different Kinds
- ◆ Does not Discriminate between Fact & Value
- ◆ Affects Groups of Moderates No Less Than Groups Containing Extremists

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Mere Corroboration Suffices for Extremity Shifts



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Mere Corroboration Suffices for Extremity Shifts

**Physical and Social Environments
Can Induce Belief Polarization**

WHAT BELIEF POLARIZATION DOES TO US

A man in a dark suit and a woman in a dark business suit are standing on opposite sides of a deep, sandy chasm. Both are shouting into megaphones, their bodies angled towards each other. The background is a bright, hazy sky with some light flares.

**As we shift into our more extreme selves,
we embrace increasingly negative attitudes
towards those we perceive to be different**

THE POLARIZATION LOOP

I.

**Belief Polarization
Begets
Affective Polarization**

A network graph visualization showing two distinct clusters of nodes. The left cluster is colored blue and the right cluster is colored red. Both clusters are dense and have many edges connecting nodes within the cluster. There are also some edges connecting nodes between the two clusters, but they are fewer in number. The overall shape is roughly horizontal and elongated.

THE POLARIZATION LOOP

A background network graph with two main clusters of nodes. The left cluster is blue and the right cluster is red. Both clusters are dense and have many edges connecting nodes within the cluster and between the clusters. The nodes are small dots, and the edges are thin lines.

II.

**Affective Polarization
Incentivizes
Partisan and Platform Polarization**

(SO: Belief Polarization Induces Political Polarization)

THE POLARIZATION LOOP

III.

**Political Polarization
Intensifies
Belief Polarization**

A network graph visualization showing two distinct clusters of nodes. The left cluster is colored blue and the right cluster is colored red. The nodes are connected by thin, light-colored lines, forming a complex web of connections. The clusters are dense and have many edges extending outwards, suggesting a highly interconnected network structure.

THE POLARIZATION LOOP



Civic Friendship Dissolves

THE WORLD IS AN ECHO CHAMBER

- ◆ Consumer Choices
- ◆ Weekend Activities
- ◆ News Sources
- ◆ Time in a Local Park
- ◆ Online Dating
- ◆ Hot Sauce Preferences
- ◆ Interior Design
- ◆ Tote Bags!

**YOUR
POLITICAL
PROFILE**

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY FOR?

