

Thomas Kerr Lecture Series
2018-2019



DIVIDED DEMOCRACY

in the Age of Social Media



Cass Sunstein

Robert Walmsley University Professor at Harvard Law School

Sunstein's lecture will focus on how, as the Internet grows more sophisticated, it is creating new threats to democracy. Social media companies—such as Facebook—can sort us ever more efficiently into groups of the like-minded, creating echo chambers that amplify our views. It's no accident that on some occasions, people of different political views cannot even understand each other. Sunstein will describe how the online world creates "cyber-cascades," exploits "confirmation bias" and assists "polarization entrepreneurs." And he will explain why online fragmentation endangers the shared conversations, experiences and understandings that are the lifeblood of democracy. In response, Sunstein will propose practical and legal changes to make the internet friendlier to democratic deliberation.

Thursday, September 27, 2018

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. | Porter Hall 100

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