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Scripps College “Ignorance in the Age of Information” Humanities Institute Event Lineup

Scripps College Humanities Institute announces its fall 2018 lineup of events, lectures, and workshops on this year’s theme, “Ignorance in the Age of Information.” Despite the fact that information is more accessible to more people than ever before, we seem increasingly susceptible to deceit and manipulation via our sources of information. Is this a new phenomenon, or are we just paying more attention?

Media and academic luminaries come to Scripps College to discuss these complex topics, including both the content of misinformation—like “fake news”—and the forms it takes—like the “echo chamber” or “filter bubble” of social media news feeds.

Techno-sociologist **Zeynep Tufekci** tackles these issues in her talk on the social implications of technology and the politics of privacy and surveillance. *ZigZag*’s **Manoush Zomorodi** further explores these topics, with special focus on the changing nature of capitalism and journalism. **Latif Nasser**, director of research at public radio’s *Radiolab*, joins the lineup, sharing his hunch that science may be stranger than fiction. And **Thi C. Nguyen**, who is “actually a professional philosopher,” ruminates on the ways in which our thinking is socially conditioned by the features of our social organization, community, and technology.

“Misinformation is a problem for democracy because you’re supposed to vote in your and society’s interest, but to figure that out you need proper information,” says Director of the Humanities Institute and Professor of Philosophy at Scripps College Yuval Avnur. “When it’s so easy to be misinformed, people can’t properly function as citizens.”

“We have more information, but know less than ever. That’s the puzzle,” he says.

Founded in 1986, the Humanities Institute presents a thematic program each semester on a topic related to the humanities. As part of Scripps’ tradition of interdisciplinary education, this program includes lectures, conferences, exhibitions, performances, and film series bringing prominent and emerging cutting-edge scholars to campus.

***Scripps College** was founded in 1926 by Ellen Browning Scripps, a pioneering philanthropist and influential figure in the worlds of education, publishing, and women’s rights. Today, Scripps is a nationally top-ranked liberal arts college and women’s college with approximately 980 students, and is a member of The Claremont Colleges in Southern California. The mission of Scripps College is to educate women to develop their intellects and talents through active participation in a community of scholars, so that as graduates they may contribute to society through public and private lives of leadership, service, integrity, and creativity.*