

Conference

Censorship in the Sciences: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

[Website](#)

Duration: January 10-12, 2025

University of Southern California

Tentative schedule (updated 11/9/2024)

Friday, January 10

What is Censorship and How Does it Operate?

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	Welcome remarks
8:40 AM – 9:30 AM	Keynote: <i>The War on Truth—And How to Win It</i> Speaker: Jonathan Rauch
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Panel: <i>Mechanisms of Censorship in Academia</i> Chair: Lee Jussim Panelists: Bill Von Hippel, Musa al-Gharbi, Nick Wolfinger
10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	Coffee Break
10:50 AM – 11:20 AM	<i>Your Paper Was Retracted. Were You Censored, or Just Wrong?</i> Speaker: Ivan Oransky
11:20 AM – 12:30 PM	Short Talks: Examples of Censorship Chair: Lawrence Krauss. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lawrence Krauss: TBA (20 min)• Scott Turner: <i>Burning It All Down: Woke Censorship in the Botanical Nomenclature</i> (10 min)• Elizabeth Weiss: <i>Back to Stick Figures: How Woke Warriors Destroyed Anthropology</i> (10 min)• John Landrum: <i>When Editorial and Reviewer Ideologies Collide with Objectivity</i> (10 min)• Q&A (20 min)
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch

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Research Freedom Versus Ethical Restraints

2 PM – 2:30PM	<i>Censorship and Self-Imposed Ethical Constraints in Research</i> Speaker: J.P Messina
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Panel: <i>Research Freedom Versus Ethics: IRBs, Codes of Conduct, Political Mandates by Funding Agencies, etc.</i> Chair: Abigail Thompson Panelists: Marcia McNutt, Evan Morris, Hugh Desmond, Lee Jussim
3:30 PM – 3:50 PM	Coffee Break
3:50 PM – 4:40 PM	10-Minute Talks: Censorship and Self-Censorship by the Numbers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nate Honeycutt: <i>Prevalence of Self-Censorship Among University Faculty.</i>• Wayne Stargardt: <i>Silencing Science at MIT</i>• April Bleske-Rechek: <i>Censorship and Perceptions of Harm</i>• Q&A (20 min)
4:40 PM – 5:10 PM	<i>Truth, Lies, and Climate Change</i> Speaker: Steven Koonin
5:45 PM – 8:00 PM	Social reception with heavy <i>hors d'oeuvres</i>

Saturday, January 11

Scientific Freedom vs. Social Responsibility; Tradeoffs

8:45 AM – 9:15AM	<i>Socially Responsible Science</i> Speaker: Stavroula Kousta (via Zoom)
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Panel: <i>Harms-Justified Censorship.</i> Chair: Alex Arnold. Panelists: William Costello, Diana Fleischman, Hrishikesh Joshi.

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10:15 AM – 10:35 AM	Coffee Break
	<p><i>Organizational and Institutional Responses to Censorship.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Honig: American Academy of Sciences and Letters • Lee Jussim: Society for Open Inquiry in Behavioral Science • Anna Krylov: Academic Freedom Alliance • Sean Stevens: <i>Breaking the Shell of Ostrich Syndrome</i>; Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression • Abby Thompson: Association of Mathematical Research • Scott Turner: National Association of Scholars • Ilya Reviakine: <i>On Samizdat.</i> • Jake Mackey and Michael Bowen: <i>In Defense of Free (Black) Thought.</i>
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch

Consequences of Censorship for Public and Society

1:30 PM – 2 PM	<p><i>The Science and Politics of Doing Research on Women in Science</i></p> <p>Speaker: Steven Ceci (via Zoom)</p>
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>Panel: <i>Is Compelled Speech a Form of Censorship?</i></p> <p>Chair: Bob Maranto</p> <p>Panelists: Abigail Thompson and John Wilson.</p>
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	<p><i>Pseudo-Defenses of Free Speech on Campus and How They Undermine Open Inquiry</i></p> <p>Speaker: Mike Veber</p>
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	<p><i>From Worriers to Warriors: The Rise of Women in Science and Society</i></p> <p>Speaker: Cory Clark</p>

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4:30 PM – 5:20 PM	Keynote: <i>The Free Speech Recession and How to Reverse It: Five Lessons from History</i> Speaker: Jacob Mchangama
5:20 PM – 5:45 PM	Break with refreshments
5:45 PM – 6:45 PM	Screening of the Restore Childhood documentary by Natalya Murakhver

Sunday, January 12

Censorship in Life Sciences and Medicine

8:45 AM – 9:35 AM	Plenary: TBA Speaker: Wilfred Reiley
9:35 AM – 10:35 AM	Panel: <i>Censorship Around Gender Research and Medicine</i> Chair: Sally Satel Panelists: Carole Hooven, Diana Blum, Michael Bailey.
10:35 AM – 11:00 AM	Coffee Break
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Panel: <i>Harms of Censorship: Covid Examples</i> Chair: Tom Chang Panelists: Jay Bhattacharya, Natalya Murakhver, John Ioannidis
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch and short sponsor presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Freedom Alliance (Howard Muncy) • MIT Free Speech Alliance • Cornell Free Speech Alliance • Heterodox Academy (Alexander Arnold) • American Association of Sciences and Letters (Greg Forster) • ...
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	<i>How 'Soft' Censorship In Media And Academia Helped Make The U.S.A. Youth-Gender-Medicine Outlier</i> Speaker: Jesse Singal

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2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	<i>Your Speech Is Freer Than You Think: The Irrational Risk Aversion of (Most) Academic Self-censorship</i> Speaker: Matthew Burgess
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	<i>Break</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Panel: <i>Censorship and Pseudoscience in the Life Sciences</i> Chair: Julia Schaletzky Panelists: Jerry Coyne and Luana Maroja.
4:00 PM – 4:50 PM	Plenary: <i>How Cancel Culture Destroys Trust in Expertise</i> Speaker: Greg Lukianoff
4:50 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks

Information for speakers:

Plenary: 50 min (40+10 min Q&A)

Invited talks: 30 min (25+5 for Q&A)

Short talks: (10 min)