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*Michigan Humanities announces a series of virtual conversations centered around the psychology of misinformation.*

Okemos- Michigan Humanities is pleased to announce the next two conversations in the virtual “Why It Matters: Civic and Electoral Participation” program funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The next series will focus on the psychology of misinformation, and will feature four dynamic communications professionals. These conversations will focus on how information presented online can have a direct impact on how we consume and respond to it. Panelists will also present ideas on how to begin conversations that will help us to better understand each other’s viewpoints and concerns. These conversations will be non-partisan in nature, and all are invited to attend!

The first conversation on Thursday, February 25th at 7 p.m. will feature Dr. Jayson Dibble, and Dr. Amanda Martinez.

Dr. Amanda R. Martinez (Ph.D., Texas A&M University) is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies and Sociology at Davidson College, a small liberal arts college in North Carolina. She studies media effects and health communication with a focus on underrepresented populations, identity, intersectionality, race-based media stereotyping, humorous communication in entertainment contexts, and inter-group communication dynamics. Her publications appear in several peer reviewed journals, including *Mass Communication & Society*, *The Howard Journal of Communications*, *Southern Communication Journal*, and *Women’s Studies in Communication*, as well as edited books. She is currently co-editing a *Cultural Media Studies* book series for Peter Lang Publishing. Dr. Martinez co-taught the 2017 EdX course, *The Story of Fake News* and has been interviewed for stories in The Charlotte Observer, Inside Higher Ed, and Charlotte Business Journal.

Dr. Jayson L. Dibble, Ph.D., is currently an associate professor in the Department of Communication at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. He holds a doctorate in interpersonal communication from Michigan State University, and he researches and teaches on the topic of interpersonal communication to include communication through social media and the impact of social media on personal relationships. Dr. Dibble has published or co-published more than two dozen articles or book chapters, and his research and writing have been featured in various national outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, NBC News, The Washington Post, Fox News, The Atlantic, and Psychology Today.

The second conversation will take place on Thursday, March 4th at 7 p.m. and will feature Marcus Collins, lecturer of marketing at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan.

Marcus Collins is a culturally curious thinker with an academic insight into the cognitive drivers that impact consumer behavior. Collins is an Award-Winning advertiser and a Lecturer of Marketing at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, where he helps bridge the academic-practitioner gap for both degree-seeking students and business executives. He has spent the last decade helping “blue-chip” brands (like McDonald's, Google, AB-InBev) navigate the challenges of digital transformation to create contagious marketing ideas that extend across both the online and offline worlds of “social.” Throughout his career, Marcus has been acknowledged for his strategic and creative contributions as an advertiser (Advertising Age's 40 Under 40 recipient, Clio award winner) where he launched such notable campaigns as “Cliff Paul” for State Farm, the Made In America Music Festival for Budweiser, “Hello Brooklyn” for the Brooklyn Nets, and the Eggo + Netflix’s Stranger Things conquest.

The third conversation will take place on Thursday, March 25th at 7 p.m and will feature Dr. Dibble and Dr. Dannagal G. Young.

Dannagal G. Young (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication, 2007) is a Professor of Communication and Political Science at the University of Delaware. Her research on the psychology and influence of non traditional political information has been widely published including articles in The Columbia Journalism Review, Media Psychology, Political Communication, International Journal of Press/Politics, and Mass Media and Society. Her book "[Irony and Outrage](#)" examines satire and outrage as the logical extensions of the respective psychological profiles of liberals and conservatives. Dr. Young is a TED speaker and a committed public scholar. She has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, and the major broadcast networks, and her work and writing has appeared in dozens of newspaper and magazine articles including Op-Eds in the *Washington Post*, *Vox*, and *The Atlantic*. Young is a Distinguished Fellow of the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center, an Affiliated Researcher with the University of Arizona's National Institute for Civil Discourse and the 2014 Recipient of the University of Delaware's Excellent in Teaching Award.

All virtual conversations are free and open to the public. You can pre-register for the zoom event on the Michigan Humanities website under the “Why It Matters” drop down menu. Each event will last one hour with an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the panelists.

To learn more about these events and other funding opportunities, please visit the Michigan Humanities website at [www.michiganhumanities.org](http://www.michiganhumanities.org).

### **About Michigan Humanities**

Michigan Humanities inspires Michiganders to come together in creative and freely expressed ways to deepen our understanding of ourselves and enrich our communities. In carrying out this mission, Michigan Humanities builds awareness and excitement for humanities in everyday life, achieves best practices and sustainability for all humanities programs and services in Michigan, and upholds the following key values:

- Inclusion, diversity, and equity
- Discovery and understanding
- Authentic conversation
- Respectful collaboration
- Meaningful experiences

Michigan Humanities' vision is for all people of Michigan to experience and understand the importance of humanities to enrich lives.

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