

**Panel:** Social Polarization in the United States: Searching for Civility (Violet/Cosmos)

**Date/Time:** April 26, 2012 / 16:00-17:15

**Organizing Institution:** Hoover Institution

**Talking Points for:**     Tod Lindberg  
                                      Hoover Institution

Unless civility is somehow a natural condition of human interaction, which would seem to run counter to both Darwin *and* the Bible, then conditions of civility must come about either because people have good reason to be civil to one another or little reason to fear the consequences of the failure to treat each other civilly. It is especially political speech that has become uncivil. The internet political conversation of today is a direct extension from Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park. The thesis here is that because speakers no longer perceive political speech and therefore politics itself as a matter of life and death, expressions of opinion and disagreement can become more extreme.

\* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

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