

# Public Disputes & Consensus Building Digest







PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
PUBLIC DISPUTE RESOLUTION  
PEACEBUILDING  
CIVIL PUBLIC DISCOURSE  
PUBLIC ISSUES FACILITATION

## Volume 2, Issue 1: May, 2024

### Introduction


Welcome to the fifth release of the *Public Disputes and Consensus Building Digest* - the first issue of volume two! If you are a new reader, our quarterly digest – prepared by Public Disputes and Consensus Building Committee of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution – brings together a recent selection of publications and other media offerings on public dispute resolution, consensus building, civil public discourse, peacebuilding, and related practice areas.

Each content piece features basic information (name, author, source / link), a short synopsis, icons to indicate the content type (e.g. book, podcast, video, etc.  for Audio,  for Book,  for Article,  for Video), and the very rough estimate of the time needed to read, watch, or listen to the item. We hope this format will neatly and conveniently organize the information and allow the reader to easily decide what content to review based on the topic, format, and the time you have to spare.

With the help of the Committee Co-Chairs Loraine Della Porta and Tina Patterson, the Dispute Resolution Section Fellow Alec Chapa will curate 6-10 *Digest* content pieces for circulation each quarter – and yes, we welcome your content suggestions! Now more than ever, the ocean of sources and content can be overwhelming. Rather than selecting a list of “top” or “recommended” items, we hope to provide a list of notable pieces that are diverse enough to appeal to many interests and schedules and for those wanting an option for a quick read or a deeper dive.

# Digest Selections


**Local Journalism is a Critical “Gate” to Engage Americans on Climate Change** | Sophia Apteker, MIT, Environmental Solutions Initiative |

<https://environmentalsolutions.mit.edu/news/local-journalism-is-a-critical-gate-to-engage-americans-on-climate-change/> |  | Est. Time: 10 minutes

“Location, location, location,” is the phrase in real estate, because where a vendor is located makes all the difference in accessibility and relevance, to offer one example. The same can be said of climate change and its mouthpieces. Macroscale topics like climate change are so massive that, for many people, it may feel beyond their reach — which is why offering examples (or entry “gates,” as the article says) is critical for making the information on climate change and climate action both accessible and relevant for readers. This article discusses a “gate” as an entry point for climate dialogue which connects passively concerned citizens with broader climate issues, and a fellowship built by MIT for shepherding this connective effort. Efforts are concentrated geographically, especially in informationally dark or murky areas, clouded by disinformation and underreporting on climate change. Local fellows raise awareness of local issues to local citizens, and offer up content to the national stage, bringing the large-scale content down to earth, and bringing the issues of the soil up to the national stage, so to speak. This is a compelling and inspiring article for those especially tuned into climate action, eagerly awaiting the committee’s July meeting on climate issues. Open Access.

**President Biden has a Gen X Problem** | Tamara Keith, Susan Davis, and Domenico Montanaro, NPR |

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-npr-politics-podcast/id1057255460?i=1000639461924>

 | Est. Time: 15 minutes


This brief podcast is an interesting look at how Gen X tends to show up on political issues, including the issue of political and free speech, which of course shapes civil public discourse. Three journalists -- one covering White House matters, the other two politics -- discuss the matter in this bite-sized 15-minute bit. Short and concise, and certainly far from all that goes into the topic, it offers practitioners an interesting view into how this often-overlooked generation views one of today's central issues concerning the foundation of public deliberation. Open Access.

**NPR Had The Leaked Trump Tape, Too. Here's What The Newsroom Did With It** | Kelly McBride, NPR's Public Editor |

<https://www.npr.org/sections/publiceditor/2021/01/07/954098933/npr-had-the-leaked-trump-tape-too-heres-what-the-newsroom-did-with-it> |  | Est. Time: 20 minutes


Written by NPR's Ombudsman, the Public Editor, this insightful piece reflects on the deeper questions that go on behind the scenes of media reporting, tapping into the instigating factors fueling public disputes. Questions like, whether to include the full, uncropped version of Trump pressuring Georgia election officials while spouting misinformation to allow viewers to witness it firsthand, or whether doing so would offer too much of a platform to such misinformation and by doing so allow it to spread? Open Access.

**We've Been Thinking About America's Trust Collapse All Wrong** | Jedediah Britton-Purdy, The Atlantic |

[https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/01/trust-democracy-liberal-government/677035/?fbclid=IwAR0OHyltGGcrkGj7hbzJ\\_kDzY5R0VRCUIaazfatTm2bD\\_ChcsOHhR9angPg](https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2024/01/trust-democracy-liberal-government/677035/?fbclid=IwAR0OHyltGGcrkGj7hbzJ_kDzY5R0VRCUIaazfatTm2bD_ChcsOHhR9angPg) |  |

Est. Time: 25 minutes


What do centuries-old philosophers have to teach us about the novel political moment, with trust ever strained and tech-driven fabrications? A lot, actually. The article delves into the trust crisis from a vantage point perhaps unknown to most outside of philosophy. Striking a balance between insightful ruminations and practical application, the article circles back to the perilous questions at hand with each contemplative thought, and explores practical steps both large and micro scale to improve our situation. If you can believe it, it does end on an optimistic note. Open Access.

**Living Room Conversations LIVE Premiere: Communitarianism & Conservatism** | Living Room Conversations | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvuuSWBpOs> |  | Est. Time: 1.5 hours

In this video, a skilled facilitator leads a group through guided dialogue. Instead of enforcing rules, she empowers participants to uphold guidelines collectively. Conversations begin with non-threatening intros, exploring hopes and concerns for individuals and communities. Participants choose from various discussion topics as they slowly work towards the notion of "communitarianism," unpacking and exploring this notion that connects otherwise polarized groups into a different notion of "conservatism." Through this example, viewers witness the impact of constructive engagement, offering a refreshing alternative to divisive

exchanges prevalent today. Open Access.

**A Multiracial Democracy in the United States Requires Racial Repair** | Nicole Carty, Aria Florant & Vikas Maturi, Stanford Social Innovation Review |

<https://ssir.org/articles/entry/reparations-multiracial-democracy-united-states#> |  | Est. Time: 20 minutes

In this article with provocative (but not novel) ideas, the Stanford Social Innovation Review makes the case for reparations in the United States, and outlines foundational starting points for doing so. The article's three authors — all prominent reparations activists — summarize points made by activists, scholars, and researchers, leaning more on a decidedly hard look at America's past and reasoning rather than on moral imperatives. “[America] has never realized the core principles of democracy: political equality, fundamental rights, and equal protection.” By embracing the UN's five tenets of reparations, the authors argue for a holistic approach that addresses these three deep-seated inequalities. While the article certainly focuses mainly on big picture concepts, one area with direct application to public disputes and governance is its call towards interrupting and preventing violence (including state-sanctioned violence) through community accountability practices, which appears to have some conceptual overlap with NAFCM's toolkit work. Open Access.

## Submit your suggestions!

We're always looking for more resources to share with committee members. Submit your suggestions [here](#).

Not a member of the Section of Dispute Resolution? [Join today](#) to gain access to all of our [member benefits](#), including discounted [publications](#), [career development resources](#) and more!



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Dispute Resolution Section  
Public Disputes and Consensus  
Building Committee

Not a member?

Join today at  
[ambar.org/membership!](http://ambar.org/membership)



Join over 9,000 Dispute  
Resolution professionals