



“Does who we elect really matter?”

Chicago, IL
November 7, 2018

We hope you enjoy our Chicago Big Question event video “Does who we elect really matter?” with Professor of Political Science Julie Dolan, accompanied by her colleague Paru Shah (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee). After viewing the video, we encourage you to dig deeper and consider the following questions as a jump start to a great conversation--ideally with a group of friends or fellow alumni!

Let us know about your gatherings and thoughts by posting to social media using #heymac or emailing the Alumni Engagement office at alumnioffice@macalester.edu.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What are your thoughts on having the Democrats in the majority for the House and the Republicans in the majority for the Senate? Will that help or hinder reaching goals? What impact will that have versus having both the House and Senate ruled by one party?
- 2) What do you think it will really mean to have more women, LGBTQIA+, and diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds represented in state and national government? How do you think having different perspectives will impact our communities? Think about short term and long term impacts.
- 3) Professor Shah shared that there was a huge uptick in voters age 18-29 year old people who turned out to vote. With the shifting demographics of age, what similarities and differences do you see in young, voting age people today as compared to earlier generations? What conditions do you think have affected the turnout for this year's midterm elections and will continue to affect turnout in coming elections?
- 4) With the increasing polarization of political thought, how can Americans find common ground and conversations with each other? What resources or steps are you taking in your own life, and what would you recommend to others who are less inclined to seek out diverse political opinions?
- 5) What are your predictions for the United States federal government over the next few months? Until the upcoming 2020 elections? What issues are you passionate about and how do you think they will be affected with the results of this election?

Meet Our Speakers:



Julie Dolan has served as a professor of Political Science at Macalester College since 2001. Dolan's scholarly interests include American government and politics, women and politics, and bureaucratic politics. Her scholarship focuses especially on women in the public bureaucracies and in executive positions. She has authored or co-authored many books, including *Representative Bureaucracy: Classic Readings and Continuing Controversies* (with David H. Rosenbloom), and four editions of *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence* (with Melissa Deckman and Michele Swers).



Paru Shah, a former Macalester political science faculty member (2006–2011), is an associate professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Her research centers on American politics, with an emphasis on race, ethnicity and politics, urban politics, and public policy analysis. She is currently working on a number of projects that examine when and where candidates of color and female candidates emerge for political office.

Additional Resources:

Looking to dig deeper? Check out the following resources suggested by Professor Dolan!

Books

Women and Politics: Pathways to Power and Political Influence, by Professor Dolan (with Melissa Deckman and Michele L. Swers).

A new edition is forthcoming that will include the 2018 elections!

Podcasts:

Women Belong in the House (via Wonder Media Network)

Check out episodes with Professor Dolan and listen to stories about the various women who ran in the 2018 midterm elections

Online Resources

Gender Watch (Part of the Center for American Women in Politics)

genderwatch2018.org

Gender Watch 2018 is a non-partisan project of the Center for American Women and Politics and the Barbara Lee Family Foundation to track, analyze, and illuminate gender dynamics in election 2018.

Bring the intellectual rigor of Macalester into your office, living room, or wherever you have a screen! We are excited to launch our Big Questions event series as part of the Macalester Moment campaign. These intellectually stimulating events will connect you with faculty and President Rosenberg, while digging into the world-changing issues that Macalester is addressing in and out of the classroom.