

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

# BRIDGING DIVIDES

ENCOURAGING DIALOGUE WITH RADICAL EMPATHY



**GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
PADNOS/SAROSIK CENTER  
FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE

### A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS

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**GRAND VALLEY  
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*mark your calendar*  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

THE PSCCD'S NEXT SYMPOSIUM!

## program

### WELCOME

LISA PERHAMUS  
Director, Padnos/Sarosik  
Center for Civil Discourse

### OPENING REMARKS

PHILOMENA MANTELLA  
President, Grand Valley  
State University

### VIDEO

OUR STORY: FROM  
PROGRAM TO CENTER

### INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JEFF KELLY LOWENSTEIN  
Padnos/Sarosik Endowed  
Professor of Civil Discourse

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DR. TERRI GIVENS  
Author & Professor at  
McGill University

### LARGE & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

### EVENING WRAP-UP

LISA PERHAMUS  
Director, Padnos/Sarosik  
Center for Civil Discourse

*student testimonials from  
GLOBAL CIVIL DISCOURSE*  
**(FALL 2021)**

*with professor  
Jeff Kelly Lowenstein*

Global Civil Discourse is a vital issue in today's information crisis. Misinformation has become a profitable business, sewing division amongst nations and its peoples. This course equipped me with skills of recognizing global issues, identifying solutions, and forming cohesion with those of differing backgrounds through vulnerability and empathy. Undergirding discussions of COVID-19 mandates, abortion rights, or institutional racism was a foundation of respect for voices and ideas we may not agree with. By the end to the semester, our class possessed a mutual understanding that the ability to speak one's mind leads to a freer people and a freer world.

- Zachary Pierangeli

Global Civil Discourse showed me the importance of civil discourse in the classroom and beyond, especially past my time in the class. Beyond civil discourse, IDS 350 taught me the importance of accurate information dissemination and the dangers of misinformation. We had opportunities to speak with accredited journalists and writers that taught us about their unique experiences, allowing us to see the real-life importance of civil discourse. I would recommend this course to anyone that wants to learn how to have meaningful discussions with their peers about difficult topics and see new perspectives on those issues, as well as learn how to express one's own perspectives to others clearly and respectfully.

- Marta Grabowski

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