Rhetoric and Democratic Deliberation

Rhetoric and Democratic Deliberation is a Penn State Press book series, created in partnership with The Pennsylvania State University Center for Democratic Deliberation. Books in the series will feature new, groundbreaking scholarship on rhetoric and civic deliberation. Work will relate to the history of public deliberation in America, particularly in periods of democratic reform and experimentation; studies of campaign discourse and the impact of campaigns on voter attitudes and behaviors; studies of how public opinion is conceived and measured, and the impact of public opinion on public policy debates; studies of social movements and their role in democratic deliberation; studies of journalistic ethics, norms, and practices; studies of the political legal, and cultural constraints on free speech; and studies of the historical and civic literacy of the citizenry and the efficacy of various efforts to promote civic engagement.

Questions or submissions should be directed to the Penn State Press:

Kendra Boileau, Editor-in-Chief
Penn State Press
820 N. University Dr.
USB 1, Suite C
University Park, PA 16802
kboileau@psu.edu
(814) 867-2220

or to the series editors:

J. Michael Hogan
Department of Communication Arts and Sciences
The Pennsylvania State University
211 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16801
jmh32@psu.edu

Cheryl Glenn
Department of English
The Pennsylvania State University
223 South Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16801
cjg6@psu.edu

SERIES EDITORS

J. Michael Hogan is Liberal Arts Research Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences, and Co-Director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation at The Pennsylvania State University.

Cheryl Glenn is Liberal Arts Research Professor of English and Women’s Studies, and Co-Director of the Center for Democratic Deliberation at The Pennsylvania State University.

Submissions should take the form of a 3-5 page proposal outlining the intent of the project, its scope, its relation to other work on the topic, and the audience(s) you have in mind. Please also include 2-3 sample chapters, if available, and your updated C.V.
Published in the series:

**Challenges of Ordinary Democracy**  
* A Case Study in Deliberation and Dissent  

**KAREN TRACY**

“The phrase ‘ordinary democracy’ will forever be remembered because of this scholarly and painstakingly researched case study of the Boulder Valley School District. Using the board meeting minutes, interviews, transcripts, and cable and local news media as her ‘text,’ Tracy analyzes how local democracy and democratic values are used for good and ill. The role of communication, in all of its forms, both contributes to and undermines the ordinary democracy being played out by the quintessentially American enterprise—the local board of education. One comes away being forever grateful that democracy still does exist in communities across the country because of local school board governance.”

—**Anne L. Bryant**, Executive Director, National School Boards Association

Is there any place in America where passionate debate plays a more vital role in democratic discourse than local school board meetings? Karen Tracy conducted a thirty-five-month study of the board meetings of the Boulder Valley School District between 1996 and 1999 to analyze just how democracy operates in practice. In *Challenges of Ordinary Democracy*, she reveals the major role that emotion plays in real-life debate and discerns value in what might easily be seen as negative forms of discourse—voicing platitudes, making contradictory assertions, arguing over a document’s wording, speaking angrily, attacking people’s character. By illuminating this one arena of “ordinary democracy,” Tracy hopes to engender a new appreciation for how what she calls “reasonable hostility” can be a desirable ideal of communication for debating public policy issues.

264 pages | 6 x 9 | $59.95 cloth  
Please visit www.psupress.org or call 800-326-9180 to place an order.