

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: September 21, 2020  
Contact: Jennifer Doherty, Customer Services Specialist  
360-963-2414; JDoherty@nols.org  
Re: Humanities Washington Speaker to Present *Hacking Democracy*  
Attached: *HW-Logo.jpg, Travis Ridout.jpg, Ridout\_header-with-Foley-logo.jpg*

Humanities Washington speaker Travis Ridout, will present *Hacking Democracy: What Social Media is Doing to US Politics* on Zoom at 3pm on Saturday, October 3. Registration is required to receive Zoom login. Register at [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org), or by contacting your NOLS branch.

Join political scientist Travis Ridout of Humanities Washington to explore the pros and cons of social media in political campaigns. While social media use gives citizens access to a wealth of information, it also exposes them to messages that are carefully tailored and targeted in a highly sophisticated manner. More ominously, social media can be used to psychologically manipulate voters in unprecedented ways, beyond the fact-checking and scrutiny of the news media spotlight. How real is this latter possibility as we head toward the 2020 presidential campaign? Learn how politicians – and foreign spies – are using social media and personal data to their advantage.

Travis N. Ridout is the Thomas S. Foley Distinguished Professor of Government and Public Policy at Washington State University. Ridout's research on political campaigns has appeared in the *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, and in the *Journal of Politics*. Ridout's most recent book is *Political Advertising in the United States*.

## **About Humanities Washington**

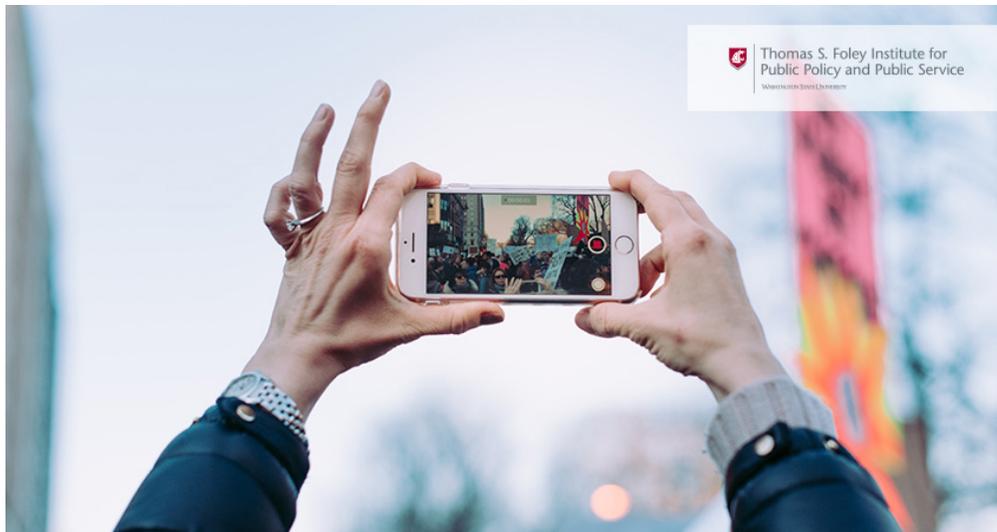
Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across the state. Speakers Bureau is one of Humanities Washington's oldest and most popular programs. A roster of 34 cultural experts and scholars provides low-cost, high-quality public presentations across the state, encouraging audiences to think, learn and engage in conversation. For more about Speakers Bureau, visit [www.humanities.org/programs/speakers](http://www.humanities.org/programs/speakers).

This talk is presented in partnership with The Thomas S. Foley Institute for Public Policy and Public Service, which educates citizens across the state about democratic institutions and public affairs, and is based at Washington State University. For more information, visit [www.foley.wsu.edu](http://www.foley.wsu.edu).

## **More Information**

This program is generously funded by Humanities Washington. For additional information about this program and to register, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org) and select "Events," call 360.417.8500, or send an email to [Discover@nols.org](mailto:Discover@nols.org).





*“Hacking Democracy” will be presented by Humanities Washington on Zoom.*

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