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GLOBAL STRUGGLE for DEMOCRACY

The 35th annual FRANK CHURCH CONFERENCE
Thursday, October 18, 2018

The Frank Church Institute Contributors
Welcome to the 35th annual Frank Church Conference

GLOBAL STRUGGLE for DEMOCRACY

Democracies around the world are increasingly in crisis. Challenges from populist leaders, resurgent authoritarian regimes, and political polarization are raising significant questions about the health and sustainability of democracies. While the challenges today are daunting, this is not the first time democratic systems have faced serious threats to their endurance. This year’s conference will explore key global trends related to democracy, governance, human rights and political rule. Panels will examine the disruptive impact of technology on democracy, how information distortion undermines elections, and the role of citizens in safeguarding accountability and transparency.

AGENDA THURSDAY OCTOBER 18, 2018

8:30 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
SIMPLOT BALLROOM
Garry V. Wenske, Executive Director, the Frank Church Institute
Dr. Corey Cook, Dean, School of Public Service, Boise State University
The Hon. David Bieter, Mayor, City of Boise

9:00 a.m. OPENING ADDRESS
Framing the Challenges of the Global Struggle for Democracy
Steven Feldstein, Frank and Bethine Church Chair of Public Affairs, Boise State University; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

9:15 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION
Democracy in Decline? Unpacking Global Trends
MODERATOR: Steven Feldstein
Kenneth Wollack, former President, National Democratic Institute
Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Director, Transatlantic Security Program, Center for a New American Security
Peter Fenn, President, the Fenn Communications Group

10:45 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION
Bots, Algorithms and Hackers: Digital Challenges to Democracy
MODERATOR: Dr. Seth Ashley, Associate Professor, Department of Communications, Boise State University
Shanthi Kalathil, Director, National Endowment for Democracy, International Forum for Democratic Studies
David Salvo, Deputy Director, Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.

12:00 p.m. BREAK

12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON
JORDAN BALLROOM

1:00 p.m. LUNCHEON ADDRESS
U.S. Foreign Policy: Promoting Interests and Values
INTRODUCTION: Peter Fenn, former Chief of Staff for Senator Church
Kenneth Wollack, former President National Democratic Institute

2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:15 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS
The Bear with the Twitter Feed: Russian Attacks on the American Narrative
David Salvo, Deputy Director, Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the U.S.
Chase Johnson, Research Associate, Frank Church Institute
HATCH C BALLROOM

Hacking Democracy: How Tech is Reshaping Global Politics
Shanthi Kalathil, Director, National Endowment for Democracy, International Forum for Democratic Studies
Isaac Castellano, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Political Science, Boise State University
HATCH D BALLROOM

Journalism and Democracy: Whose News? Rethinking Journalism in a Turbulent Time
Bill Manny, Writer/Producer for Idaho Public Television; Columnist for the Idaho Statesman
Dr. Julie Lane, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Boise State University.
FARNSWORTH ROOM

3:30 p.m. Adjournment

“America, long the world’s most principled nation, has strayed in recent years from that tradition. But there is a shining promise for this nation now, as there was in the beginning: few nations have our capacity for self-redemption. Because we are a free and open society – and determined to remain so – our errors can be examined soberly and corrected in time.”
Senator Frank Church, “The Sacred Fire,” Angi Press, 1975

“To put this world and the nation in a proper perspective for the American people – this is the urgent business of statesmanship today. The job cannot be done without first exposing the delusions of the fanatical right. Its propaganda, its frequent resort to outright intimidation and coercion represent nothing less than totalitarian methods.”
Senator Frank Church, Look Magazine, January 26, 1965