



Everyone agrees the polarization and rancor in American politics pitting Blue versus Red and Democrat versus Republican is at an all-time high. "[The Polarized Electorate](#)" is a conference focused on understanding the psychology behind polarization in the U.S. as well as its policy consequences for political gridlock in Washington. Speakers present striking evidence obtained with innovative survey and media experiments.

Sponsored by the Quantitative Institute for Policy and Social Research ([QIPSR](#)) in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Departments of Psychology and Political Science and the College of Communication and Information at the University of Kentucky.

The event is open to the public, but seating is limited so please [Register here!](#)

December 7, Friday, William T. Young Library Auditorium

8:30-9:00: Sign-in and continental breakfast, in the **Gallery** next door.

9:00-9:10: Welcome and Introduction: Mark Peffley, University of Kentucky

First Session: How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation

9:10-9:50: [James N. Druckman](#) (Political Science, Northwestern University), "**How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation**"

9:50-10:20: Discussion: Dr. Justin Wedeking (Political Science, University of Kentucky).

10:20-10:35: **Break**

Second Session: Reducing Polarized Reactions to Scientific Research

10:35-11:15: [Dan Kahan](#) (Law & Psychology, Yale University), "**Reducing Polarized Reactions to Scientific Research: Climate Change and Geoengineering**"

11:15-11:50: Discussion: Will Gervais, Christia Brown (Psychology, University of Kentucky).

12:00-1:00: **Lunch buffet in Gallery**

Third Session: Reactions to the Partisan News

1:00-1:40 [Kevin Arceneaux](#) (Political science, Temple University), "**Reactions to the Partisan News (Fox & MSNBC) in a Hyperchoice Media Environment**"

1:40-2:15: Discussion: Bobi Ivanov (School of Journalism & Telecommunications, Kentucky)

2:15 to 3:15: **Discussion and conclusion of the conference, followed by a brief reception in the Gallery**

For questions, contact Director, [Mark Peffley](#)