

Zócalo Public Square presents: Is Civility Overrated?

MONDAY, July 16, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Moderated by Joe Mathews, California Editor, Zócalo Public Square and Fellow, Center for Social Cohesion



After Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was shot in Tucson, pundits spent extensive time wringing their hands over the lack of civility in American political discourse. While some American elected officials have left political life because of its nastiness, historians say that American dialogue has long been uncivil, even during periods of great cohesion. And some studies suggest that hyper-partisanship is linked to greater participation in civic life. So exactly how important is civility to citizen engagement and effective democracy? Dean of the Goldman

School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley **Henry Brady**, the Institute for Civility in Government's **Cassandra Dahnke**, Arizona State University communications and performance scholar **Jennifer Linde**, and economist and anthropologist **Meenakshi Chakraverti**, who leads the Public Conversations Project in San Diego, visit Zócalo to discuss whether it's better for democracy if Americans are cordial or fighting like cats and dogs.

This event is part of the Cal Humanities *Searching for Democracy* initiative, and is produced in partnership with Zócalo Public Square.

Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel
609 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA



Make your reservation online at: <http://zocalopublicsquare.org>
Free beer and wine reception immediately following discussion.