Connecting small group deliberation with electoral politics: An assessment of the 2010 Oregon Citizens’ Initiative Review

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Wednesday, November 10
3:30-5 p.m.
Room 120, Communications Building

This presentation will examine the theory and practice of linking intensive, structured random-sample deliberation processes with macro political processes, particularly large-scale elections. This approach has a few prior precedents, such as the British Columbia and Ontario Citizens’ Assemblies, but the 2010 Oregon election provides the newest case — the Citizens’ Initiative Review process. Two sets of 24 Oregonians analyzed two different statewide ballot measures for a week, then presented their findings to the electorate via the official Voters’ Pamphlet. This talk will both examine the deliberative quality of those Review sessions and look at the Review’s impact on the larger electorate through both panel and rolling-cross sectional survey data collected from thousands of Oregon voters.

BIOGRAPHY