



Sparking Innovation in Our Democratic Institutions

SNAPSHOT

On Campus: In an average year, the Ash Center supports one in 10 students attending Harvard Kennedy School through scholarships or funding for research and field learning.

In the World: The Ash Center's Initiative on Democracy in Hard Places is developing a new understanding of how democracy can be built and maintained in a variety of terrains around the globe.

Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

As societies aspire to better governance, they grapple with evolving concepts of responsiveness, representation, and justice. The Ash Center develops ideas and fosters practices for equal and inclusive, multi-racial and multi-ethnic democracy and self-government.

By advancing cutting-edge approaches in leadership and policy and incubating bold new ideas, Harvard Kennedy School strives to help people everywhere build safer, freer, and more just societies.

BY THE NUMBERS

All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.

45

Affiliated faculty

60

Events sponsored including forums, discussions, and conferences

100

Speakers hosted

6,000+

Participants in programming



Above: Ash Center staff work to register students as part of a School-wide voter registration and civic engagement initiative. **Top right:** Professor Khalil Gibran Muhammad leads a discussion in the classroom.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

“With its focus around better governance, the Ash Center goes to the heart of the Kennedy School’s overall ambitions. We develop new ideas and new approaches to addressing challenges that governments face. This work is crucial. By encouraging citizens’ participation and greater receptivity from government at a time of disillusionment with institutions, we’re showing that government does matter in people’s lives and can be instrumental in positive change.”



Archon Fung

The Work of the the Roy and Lila Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Ash Center works in numerous areas to advance democracy and strengthen democratic institutions, including:

- **Allen Lab for Democracy Renovation:** Develops governance innovations for democracy in scaled-up, complex, digitally-powered societies with significant social heterogeneity.
- **Institutional Antiracism and Accountability Project (IARA):** Advances antiracism as a core value and institutional norm. Creates antiracist change in organizations across sectors.
- **Non-Violent Action Lab:** Hub for activists, scholars, and the public to learn more about the power of nonviolent action to transform injustice.
- **Project on Indigenous Governance and Development:** Equips Indigenous people themselves with the tools needed to govern effectively and to strengthen their economic, social, and cultural fabrics.
- **Reimagining Democracy:** Conducts research and sparks dialogue around innovations aiming to improve our democratic political institutions by making them more resilient, responsive, and inclusive.

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