Ensuring the Integrity of Information for Freer Societies

SNAPSHOT

On Campus: The Shorenstein Speaker Series attracts stellar speakers who share their expertise and experience with Kennedy School students throughout the school year.

In the World: The Technology and Social Change project is developing 100 case studies that will help train researchers, policymakers, and journalists to identify, document, and debunk media manipulation as it happens.

Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy

Changes in the way people communicate and consume information are reshaping every aspect of society. The Shorenstein Center illuminates the shifting interplay between the media, technology, politics, policy, and public perceptions. From the challenges of maintaining news quality to digital platforms’ impact on the public sphere, the research of the Shorenstein Center helps journalists, citizens, and public leaders navigate rapid changes in communications.

Well-informed citizens are essential for thriving, just societies. Bringing clarity to a complex information landscape contributes to Harvard Kennedy School’s work of improving public leadership, policy, and people’s daily lives.
FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Right now free societies are facing twin crises of trust and of truth. They’re connected and the Shorenstein Center is focused on both: it’s our mission is to help newsrooms, policymakers, and civil society navigate a challenging new landscape. Since, as a School, we’re committed both to the very best research and to engagement with practitioners, the learning that occurs in real time, and with real urgency, creates an energy and purpose that is at odds with the image of a university as ivory tower, stepped back from the fray. At the Kennedy School, we are the fray.”

Nancy Gibbs

The Work of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy

The Shorenstein Center focuses on research that is integral to maintaining a healthy information ecosystem and strong democracy.

• News Quality: Journalist’s Resource is a project of the Shorenstein Center aimed at bridging the gap between journalism and academia.

• Technology and Social Change: Threats to media ecosystems are examined by this Shorenstein Center project at a time when social media presents new risks to democratic processes.

• Digital Platforms & Democracy: This project examines how the domination of public space online by a handful of large digital platforms affects the public sphere, and researches and proposes models for government oversight that would solve problems created by big tech and social media.

• News Sustainability & Business Models: Original research is being produced by the Shorenstein Center on sustainable business models for the digital age.

• Misinformation: The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review is a new journal from the Shorenstein Center dedicated to publishing interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed misinformation research.

• Anti-Racism and Equity: The Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability addresses intellectual and practical questions as they relate to anti-racism policy, practice, and institutional change.

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BY THE NUMBERS

All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.

30+
Events including on-campus speakers and study groups

2.5 million
Reads of Shorenstein Center content online

50,000
Email subscribers to Journalist’s Resource newsletter

15–20
Working papers published by faculty, staff, and fellows

Above: Shorenstein Center Executive Director Setti Warren and Washington Post Executive Editor Marty Baron at the 2019 Goldsmith Awards Ceremony, an annual center event which honors the best in investigative reporting that influences U.S. public policy.