



NEWS RELEASE
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April 25 Panel: Has Polling Killed Democracy?

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., April 11, 2008— The Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia is hosting a special panel, “**Has Polling Killed Democracy?**” on Friday, April 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m, presented by the Miller Center’s Governing America in a Global Era (GAGE) program.

Mark Blumenthal, the Co-Editor of Pollster.com and author of the Mystery Pollster blog, will join **Sarah Igo**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania; **Benjamin Ginsberg**, the David Bernstein Professor of Political Science at the John Hopkins University; and **Donald Kinder**, Chair of Political Science at the University of Michigan, to discuss public opinion polling’s effects on American democracy. **Paul Freedman** and **Lynn Sanders**, Associate Professors of Politics at the University of Virginia, will moderate.

The panel will include two sessions:

- **The Promise and Perils of Polling** (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)
- **The Practice and Future of Polling** (10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)

“Public opinion polling has become a fundamental part of democratic politics,” said Brian Balogh, GAGE Co-Chair and Associate Professor of History. “These panel discussions will bring together scholars, practitioners and public intellectuals to discuss whether it has improved the quality of deliberation, or debilitated it. We will also explore future trends in public opinion polling.”

“Has Polling Killed Democracy?” will be held at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. The panel is free and open to the public. More information, including panelist essays, is available online at www.millercenter.org/public/conferences/polling. This event will be **webcast live** and archived online at www.millercenter.org.

The Miller Center of Public Affairs is a leading nonpartisan public policy institution aimed at bringing together engaged citizens, scholars, members of the media, and government officials to focus on issues of national importance to the governance of the United States, with a special interest in the American presidency.

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