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**Abstract title:**

Exposure to diverse views and polarization: What can we learn from social science, data science, and physics?

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Public observers worry that the fragmented media environment facilitates exposure to like-minded information, reinforcing prior attitudes and political polarization. In this presentation, I first outline these fears and review recent work to show that the concerns regarding like-minded exposure and online echo-chambers may be exaggerated. I later argue that extant concerns and prior research neglect the fact that citizens encounter dissimilar information that is shared by like-minded partisans with their opinionated commentary. I present evidence from two projects that combine diverse methodological approaches. The first project focuses on exposure to counter-attitudinal messages filtered through one's partisan ingroup (ingroup filtering). (a) I rely on Twitter behavioral data to establish that ingroup filtering indeed takes place: users share information from across the political aisle with negative commentary. (b) I also present experimental evidence that although ingroup filtering has no direct effects on two consequential outcomes, polarization and participation, it does increase both through decreased ambivalence. The second project attends to different messages encountered during political discussions or partisan media. (a) Agent-Based Model first shows that discussions that criticize the outgroup (party bashing) lead to polarization relative to discussions focused on policies themselves (cognitive messages). (b) An experiment additionally shows that messages that praise one's political ingroup (party praise) polarize attitudes more than opposition bashing and cognitive messages. In conclusion, I argue that a combination of social science, data science, and physics can accurately explain various social and political processes occurring in contemporary societies.