

Presenter: Andrew Hayes
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- When: November 9, 2006 (Thursday)
- Place: Schuessler Institute for Social Research, 1st floor seminar room (3rd St. & Hawthorne)
- Time: 3:30-4:45pm
- Title: Five Years of the Study of Self-Censorship

ABSTRACT

This talk overviews my recent research program on the study of self-censorship. I provide a basis for the argument that people differ with respect to the extent to which they use cues about the climate of opinion when deciding whether to express an opinion publicly. I describe the development of the Willingness to Self-Censor Scale, an eight-item self-report instrument that measures this individual difference, and I provide evidence of its construct validity. After discussing some of the personality correlates of this individual difference, I punctuate the talk by illustrating application of this construct to the study of political participation, showing that dispositional self-censors are relatively more likely to refrain from engaging in forms of political behavior that leave their opinions open to public view and scrutiny by others.