From Bill Clinton to Harvey Weinstein: The Limits of Social Discourse Around Sexual Assault

a discussion with

Brian Clites Ph.D.

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January 26, 2018 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Dampeir Room, 2nd Floor of Kelvin Smith Library
11201 Euclid Ave

Talk about the personal becoming, or being, political….

Or, to put it another way, private conflict becoming socialized. Long ago, E.E. Schattschneider, in one of the two or three books all American Politics professors have to know, pointed out that keeping conflict private is always in the interest of whoever is winning – "in the school yard it is not the bully, but the defenseless smaller boys, who will 'call the teacher.'" He was emphasizing that power is everywhere; involving government is a way to change the participants and odds. The same could be said of naming and shaming, if social processes turn bullies into pariahs.

The current uproar over abuse in many forms grows out of the wide range of issues in any relationship among unequals. That involves basic ethical questions separate from legality or possibly even stated consent. The conflict is shaped by the stigmas and tropes operating within the media that are still the main conduits for information and judgments. The #metoo movement illustrates how victims' voices can be powerful, but raises further questions about the role of social media – as a mode for liberation or repression. Join us as Dr. Clites explores the dynamics and implications of the current discourse.

The Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

http://fridaylunch.case.edu/