

Tuesday Talks

PRESENTS

Dr. Benjamin Medeiros

Department of Communication Studies

Speaking on

“The Supreme Court Confronts
‘New School’ Speech Regulation”

At the conclusion of the current term, the Supreme Court will have heard a cluster of cases of unprecedented consequence regarding the acceptable parameters for government regulation of speech on social media platforms. Two of the cases involve recent state laws that dictate how social media platforms must moderate the content they host according to its ideological viewpoint; one involves the extent to which government officials are permitted to lobby social media executives in favor of particular moderation decisions; and a third category of cases considers when public officials are acting in their official government capacity on social media. This presentation will situate the current cases within the judicial and legislative history of platform regulation and explore their significance for the digital public sphere. I argue that these cases illustrate the medley of concerns associated with what legal scholar Jack Balkin has called “new school speech regulation,” or attempts to “regulate speech through control over digital networks and auxiliary services” instead of imposing criminal or civil liability on speakers directly. Further, while their proponents of these efforts might be politically diverse, their arguments nonetheless also evince a common underlying logic.

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

4:30-6 PM

Angell College Center

Cardinal Lounge

OPEN TO ALL

FREE OF
CHARGE

If you wish to be a speaker on this lecturer series, please contact Kristin Short, ext. 3150.