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In PLACE: November 27, 2017

PLACE

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IN PLACE

November 27th, 2017

Welcome back to the PLACE newsletter! We will send out semi-monthly emails during the 2017-18 academic year to keep you informed about everything PLACE-related. We'll try to keep these relatively short and focused, while also providing useful information about PLACE activities happening throughout the Linfield community and ways to bring the program into your classes.

Want a primer on PLACE? Check out the description [here](#). If you want more frequent updates, follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Spotlight On: “What’s the Big Idea.”

“[What’s the Big Idea](#),” or WTBI for short, is a faculty-student learning community and the epitome of small-college liberal arts education; around once a month, five faculty members and ten students descend upon David Sumner’s house for dinner, drink, and discussion.

The faculty members represent a wide array of scholarly interests, from anthropology to rhetoric, from history to math to physics. The students come from a variety of departments as well, ensuring that each conversation is unpredictable and mutually enriching.

After dinner, everyone gathers around, perhaps finding first the bottle opener and then a comfortable seat. Then, the real fun (of discussing the session’s reading) begins. Readings range from abstract pieces on

morality or the significance of certain disciplines, for instance Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* and G. H. Hardy's *A Mathematician's Apology*; to more concrete questions confronting American society today, from *The Case for Reparations* made by Ta-Nehisi Coates to the free speech debate Cheryl Harris and Jonathan Rauch brought to Linfield College.

Many student participants, myself included, value WTBI as one of the highlights of our time at Linfield. To be exposed to so many seemingly disparate disciplines, to interact with students and faculty outside our selected departments, and to pursue a scholarly discourse beyond the classroom is incredibly valuable—even if you are at the same time exposed to an overwhelming amount of David Sumner metaphors.

Perhaps the best thing about WTBI is its replicability. We believe that experiences like WTBI are essential to the liberal arts, and because of that, PLACE is helping sponsor WTBI this year. If you want to start your own WTBI group, which we strongly encourage you to consider, contact Dave Sumner.

This week's spotlight was written by Chase Stowell.

Upcoming Events

PLACE Debate: The US War on Terror was a Failure

At 6 PM on Wednesday, November 29th, in Jonasson Hall, the latest in our series of debates questions the accuracy of the common refrain: 'The US War on Terror was a Failure.' What do you think? We'll be running a poll on [Twitter](#), be sure to let us know!

PLACE Debate: The United States Should Provide a Pathway to Citizenship to Former DACA Recipients

Trump recently made [DACA a lightning rod for controversy](#). Picking up the pieces on Monday, December 4th at 4 PM, in Jonasson Hall, the final

PLACE debate for the semester asks the loaded question, upon which many lives and livelihoods rest: what now?

The Radical Symposium: Religious Awareness, Digital Inquiry, and Citizenship at Linfield

From 12 PM to 3:30 PM on Tuesday, December 4th in Fred Meyer Lounge, PLACE is hosting an exhibit which explores what exactly it means to be a digital citizen, drawing on the PLACE theme of this year.

The Road Not Travelled: Moral Boundaries & Poetic Justice

At 7:30 PM on Wednesday, December 6th in Delkin 145, we will be screening 'White Bear' from the second season of Black Mirror, which explores the morality of punishment, presenting a scenario a little closer to reality than we would perhaps like to admit, given the Philippines' 'War on Drugs'. Discussion to follow.

PLACE in the News

“As we know all too well from history—consider the FBI’s surveillance of civil rights groups in the ’60s—investigative powers wielded in secret create openings for unconstitutional abuses.” This VOX article explores the lack of transparency from the United States government in regards to obtaining your personal information from Google, Facebook, Twitter, and others. Gag orders are the norm, do you see this as a problem?

As the war on news outlets like the New York Times escalates, McKay Coppins asks a provocative question: “What if the right-wing media wins?” Do you agree with McKay’s characterization of conservative media? Or is it unfair? Let us know on Twitter!

Have Facebook’s recommendations got too accurate for you? Perhaps you might be getting a little concerned about how exactly they know everything about you? “How Facebook Figures Out Everyone You've Ever

Met” seeks to explain Facebook’s algorithms, despite Facebook’s lack of transparency.

Watch for future newsletters to learn more about PLACE events, teaching resources, and details on your PLACE Faculty/Student Fellows! Thanks for reading, and please feel free to send me questions and suggestions at pcottre@linfield.edu.