

Dealing With Those People

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Session Description:

IAP2's first principle holds that; *those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process*, which doesn't align with political winners who feel little obligation to consider views of the minority. Dr. Jonathan Haidt's New York Times best-seller, "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Religion and Politics", argues that at least some of our philosophical differences are grounded in biology. Researchers find that people identified as conservative have different brain patterns than people identified as liberal. Conservative beliefs in self-reliance and individual responsibility clash with liberal beliefs in greater good ideals. We don't understand other. We'll explore the validity of these differences and where to find common ground.

Outline of your session: This panel discussion and interactive session will explore foundational differences in how we think and will seek to include the perspectives of people not typically engaged in IAP2 conferences. We'll work with local officials and other groups to help frame a dialogue that explores and works to better understand how our profession can develop and guide conversations that reach beyond our politics. Our profession tends to attract liberals and though we're skilled in helping groups reach consensus, we are not immune to the myopia of liberal tribal thinking. To be effective, we need to listen to and understand perspectives that are outside our world-view. The Participation Company will convene and host a facilitated discussion to help IAP2 members and conference attendees better understand working with people who think very differently.

Brief description of how your session addresses the theme of the 2017 Conference:

We believe that this session specifically addresses the theme of "Pursuing the greater good ...P2 for a changing world," by considering the premise and IAP2's definition of 'the greater good' and how that plays with people who define 'the greater good' differently.

Session learning objective (s):

To be effective in this changing world, public participation practitioners must understand the value and core beliefs of people who don't normally gravitate to our profession or our own core beliefs. Our objective is to present and facilitate a discussion that will help bridge that gap in thinking and grow our practice.

