

Tech Fascism 101 with Gil Duran

Event Description:

Journalist Gil Duran was among the first to expose the right-wing ideology gaining traction among Bay Area tech elites. Their vision, embodied in [The Network State](#), a blueprint for tech billionaires to exit democracy and establish their own sovereign states. This ideology has already influenced San Francisco politics, with former GrowSF board member Garry Tan declaring, “If we can do it here, we can do it anywhere.”

Now, many of these same figures are channeling their wealth and influence toward national politics—aligning with Donald Trump and his authoritarian ambitions. In this discussion, Gil Duran will examine the rise of tech-fascism, its origins in San Francisco, and its growing impact in Washington, D.C.

About our Speaker:



Gil Duran is an American journalist based in San Francisco. He has served as the California opinion editor for *The Sacramento Bee* and editorial page editor for the *San Francisco Examiner*. He previously worked as press secretary for California governor Jerry Brown.

From 2008 to 2010, Duran was communications director for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. He was press secretary to Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa from 2007 to 2008.

In 2013, Duran was the communications director for Kamala Harris during her tenure as the California attorney general.

In 2018, Duran became the California opinion editor for *The Sacramento Bee* and oversaw strategy for McClatchy's five California news organizations: *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Fresno Bee*, *The Modesto Bee*, *The Merced Sun-Star* and *The Tribune* in San Luis Obispo.

His pieces regularly appear in *The New Republic* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He also writes two newsletters on the Ghost platform. [The Nerd Reich](#) focuses on tech authoritarian politics. [FrameLab](#), a partnership with cognitive scientist George Lakoff, focuses on political language and framing.