PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEW WORLD

Live Stream Discussion Series via Zoom

THREE YEARS OF IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS
SPRING 2020 – SPRING 2023
Our guests are listed in the order of their participation in our series, beginning with the most recent.
“An absolute joy to hear a success story from a bright journalist who is a role model for southern Illinois youth.”

- Praise for our conversation with Melinda Henneberger

“This was a superb program! If I could change the necessary reality, I would require all undergraduate and graduate students to carefully listen to the program.”

- Praise for our conversation with Amy McGrath
“Superb, knowledgeable interviewing by Shaw. Clear, succinct, lively answers by Hayward. Many of her comments are worthy of study and practice within all disciplines. Excellent in all aspects.”

- Praise for our conversation with Susan Hayward

“Every event I’ve attended I learn something new and interesting. Thank you.”

- Praise for our conversation with Shannon McGregor
“Love these sessions. Varied and very informative. Excellent interview covering a wide variety of professional experiences, highlighting the change in local journalism and its impact upon local communities. Great reporting.”
- Praise for our conversation with Julian Zelizer

“Excellent interview with Dr. Simmons. I will share the recording with faculty and students in the School of Education!”
- Praise for our conversation with Ruth Simmons
“The Institute has had some great webinars. However, the webinar with Yale University’s Elizabeth Hinton was one of the best!”

- Praise for our conversation with Elizabeth Hinton

“Excellent. If only political campaigns were composed of interviews like this instead of sound-bites! Very interesting discussion. I really appreciate the friendly and respectful approach of the interviewer.”

- Praise for our conversation with Tammy Duckworth
OUR VIRTUAL EVENT REACH

Since our first conversation on April 29, 2020 ...

10.5K Zoom event registrations
from 44 states & territories
and 28 countries

50K YouTube views
from 603.6K impressions

Since we launched our podcast, “Simoncast,” in September 2021 ...

3,307 podcast downloads
Prior to coming to the Institute in 2018, John Shaw was a journalist for more than twenty-five years in Washington, D.C. As a congressional reporter and a feature writer for a diplomatic magazine, Shaw interviewed dozens of lawmakers, diplomats, think tank leaders, historians, and policy analysts. He believes that the key to a successful interview is to thoroughly study the writings and previous interviews of the subject, carefully prepare the substance and sequence of questions, listen respectfully, and speak sparingly.

Comments from our participants

- Sherrod Brown, U.S. senator from Ohio
  “Thank you, John. Your are a really good interviewer. It went by so fast.”

- Liz Dozier, founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond
  “Your care and research made the conversation incredible.”

- Julian Zelizer, professor of history at Princeton University
  “It was a terrific conversation.”
- **Gareth Evans, former foreign minister of Australia**
  “Thanks John. You sure did your homework and it was a pleasure to talk to you. We certainly covered a lot of ground.”

- **Elizabeth Hinton, professor of history at Yale University**
  “I can’t thank you enough for the discussion. It’s probably one of, if not, the very best conversation I’ve ever had about my work. I really appreciate your questions and deep engagement in my research.”

- **Eliot Cohen, dean of John Hopkinds University’s School of Advanced International Studies**
  “The questions were wonderful and I think you knew more about my writing than I do. A real pleasure.”

- **Tom Zoellner, author; editor of the Los Angeles Review of Books**
  “It was a real pleasure to do this and you were one of the best-prepared interviewers I’ve ever spoken to.”

- **Phillip Taubman, author; lecturer at Stanford University**
  “I’ve done a lot of podcasts, webinars, and other appearances in recent months. Your questions were the best and your congenial style provided the impetus for a lively and informative conversation.”

- **Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations**
  “John, thank you for being such a gracious and generous host. Hope people enjoyed our convo as much as I did.”

- **Nicole Perlroth, author; cybersecurity report of The New York Times**
  “Thank you so much John. I loved every minute of it and really appreciated the quotes you pulled together. Some of my favorite, written in those still nights.”

- **John Gaddis, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer; professor of history at Yale University**
  “Thank you, John, especially for your own careful preparation, which certainly doesn’t always happen in these zoomed conversations.”

- **Lizzy Shackelford, Chicago Council on Global Affairs**
  I really enjoyed it. You’re a great interviewer/moderator and kudos to your staff for running tweets throughout the event. Great captures.”