Viral Videos and Political Participation

Session 6 Saturday, October 11 9:45-11:45 Texas Governor's Room

While many critics have embraced online video as inherently democratizing, few people have addressed how the videos circulate online and on television, and how political videos often attach themselves to unexpected, and sometimes reactionary, meanings. In this context, how have the various forms of political video shaped our definitions of democracy and how has our ongoing attempt to define democracy shaped political video? How is online video influencing network and cable news programming, and what is the impact on the electorate?