

# **ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AN AGE OF CONFORMITY**

**September 21, 2017**



**ST. OLAF  
COLLEGE**



**The Institute**  
*for Freedom & Community*  
DIALOGUE THAT OPENS MINDS

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Welcome to

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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AN AGE OF CONFORMITY

This lecture is part of the Institute for Freedom and Community's fall series, *Academic Freedom: Its Meaning and Limits*

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### Speaker

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#### Joanna Williams

*Author, academic, and the education editor of the online magazine Spiked*

In her book, *Academic Freedom in an Age of Conformity*, Joanna Williams examines the threats to academic freedom, including a stifling culture of conformity — specifically in higher education. She believes students and faculty alike suffer when the freedom of academic thought is silenced, and her work reflects on the changing ideas about the purpose of higher education, censorship, free speech, and the nature of knowledge. *Academic Freedom in an Age of Conformity* has been called "a compelling account of why academic freedom is in trouble" and "essential reading for anyone who cares about academic freedom, wants to better understand the threats to it, and how to fight back."

Williams has taught in United Kingdom schools and higher education for more than 20 years. Most recently she was a senior lecturer in Higher Education and Academic Practice at the University of Kent, where she was program director of the MA in Higher Education and director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education between 2014 and 2016. Since 2016 Williams has worked part-time at the university in order to pursue other writing projects.

Her latest book, *Women vs. Feminism: Why We All Need Liberating From the Gender Wars*, is out this month.

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*Save the Date*

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## **A DIALOGUE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017 • 7 P.M.  
ST. OLAF COLLEGE**

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In the second event of the fall series, Danielle Allen of Harvard University and Peter Berkowitz of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University will engage in a dialogue on academic freedom.

Please join us!

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

***institute.stolaf.edu***

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**The Institute for Freedom & Community** encourages free inquiry and meaningful debate of important political and social issues. By exploring diverse ideas about politics, markets, and society, the Institute aims to challenge presuppositions, question easy answers, and foster constructive dialogue among those with differing values and contending points of view.

## *About St. Olaf College*

One of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges, St. Olaf College offers a distinctive education grounded in academic rigor, residential learning, global engagement, and a vibrant Lutheran faith tradition. By cultivating the habits of mind and heart that enable graduates to lead lives of financial independence, professional accomplishment, personal fulfillment, and community engagement, St. Olaf College provides an uncommon educational experience that fully prepares students to make a meaningful difference in a changing world.



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