



Party Misfits: The Social Bases of Pluralism in an Era of Polarized Politics

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HKT

Tuesday, March 10 2026
09:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.



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Media, politicians, and scholars paint an America that is hopelessly divided. But that's not the full story. Many Americans don't fit neatly into the Republican or Democratic camp. These "party misfits" juggle complex social identities, mixed political views, and diverse networks. As parties harden along moral and economic lines, many feel politically homeless. How do wealthy seculars, religious Latinos, or suburban moms choose sides? People across partisan lines still live, work, and spend time together. How do they navigate political conflict in everyday life? Documenting these micro-level tensions, this talk exposes the growing gap between voters and elites.

Bio: Delia Baldassarri is Professor of Sociology and Politics at New York University. Her research interests are in the fields of Economic Sociology, Political Sociology, Social Networks, and Analytical Sociology. Her current research projects include a study of the emergence of cooperation in complex societies, focusing on the empirical case of ethnically heterogeneous communities and a book project, *Partisan Misfits*, that investigates the demographic and social network bases of partisanship in American public opinion.

Delia Baldassarri has received a few career awards, including the Freeman Award, given to distinguished scholars in the field of social networks, the Raymond Boudon Award for early career achievement from the European Academy of Sociology, the Hans L. Zetterberg Prize in Sociology, and a Carnegie Fellowship. Her work has appeared in many leading journals, among which *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, and *American Journal of Political Science*.