

Clarke Forum

for Contemporary Issues

DICKINSON

Spring 2026

All Events Are Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Black History Month Conversation

The Psychology of Belonging: Navigating Identity on a College Campus

Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College

Acclaimed author and clinical psychologist, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, will join us for a discussion based on her seminal, New York Times-bestselling book, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race*. The conversation will be moderated by Dr. Jacquie Forbes, assistant professor of educational studies, and Dr. Tony Boston, vice president and chief diversity officer and together they will explore the developmental journey of racial identity and how institutions can intentionally foster psychological safety and authentic belonging for all students.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 ▪

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Democracy and the Arts

Shannon Jackson, UC Berkeley

Professor Jackson's research, teaching, and convening focus on the role of visual, literary, performance, and media art forms in social movements and public life. Her work

addresses important questions, including: What is the role of the arts in activating and sustaining democratic life? How have artists sustained the rights of free expression? Why are some forms of artistic expression censored? How have the arts contributed to social movements?

Thursday, February 26 2026 *

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Real-World Effects of AI

Panel Discussion

Last July, the current US administration announced an action plan for "Winning the AI Race" which includes almost 100 federal policy actions, among them the dissolution of federal regulations around AI development and the promotion of rapid buildouts of data centers. This panel explores what the AI boom means for all of us, from scientific research, healthcare diagnostics and automated content creation to its effects on public utilities and the environment. The speakers will discuss different applications of generative AI and a range of ethical concerns its use poses.

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 +

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Bruce R. Andrews Lecture

Combating Online Harms: The Importance of Rigorous Scientific Testing of Proposed Interventions

Joshua A. Tucker, New York University

Interventions to combat online harms often sound good in theory, but do they actually work? Professor Tucker presents research showing that many popular solutions fail to deliver, highlighting the urgent need for rigorous scientific testing to protect our digital democracy.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 *

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Finding Unity in History: Our Community Process Recovering Victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre

Phoebe Stubblefield, University of Florida

Drawing from nearly six years of field and historical investigation, Dr. Stubblefield will discuss the collaboration between herself, Tulsa community members, and the scientific community that have resulted in the recent identifications of Tulsa Race Massacre victims. In describing the findings of her analysis of the skeletal remains, she is able to provide a view of the physical identity and lifestyles of select individuals whose remains have been recovered.

Tuesday April 7, 2026 *

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

The World As We Would Have It Be: Collective Thriving in the Timeplace of Collapse

Norma Kawelokū Wong, Collective Acceleration

David McMahan, Franklin & Marshall College

We are living at a moment of rapid systemic breakdown in which chaos dominates our present condition and directs our future. Instability is no longer a failure of power but its primary technique, governing through exhaustion, fear, and confusion. Zen teacher, Indigenous Hawaiian leader, and political strategist Norma Wong will offer Zen and Indigenous wisdom, teachings, storytelling, and practice to help us leap beyond the current fraught societal moment. David L. McMahan (Franklin and Marshall College) is her conversation partner for this event.

Monday, April 13, 2026 +

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

The Canary in the Coal Mine: The 1951 Refugee Convention and the Collapse of the Post WW II International Order

Seyla Benhabib, Yale University & Columbia University

The 1951 Refugee Convention, one of the most important human rights documents of the post-WW II period, embodied the hopes and aspirations of a new world order. Today, the utopian optimism of the Convention that the persecuted would find safe haven and that there could be a world without such persecution, lies in smithereens. Professor Benhabib will discuss how that dilemma may have been predestined already in the Convention's design.

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

The Geopolitical Consequences of the Iran War
Dickinson College Faculty Panel

Russell Bova, Political Science & International Studies; **David Commins**, History & Middle East Studies; **Mireille Rebeiz**, Middle East Studies, French & Francophone Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched Operation Epic Fury, marking a significant escalation in their conflict with Iran and intensifying instability across the Middle East. The Strait of Hormuz has emerged as a central site of geopolitical contention and a critical factor in negotiations. This panel will aim to address the most immediate and potential consequences of the Iran War, while presenting multiple lenses through which to analyze its impacts.

Monday, April 20, 2026 +

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Muslim France and the Contradictions of Laïcité: A History of the Present

Mayanthi Fernando, UC Santa Cruz

In 1989, three Muslim schoolgirls from a Paris suburb refused to remove their Islamic headscarves in class, igniting a debate – still raging more than 30 years later – about the place of Muslims in the French Republic and its governing tradition of laïcité (secularism). Dr. Fernando's talk shows how laïcité has entailed not the separation of religion from politics and the public sphere but rather the French state's intervention into religious life, including defining what counts as religion, belief, practice, and symbol, and how those definitions have significant consequences for Muslim French.

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium, 7 p.m.

The Power of Language: How Knowing More Than One Language Transforms the Mind and Society

Viorica Marian, Northwestern University

Learning multiple languages transforms how we experience the world and reshapes perception, memory, creativity, decision-making, identity, and societies. Drawing on eye-tracking and neuroimaging research, this lecture shows how multiple languages continuously interact in the mind and why studying multilingual cognition is essential to understanding human cognitive potential.

+ STUDENT INITIATED PROGRAMS

Each semester the Clarke Forum student employees propose program ideas that address contemporary issues. Two programs are then selected by a group vote to be developed as events for the following semester.

▪ **2025-26 THEME
THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS**

"Thought experiments" reach back to ancient philosophy, when thinkers employed hypothetical reasoning to explore abstract ideas. These "devices of the imagination," as they were sometimes described, became popular again in 19th century science. They have since been used in a range of imagined scenarios across disciplines that were created specifically to gain deeper insight into complex problems. In an era marked by multifaceted environmental, humanitarian, and geo-political crises, thought experiments provide an invaluable tool for conceptualizing innovative solutions by sparking creativity, deepening understanding, and facilitating effective models for collaboration.

* **LEADERSHIP IN AN AGE OF
UNCERTAINTY SERIES**

The Clarke Forum established a series of programmatic events dedicated to the theme of leadership in an age of uncertainty. This initiative is grounded on the reality that today's generation of Dickinson students confronts a large number of intractable political, economic, and social problems. How Dickinsonians respond to these challenges presents us with an opportunity for reflection on the meaning of leadership in the contemporary world. This series is partially supported by a fund created by Betty R. '58 and Dan Churchill.

For more information about our events, and to access interviews and past lectures visit:
www.clarkeforum.org

This schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, so please refer to the website for the most updated information.

