

2023 GARY KING
VISITING LECTURER
APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH

**THE BENJAMIN CENTER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PRESENT**

POLITICAL HOBBYISM vs. POLITICAL POWER: WHO IS TO BLAME FOR OUR BROKEN POLITICS?

DR. EITAN HERSH

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE
TUFTS UNIVERSITY**



Who is to blame for our broken politics? The uncomfortable answer to this question starts with ordinary citizens with good intentions. We vote (sometimes) and occasionally sign a petition or attend a rally. But we mainly “engage” by consuming politics as if it’s a sport or a hobby. We soak in daily political gossip and eat up statistics about who’s

up and who’s down. The hours we spend on politics are used mainly as pastime.

Instead, we should be spending the same number of hours building political organizations, implementing a long-term vision for our city or town, and getting to know our neighbors, whose votes will be needed for solving hard problems. We could be accumulating power so that when there are opportunities to make a difference—to lobby, to advocate, to mobilize—we will be ready.

In his lecture, *Political Hobbyism vs Political Power*, Dr. Eitan Hersh will show us a way toward more effective political participation. Aided by political theory, history, cutting-edge social science, as well as remarkable stories of ordinary citizens who got off their couches and took political power seriously, this lecture will show us how to channel our energy away from political hobbyism and toward empowering our values.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
4:30–6 p.m.
SCIENCE HALL, ROOM 181
SUNY NEW PALTZ

The annual **Gary King Visiting Lecture in Applied Social Research** is underwritten by New Paltz alumni Gary King '80 (Political Science), the Albert J. Weatherhead III University Professor at Harvard University.

If you have accessibility questions or require accommodations to fully participate in this event, please contact The Benjamin Center at benjamincenter@newpaltz.edu at least two weeks prior to the event.

