2018 CONVERSATIONALISTS
THE GREAT CONVERSATION | CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

Do You Believe You Control Your Digital Identity?

At one point or another, we have heard or experienced concerns over the privacy of our digital information. The mentality of "ignorance is bliss" is perpetuated in society. However, the reality is that private information is public and our decisions are driven by digital norms.

Ryan Sung '18

Millennials, TV, and Reality: What Do Our Habits Mean for the Future of Production?

Millennials have influenced the landscape and expectations of major industries. Information dissemination has changed due to our unique perception of reality. Let's discuss the future of TV and its influence from entertainment to elections.

Jordan Aronowitz '18

Feminism and Consumerism: Have Corporations Coopted the Movement?

Feminism, originally a radical ideology, has moved into the mainstream in recent years. Its message of equality has been adopted by many groups, including corporations that have used it for ad campaigns and product designs. Is something lost when this happens? Is something gained?

Kyla Eastling '18

Life after Graduation

Transitioning from Claremont into the workforce is daunting for many graduates. How can we best equip ourselves to face the challenges of a work environment, home life, and personal growth?

Daniel Ludlam '18

Can Big Data Solve Climate Change?

Satellites that monitor desertification, drones that count elephants, footage that charts deforestation: let's discuss the intersection of technology and the environment, and how the pairing might be more intuitive than it seems.

Madeline Lee '19

Should Climate Change Policies Redistribute Our Wealth?

Fortunes are acquired through natural resource exploitation, which yields climate change and pollution that inordinately devastate the disadvantaged. Seems as if economic freedom spells out ruin for all.

Samuel Becker '19

Why Has Tech Failed at Building Diverse Workforces?

Since 1991, the percentage of women in computing roles has decreased from 36% to 25%. Women currently earn 28% of computer science degrees, but hold only 11% of executive positions in Silicon Valley. Where do these imbalances come from? Are these epistemic injustices interpersonal, organizational, or societal? Let's discuss the controversy behind the Google Manifesto, and how women can overcome stereotypes and thrive in this male-dominated field.

Renata Drucker '19

The Urban-Rural Divide

From a rural perspective, urbanization means rural flight. This discussion will attempt to scratch the surface of the economic, political, and sociological differences between rural and urban areas, and their consequences moving forward.

Nicholas Fedorochko '19

Social Media and Objectification

Social media use has become a ubiquitous staple of contemporary life. We each create and maintain carefully curated versions of ourselves in the virtual world. What do these objectified versions of ourselves mean? How does our voluntary objectification impact our sense of self-worth? How do we create and find meaning in the gray nebulous distance of cyberspace? This table will discuss these questions and more, engaging in a reflection of self-identity in the age of self-objectification.

Christopher Raguz '19

Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence and Holding Each Other Accountable

How can we as a campus and greater CMC community best support survivors of sexual violence and hold individuals in our community to the highest standards of consent and behavior?

Grace Wilson '19

How Can CMC Reach More Students from Lower Socioeconomic Backgrounds?

Data shows that schools such as CMC are incredible vehicles for transporting children from the most vulnerable populations into well-paying careers. However, just 15% of CMC's student body comes from the bottom 60% of income earners. What can CMC and other elite institutions do to recruit students from low-income households and help them graduate in four years?

Zachary Wong '19

The Blockchain Revolution

Blockchain is the biggest technological innovation since the internet and has changed the world as we know it. Let's discuss blockchain's potential to disrupt industries such as banking, cyber security, cloud storage, and more. Discover the secrets behind by the transformative technology that is blockchain. No technical experience required.

Patrick Hennessy '19

Ethics and Obligations of Academics and Artists in Foreign Communities

A community isn't liable to reveal its nuances to an outsider; and an outsider's impression can have lasting and influential effects on a community. Discuss the ethics of producing, publishing, and disseminating a partial truth and the responsibility of viewers and readers when synthesizing this information.

Blake Lapin '19

The Role of Internationalism, Language, and Identity in Shaping Our Life Experiences

How can we, in our everyday lives, think on a global scale instead of thinking of solutions that are America-centric? If you are interested in understanding perspectives from across the globe, how identity is shaped by the places we live in, or understanding how bilingual people are more productive in the workforce, then please join us!

Jahnavi Kocha '19

The Ship of Theseus at CMC

The paradox of "The Ship of Theseus" questions whether a certain ship would remain the same if it was repaired plank by plank, until all planks are replaced. As students, faculty, and staff at CMC are replaced, how does CMC preserve its identity?

Edgar Warnholtz Perez '19

Navigating the U.S. as an American Third Culture Individual

As an American Third Culture individual, one is neither here nor there. One is viewed as international by people in the U.S. and as an American by the international community. One is confused by the question "where is home?". These issues have been discussed in literature, on Facebook, and on sites like BuzzFeed. How can we reconcile these identities and learn to embrace them?

Sami Malas '19

Does our System of Vacations Make Sense?

Discuss the pros and cons of time off, benefits and drawbacks of unlimited vacation day policies, and the potential social costs of valuing work over leisure, among other issues. Also explore the topic of school vacations. What are the pros and cons of the current system, and how could America redesign its system of school vacations?

Bryn Miller '19

Anxiety in America: Why Are We So Worried?

Our table will explore the recent surge of anxiety in America, especially for high school and college students. More than ever, young people are being diagnosed and dealing with severe anxiety. We'll discuss questions such as, "Where does it come from?," "What are its effects?" and "What can we do about it?" Join the conversation, share your insight, and help us move towards a solution, both for CMC and beyond.

Bryan Carlen '20

America's Obsession with True Crime: Why Shows like *Making a Murderer* Are So Popular

While crime and police procedural shows have always been popular, the recent surge in popularity of true crime shows like Netflix's Making a Murderer *and HBO's* The Jinx *begs the question: What is the secret to success in the relationship between crime and the entertainment industry?*

Amanda Kandasamy '20

Is the Selfie Really New? An Intersection of Art History and Pop Culture

Have you ever wondered why we are obsessed with selfies? Well, maybe this isn't such a new phenomenon. Come learn and discuss how humans have used self-portraiture throughout history and what it really means!

Caroline Eastburn '20

Let's Fall in Love: Exploring Human Connection through Vulnerability

Inspired by The New York Times' *article "To Fall in Love with Anyone, Do This," our table will ask and answer reflective questions to form deeper connections. Who knows? Maybe you'll even fall in love. (Feel free to bring your own questions!)*

Lisa Hao '20

Fostering Inclusivity at CMC

Free speech and inclusivity are two very important pillars of the CMC community. This table will explore how they intersect with each other, whether or not they infringe on each other, and how to foster free speech while making sure that pockets of the CMC community do not feel marginalized and unheard.

Laleh Ahmad '20

How to Bridge a Polarized America?

The 2016 election highlighted the divides across America; We shut ourselves off from those who disagreed with us. These divides were especially pertinent on college campuses, such as CMC, where they pervaded classrooms, on-campus culture, and social media.

Jennifer Gurev '20