

## *Kobayashi Memorial Socrates Program*

The Aspen Institute's Socrates Program has 22 years of history and has provided forums for exploring contemporary issues through expert-moderated dialogue in and outside of the U.S. In late fall 2018, the third Kobayashi Memorial Socrates seminar will be held in Nara, Japan, as one of the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship-funded programs.

### *“Democracy in the Digital Age”*

*moderated by Charlie Firestone*

*Thu. 29 Nov. - Sun. 2 Dec. 2018*

**T**his seminar, an update of the first Socrates Society seminar held 22 years ago, will explore how new digital and network technologies change the nature of democracy and its core institutions. It begins with defining what we mean by democracy, distinguishing among various democratic models, and identifies the key trends and drivers of the digital age. It will then consider how digital technologies are affecting electoral and democratic processes now and in the future. The seminar will also explore issues of liberty (e.g., issues relating to the freedom to communicate, freedom to connect, the right of privacy, and the right to be forgotten) and security. It will explore the concept of digital inclusion, how to bring the advantages that the digital world has to offer such as education, jobs, and healthcare to the underserved, and will finish with a look at the global impact of these technologies on democracy around the world. Are they “technologies of freedom” or oppression? How can we use these technologies to make our world a better place?



**Charlie Firestone** is Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program and a Vice President of the Aspen Institute. Since his appointment in December 1989, this program has focused on the impact of new technologies on democratic, economic and social institutions, the development of new communications policy models and options for the public interest, and the implications of communications and information technologies for leadership. For three years he was also the Institute's Executive Vice President for Policy Programs and International Activities.

Firestone holds degrees from Amherst College and Duke University Law School. He is the editor, author or co-author of numerous articles on communications law and policy. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a GLOCOM Fellow of the Japanese Institute of Global Communications in Tokyo, Japan, and was a Visiting Professor at the Duke University Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy in 2003.



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- Date :** Thu November 29 - Sun December 2, 2018
- Topic :** Democracy in the Digital Age
- Moderator :** Charlie Firestone  
Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program and a Vice President of the Aspen Institute
- Location :** Hotel Nikko Nara  
8-1 Sanjo-hommachi Nara-shi Nara 630-8122 Japan  
Tel: 81-742-35-8831  
<https://www.okura-nikko.com/japan/nara/hotel-nikko-nara/>
- Language :** English
- Eligible applicants :** Young leaders between the ages of 30 to 50 who are active or expected to be active in the fields of business, government and civil society.

### **Preliminary Schedule:**

- Day 1 (Thu.)** 7:00 p.m. - Opening Ceremony
- Day 2 (Fri.)** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seminar Session 1  
Lunch  
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Seminar Session 2  
Dinner
- Day 3 (Sat.)** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Seminar Session 3  
Lunch  
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Cultural Activity  
7:00 p.m. – Closing Ceremony
- Day 4 (Sun.)** Adjourn after breakfast

### **Seminar readings :**

Seminar readings will be provided to you approximately 2 months prior to the seminar.

### **Application Due Date :**

Please fill out and submit the application form by email to the Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship Office by **Monday, August 20, 2018.**

The office will review the application and contact you with the result around one week after the application due.

### **Inquiries and applications :**

For further information and the application form, please contact below:

[scholarship@aspeninstitute.jp](mailto:scholarship@aspeninstitute.jp)

Elina Akiyama

The Yotaro Kobayashi Scholarship Office

The Aspen Institute Japan