**National Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Date)

**3,000 Years of Human Thought -- Discussed in Open & Curious Chats?**

(Station Logo)

**Presents**

**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

(Airdate/Time, Channel)

**And Streaming on the PBS App.**

**(City, State)  ---   (Station               )** When are questions more important than answers?

A new series, *CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION*, engages in open and curious conversations exploring 3,000 years of human thought from St. John's College (Santa Fe, NM) examines the mysteries of who we are as humans and why we see each other and the world as we do.

*CONTINUING THE CONVESATION* premieres on **( Day  /  Date  /  Time  )      on    (Station / Channel)  \_\_\_\_\_**  and streaming on the PBS App.

Using great books spanning western and eastern thought on science, philosophy, mathematics, and literature as guides, the series explores ideas that shaped human history. *CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION* invites listeners who are curious about the books and authors that have influenced civilization for millennia to engage in discussions and connect over the profound and the personal.

**What books and authors that have influenced civilization for millennia?**

Alternating hosts and St. John's faculty Sarah Davis, Dean; Zena Hitz; Louis Petrich; and Krishnan Venkatesh are joined by guest tutors to discuss and connect over the profound and the personal. Conversations explore the conflict between the ideals America was founded upon and the lived reality of life in America; the centrality of family conflict in dramas from Ancient Greece to modern Japan; the relationship between sports and war; and the tension between philosophical ideals and political realities, among other thought- and conversation-provoking topics.

[St. John's College](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=3754591-1&h=3813344812&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sjc.edu%2F&a=St.+John%27s+College), the third-oldest college in the U.S. and considered [the most contrarian college](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=3754591-1&h=1991913528&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2018%2F09%2F11%2Fopinion%2Fcontrarian-college-stjohns.html&a=the+most+contrarian+college) for its distinct and steadfast approach to the liberal arts—reading and discussing 3,000 years of great books across multiple disciplines over the course of four years.

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**CO-HOST BIOS:**

**Sarah Davis** is the dean of St. John's College, Santa Fe, NM; where she has been a tutor since 2012. Sarah received her B.A. in Philosophy and Anthropology at Harvard University and her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from Emory University. She conducted extensive fieldwork on the French Island of Corsica, studying their Nationalist movement and movement for cultural revitalization, the riaquistu. She co-edited *Being There: Learning to Live Cross Culturally,* a book of personal essays by anthropologists reflecting on their experiences living cross culturally, and has published academic essays at the intersection of Anthropology and Philosophy as well as creative nonfiction essays. Sarah was the recipient of the Condon Prize for Psychological Anthropology as well as The Marjorie Shostak Prize for Excellence and Humanity in Ethnographic Writing. Before becoming a tutor, Sarah worked for Time Magazine in Paris and American Heritage Magazine in New York. Sarah and her husband David have two sons, Jackson and Noah.

**Krishnan Venkatesh** studied English Literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and worked on Shakespeare at the University of Münster, Germany, before the Wall fell. He taught English literature and philosophy at Shanxi University, China, for three years, before discovering St. John’s College, Santa Fe. He has taught at St. John’s since 1989, both Western and Eastern great books. He feels that it was at St. John’s that he began to learn to read, and that he met some of his best friends — among them Plato, Montaigne, Apollonius, Zhuangzi, and Dogen. He is the author of a book on the Pali Discourses of the Buddha and a book on Tolkien; and he is currently working on a book on Confucius.

(Insert Station Boilerplate)

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MEXICO IN FOCUS, COLORES! and a variety of specials. NMPBS operates 5 digital KNME

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**St. John's College**

St. John's College holds a distinctive position among American colleges and universities. Its strong commitment to collaborative inquiry and to the rigorous study of original texts by great Western and Eastern philosophers, scientists, writers, mathematicians, musicians, and astronomers—from Homer, Plato and Confucius to Bach, Einstein, Woolf, and DuBois—makes St. John's College a unique, vibrant community of learning.

Located on two campuses in historic state capitals—Santa Fe, N.M., and Annapolis, Md.,—St. John's is the third oldest college in America. The College offers interdisciplinary B.A. and M.A. degrees in the liberal arts on both campuses; the Santa Fe campus also offers an M.A. in the Eastern Classics. [www.sjc.edu](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=3754591-1&h=3620124406&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sjc.edu%2F&a=www.sjc.edu)

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