Thursday, October 5, 2023, 4pm
Zellerbach Hall

Ezra Klein
A Liberalism That Builds

with Professor Amy E. Lerman

*Co-presented by Cal Performances and UC Berkeley Graduate Lectures
as part of the Jefferson Memorial Lecture Series.*

Ezra Klein is an opinion columnist and podcast host at the *New York Times*. His podcast, "The Ezra Klein Show," receives more than a half-million downloads per episode, and is routinely in the top 25 podcasts on Apple's charts. In 2021, *Time*, *New York Magazine*, and the *Atlantic* all named it one of the best podcasts of the year. Klein is among the *Times'* most-read columnists, where he has merged traditional opinion writing and explanatory reporting to bring clarity to policy debates often mired in complexity.

Prior to his work at the *Times*, Klein founded and launched *Vox*, the popular explanatory news site. As *Vox*'s editor-in-chief, and then as its editor-at-large, he helped create, and then executive produced, *Explained* on Netflix, which is now in its fifth season. He also launched programs on HBO and YouTube. Prior to his work at *Vox*, Klein launched the Wonkblog vertical at the *Washington Post*.

In 2020, Klein published *Why We're Polarized*, a bestselling examination of the forces driving polarization, and paralyzing politics, in the United States.

Professor Amy E. Lerman, is the Michelle Schwartz Chair and Professor of Public Policy and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and Director of the Possibility Lab at the University of California. In addition, Professor Lerman currently serves as Senior Strategist for Data-Driven Innovation at the California Government Operations Agency. Her research is focused on issues of equity, public opinion, and political behavior, especially as they relate to public safety and social inequality in America.

Professor Lerman's scholarship can be found in a wide variety of academic journals and has been featured in numerous media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, CNN, and NPR. She consults widely on issues related to civic engagement and trust in government, prison reform, access to higher education, and law enforcement mental health.

Professor Lerman is the author of several award-winning books, including work on the American criminal justice system in *The Modern Prison Paradox* and *Arresting Citizenship*. Her most recent book, *Good Enough for Government Work*, examines how perceptions of government shape citizens' attitudes toward privatization and public programs.

In addition to her research, Lerman previously served as a speechwriter and communications consultant for national nonprofits and members of the United States Congress, a community organizer in Latin America and Southeast Asia, and an adjunct faculty member of the Prison University Project at San Quentin State Prison. In 2023, Lerman was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Jefferson Memorial Lectures

In 1944, the Jefferson Memorial Fund was established by the will of Elizabeth Bonestell in her name and the name of her husband, Cutler L. Bonestell, for the study and promotion of a loyal and enlightened adherence by young people to the basic principles of American democracy as embodied in the Constitution. The fund supports an annual series of lectures on topics concerned with Thomas Jefferson or his times, with the development of the American governmental system, or with civil liberties and the Jeffersonian tradition. Lecturers have delivered Jefferson Memorial Lectures on early American history, on Jefferson himself, and on American institutions and policies in politics, economics, education, and law.

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