Can Madison’s Constitution Cope with our Polarized Politics?

Thursday, October 15th
12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on October, 14th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 12th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Our complex system of checks-and-balances and federalism was expected to act as a brake on political polarization, and for a long time it was. Now, if anything, our institutions act to intensify polarization. How did this happen? And if the constitution is now part of the problem rather than the solution, what can we do about it?

Paul Pierson is John Gross Professor of Political Science at UC Berkeley and the inaugural Director of Berkeley’s Center for the Study of American Democracy. He has authored numerous books on American politics and public policy, including (with Jacob Hacker) the New York Times best-seller Winner-Take-All Politics.