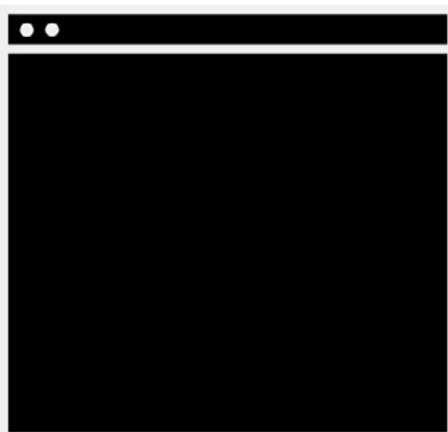


American Public Square At Jewell
Presents

I Got Canceled: What's Next?

ZOOM WEBINAR



Points of Resource

Tuesday, November 17 at 6:00 PM

These resources were compiled by American Public Square at Jewell's 2020 Fall Intern team comprising of: Charisma Sewell, Luke Dema, Henry Claus, Pria Jean-baptiste, Henry Claus, and Jaycee Roe.

WHAT IS CANCEL CULTURE?

Defined by Eve Ng of Ohio University's School of Media Arts & Studies, and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program as "cancel culture," the initial emergence of which as a form of grassroots expression followed by increasing criticism illustrates a common trajectory for social media phenomena that can obscure the broader range of digital engagement practices' (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1527476420918828>).

Commentary on Cancel Culture Definitions

Ross Douthat, an 11-year tenured columnist for the New York Times recently defined cancel culture as "[Cancellation](#), properly understood, refers to an attack on someone's employment and reputation by a determined collective of critics, based on an opinion or an action that is alleged to be disgraceful and disqualifying". Douthat details that cancellation is a specific attack on one's profession and must be, noting that all other forms of attacks are merely insults and heckles (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/14/opinion/cancel-culture-.html>)

The idea that cancellation is only a good thing has been called into question by Author of *The Cult of Smart: How Our Broken Education System Perpetuates Social Injustice*, Fredrik DeBoer. DeBoer believes that because humans are flawed, they should be given forgiveness. In a recent article from the Business Insider, DeBoer argues that there should be a line between redemption and abandonment. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/cult-of-smart-author-fredrik-deboer-schools-marxism-cancel-culture-2020-10>)

The #MeToo Movement and Cancel Culture

The 21st century surge of social media has only intensified said repercussions of cancel culture. Groups like the #MeToo movement led by Tarana Burke are examples of cancellation that many people think of when confronted with the newness of 21st century cancel culture (<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2018/07/is-metoo-too-big/564275/>).

In instances like this, cancellation is noted to have been healthy for society as abusers received comeuppance during the #MeToo movement. Most notably, Harvey Weinstein ‘. . . —who has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 80 women (he has denied the allegations) and charged with predatory sexual assault, a criminal sexual act and rape (he has pleaded not guilty)—lost his job . . .’ he was then too booted from any social circle in Hollywood (<https://time.com/5735403/cancel-culture-is-not-real/>)

In an academic essay, Eve Ng of Ohio University’s School of Media Arts & Studies, and Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, wrote ‘The #MeToo movement, with its mandate of exposing the scope of sexual harassment and assault, turbocharged cancel culture: Harvey Weinstein did not have the social media profile to be dramatically canceled, but a number of subsequently accused figures did, such as actor’ pointing out that cancellation largely takes place on Twitter and other key social media platforms (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1527476420918828>).

Ng goes on to further define how social media has been a driving factor of contemporary cancellation stating that ‘Of course, dogmatism and oversimplification of complex issues pre-date social media, but platforms such as Twitter can foster ideological rigidity and lack of nuance due to the typical textual brevity of any individual post, the speed with which posts are disseminated, and the rapidity of online exchanges, which militate against considered responses (e.g., Spratt 2018).’ (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1527476420918828>)

The idea that cancellation is only a good thing has been called into question; as Author Fredrik DeBoer does in an article in Business Insider. DeBoer believes that because humans are flawed, they should be given forgiveness. This issue has puzzled thinkers for centuries: Where is the line between redemption and abandonment argues DeBoer. (<https://www.businessinsider.com/cult-of-smart-author-fredrik-deboer-schools-marxism-cancel-culture-2020-10>)

PUBLIC OPINION ON CANCEL CULTURE

In response to being called out and canceled, many celebrities who have been on the receiving end, as well as the greater public have begun to express their own opinions and concerns about cancel culture in the past few months. A staff writer, Osita Nwanevu, at The New Republic spoke his opinions about cancel culture. In his opinion, the [backlash against cancel culture is overblown](#). Viewing results of a survey conducted by Politico about cancel culture, he stated that the results show how the public is often frightened by things such as cancel culture in the abstract sense though they appreciate the fundamental ideas of the concept in scenarios. According to Nwanevu, cancel culture is mostly about the power people hold in order to hold others accountable. (<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/22/americans-cancel-culture-377412>)

POL18

As you may know, cancel culture is the practice of withdrawing support for (or canceling) public figures and companies after they have done or said something considered objectionable or offensive. Cancel culture is generally discussed as being performed on social media in the form of group shaming. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of people participating in cancel culture?

Strongly approve	165	8%
Somewhat approve	470	24%
Somewhat disapprove	370	19%
Strongly disapprove	507	25%
Don't know / No opinion	478	24%

POL19 *Based on what you know about cancel culture, do you believe it has an overall positive or overall negative impact on society?*

Very positive	115	6%
Somewhat positive	410	21%
Somewhat negative	415	21%
Very negative	566	28%
Don't know / No opinion	484	24%

POL20 *And based on what you know about cancel culture, do you believe it has gone too far, not far enough, or neither?*

Too far	920	46%
Not far enough	197	10%
Neither	365	18%
Don't know / No opinion	509	26%

Link to full Morning Consult + Politico Study:

<https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000173-7326-d36e-abff-7ffe72dc0000>

An additional discovery of the polling done through Politico News was a relationship found between the time of the controversial statement by a public figure, and whether an individual's opinions of them would change. As the time between the current time and the controversial comment increased, the amount of people whose opinions would change about the public figure decreased. Based on this, the time of the statement was found to be important, and people cared more if it was a recent statement due to how that reflects the public figure's current beliefs and stances. For example, when asked about how a respondent would view a public figure based on comments from a year prior, [54 percent](#) said that statement would completely or somewhat change their opinion of the public figure. While, if the statement was 15 years ago, the percentage decreased to [26 percent](#) of respondents who said their opinion would completely or somewhat change (<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/07/22/americans-cancel-culture-377412>)

POL13_1 *Thinking about if you found out a public figure had done or said something offensive or controversial, would your opinion change of that person if it had happened: 1 year ago*

My opinion of them would completely change	469	24%
My opinion of them would somewhat change	605	30%
My opinion of them would change a little bit	314	16%
My opinion of them would not change at all	255	13%
Don't know / No opinion	348	17%

POL13_2 *Thinking about if you found out a public figure had done or said something offensive or controversial, would your opinion change of that person if it had happened: 5 years ago*

My opinion of them would completely change	267	13%
My opinion of them would somewhat change	537	27%
My opinion of them would change a little bit	452	23%
My opinion of them would not change at all	386	19%
Don't know / No opinion	349	18%

POL13_3 *Thinking about if you found out a public figure had done or said something offensive or controversial, would your opinion change of that person if it had happened: 10 years ago*

My opinion of them would completely change	207	10%
My opinion of them would somewhat change	382	19%
My opinion of them would change a little bit	454	23%
My opinion of them would not change at all	568	29%
Don't know / No opinion	380	19%

POL13_4 *Thinking about if you found out a public figure had done or said something offensive or controversial, would your opinion change of that person if it had happened: 15 or more years ago*

My opinion of them would completely change	199	10%
My opinion of them would somewhat change	323	16%
My opinion of them would change a little bit	386	19%
My opinion of them would not change at all	676	34%
Don't know / No opinion	406	20%

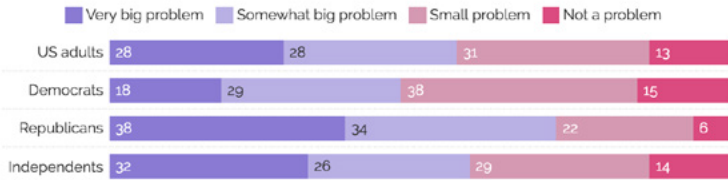
Yahoo News and YouGov conducted online surveys to get people's opinions across differing identities to measure public opinion on the effectiveness of cancel culture and whether cancel culture is or is not a societal issue. The percentages of responders saying that cancel culture is a big problem varied from different age groups and identities. Based on the results, it is also possible to say that older people, men, republican, and supporters of President Trump feel that cancel culture is a larger problem than other identities view it as. This research also showed that there is a notable relation between Vice President Biden and President Trump supporters and their opinions on cancel culture. [15% of people](#) who intended to vote for Biden believe that cancel culture is a very big problem in comparison to 49% of Trump Supporters who believe that cancel culture is a very big problem. Though, despite the surveys from YouGov and Yahoo News, Former President Obama, and President Trump both commented on cancel culture, with both of them having negative views of it. (<https://today.yougov.com/topics/entertainment/articles-reports/2020/07/28/cancel-culture-yahoo-news-poll-data>)

31. Cancel Culture a Problem

“Cancel culture” refers to a form of boycott in which an individual (usually a celebrity) who has said something that offends some people is called out and shunned. How big a problem do you think “cancel culture” is in the U.S. today?

	Total	Gender		Age				Race		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic
Very big problem	28%	31%	25%	18%	25%	34%	32%	28%	27%	30%
Somewhat big problem	28%	25%	31%	31%	31%	24%	29%	27%	25%	27%
Small problem	31%	28%	33%	30%	26%	33%	34%	32%	29%	29%
Not a problem	13%	15%	11%	20%	18%	10%	6%	12%	19%	15%
Totals	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	101%	101%	99%	100%	101%
Unweighted N	(1,479)	(673)	(806)	(311)	(339)	(518)	(311)	(1,001)	(159)	(177)

“Cancel culture” refers to a form of boycott in which an individual (usually a celebrity) who has said something that offends some people is called out and shunned. How big a problem do you think “cancel culture” is in the US today? (%)



YouGov

Yahoo News/YouGov | July 11 – 14, 2020 | Get the data

Link to full Yahoo and Yougov Study: https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/pf8xh3r9pm/20200714_yahoo_coronavirus_crosstabs.pdf

Former President Barack Obama

“That’s not bringing about change. If all you’re doing is casting stones, you’re probably not going to get that far. That’s easy to do.”

President Donald Trump

“We want free and open debate, not speech codes and cancel culture. We embrace tolerance, not prejudice ... One of their political weapons is ‘cancel culture’ — driving people from their jobs, shaming dissenters, and demanding total submission from anyone who disagrees. This is the very definition of totalitarianism, and it is completely alien to our culture and our values, and it has absolutely no place in the United States of America.”

WHO IS DECIDING WHEN OR HOW SOMEONE IS CANCELED?

There isn't a study to reference in answering this question as the answer is still coming into form and is viewed entirely subjectively by each individual's lived experience. Who decides who and how someone gets canceled is explored in a recent podcast by The New York Times. The Daily, as hosted by Michael Barbaro, discusses cancel culture, its history, the nuisances of cancel culture being viewed by some as a space to provide a voice for those who believing in holding others accountable or "cancelling." (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/podcasts/the-daily/cancel-culture.html?showTranscript=1>)

IS CANCEL CULTURE TOXIC OR HEALTHY?

A quick search of the question 'Is Cancel culture.....?' will signify the variety of opinion on the matter and the lack of a collective decision about Cancel Culture being toxic, healthy, good, bad etc.



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- A screenshot of a Google search bar with the text "Is cancel culture" entered. Below the search bar, a list of search suggestions is shown, each preceded by a magnifying glass icon. The suggestions are:
- is cancel culture **good**
 - is cancel culture
 - is cancel culture **good for society**
 - is cancel culture **a thing**
 - is cancel culture **effective**
 - is cancel culture **illegal**
 - is cancel culture **ethical**
 - is cancel culture **new**
 - is cancel culture **capitalized**
 - is cancel culture **cyberbullying**

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Korri Palmer, a Panelist at *I Got Canceled. What's Next?* did her senior thesis on Cancel Culture while studying at the College of Wooster.

#Kancelculture: An Analysis of Cancel Culture and Social Media Activism Through the Lens of Minority College Students can be accessed using an institutional log in at: <https://openworks.wooster.edu/independentstudy/9177/>

If you don't have an institutional login, Ms. Palmer has said that she will happily share the document with you. Please email her at:

korripalmer@gmail.com

Kylie J. Holman, a Panelist at *I Got Canceled. What's Next?* completed a Master's Thesis at The University of Nebraska Omaha. **Can You Come**

Back from Being Cancelled? A Case Study of Podcasting, Cancel Culture, and Comedians during #MeToo can be accessed using an institutional log in at: <https://search.proquest.com/openview/b9930918a69ff1d50640f009724ab169/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=51922&diss=y>

If you don't have an institutional login, Ms. Holman has said that she will happily share the document with you. Please email her at:

kyliejholman@gmail.com