Casting Off Civility?
Contemporary Socialization towards Conflict and Compromise
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Abstract: Many scholars have recognized the power dynamics inherent in calls for civility (e.g. Chafe 1980, Volpp 2014) while others emphasize its importance for deliberative democracy (e.g. Mutz 2015, Ferree et al 2002). But how has civility become associated with the avoidance of political discussion, and compromise with betraying one's principles? Alongside the increasing perception of "everything as political, and all politics as moral," I point to changes in the culture of American communication that socialize us to practice distance from political discourse, including the rise of therapy-talk and political hobbyism.

Author's Note: This paper is not what I proposed when I submitted my abstract—my apologies to the conference organizers! Instead, I've tried to draw together several different ideas that I've been chewing on for several months, in hopes that this group will help me clarify and connect what still feels like a disjointed effort. Thanks to you all in advance for your engagement with such an early-stage piece.