

## Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/50-years-of-declining-confidence-and-increasing-polarization/>

The speaker reflects on their 12 years of experience as an academic administrator, particularly addressing the worrying decline in trust in various institutions, including higher education, government, and non-political institutions. They conducted extensive research, analyzing over 165,000 survey responses spanning 50 years, revealing a significant decrease in public confidence across institutions.

Key findings indicate strong polarization in trust levels between different political groups, with Democrats and Republicans having contrasting views on institutions like the military, policing, higher education, and science. This video video polarization poses challenges for collective action and problem-solving in society, as starkly different perceptions hinder consensus on issues.

The speaker identifies various contributors to declining trust, including increasing inequality, demographic shifts toward a more diverse society, and intensified scrutiny of institutions. They express concern that this environment, combined with the inability or unwillingness to reach compromise on identity issues (like abortion), makes it challenging for society to progress and reform institutions effectively.

The conclusion emphasizes the critical need for trusted institutions to effectively tackle societal issues, warning that ongoing distrust and polarization could impede the ability to address problems such as police brutality and public health crises.