



Alexandra Hudson

Topics

Best Selling and Award Winning Authors, Culture and Society, Economics and Finance, Journalism, Politics and Pundits

Travels From

Indiana

Bio

Alexandra Hudson is an award-winning writer and speaker based in Indianapolis. She is a nationally recognized expert on civility, civil society, and American civic renewal. She earned a Master's degree in Public Policy at the London School of Economics as a Rotary Scholar, and has served at the local, state and federal levels of government and public policy—recently holding an appointment at the U.S. Department of Education. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy where she teaches a class called *Philanthropy and Storytelling*. From Vancouver to Orlando, from Sydney to Paris, and from Stockholm to Tbilisi and Istanbul, Alexandra is an in-demand speaker, frequently engaging audiences both across America and around the world. She has appeared on CBS and Fox News and contributes to *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *TIME Magazine*, *POLITICO Magazine*, *Newsweek*, and other national and international outlets. Now a full-time writer and speaker, she is currently writing a book on civil discourse for St Martin's Press.

SPEECHES

Why civility is necessary for American democracy This speech offers an analysis of the problems facing American public discourse and threatening our democracy. It looks at the challenges of social media, the endlessly escalating political brinksmanship, and more—but then offers solutions for path forward.

Why politeness failed democracy, and how civility can save it This speech shows why politeness is harmful for our free way of life—it promotes hypocrisy, it promotes division, and it stunts our public discourse. This speech then argues for why civility is essential to democracy and a free society—it promotes virtue, it promotes equality, and it promotes a robust and tolerant public discourse.

On civility and civil society as necessary for a free and flourishing democracy This speech connects the micro—our everyday interactions with others—to the macro—civil society and democracy showing how they are inextricably bound, and essential to a free society.

BOOKS

Against Politeness: Why Politeness Failed America and How Civility Can Save It will be published by St. Martin's Press.

REVIEWS: "With both precision and passion, Lexi Hudson helps us confront our greatest social challenge – healing our political divides and finding a way forward together as one nation. In hard times, hers is a voice of hope. We at Braver Angels loved having her speak as a keynote at our national convention because she cast a hopeful vision for our nation's future."

— David Blankenhorn, President and CEO, Braver Angels

"Alexandra Hudson gave a brilliant inaugural lecture—"Civility's Importance to American Democracy"—for St. Lawrence University's program promoting Civil Dialogue Across Difference. She set a high standard in both illuminating America's present challenges and modeling how to respond to incivility with grace and dignity."

— Caroline Breashears, Professor of English, St. Lawrence University

"Alexandra Hudson spoke eloquently and passionately on the topic of civil discourse and navigating a better path out of the polarity that paralyzes our politics today. Her intellectual curiosity and approach to encouraging better citizenship were refreshing to me, as the lead champion of The Tennessean's Civility Tennessee campaign. The conversation was illuminating and refreshing. She is fluent on the subject of respectful discourse, viewing civility as more than just politeness, but a civic duty that American citizens must carry out to defend their democratic values and their republic. Hudson makes me optimistic that we can continue to make this union more perfect."

— David Plazas, Editor, *The Tennessean*

"The Indiana Historical Society had the pleasure to invite Alexandra Hudson to speak recently. She has a clear passion for and knowledge of history and is uniquely connected the subject matter. It was particularly impressive how well Alexandra helped the audience connect to beauty and art in history and art as a tool for cultural healing. This is best evidence by stupendous participant reviews. And, she is a joy to work with. Her thoughtfulness and creativity are infectious. The staff look forward to more opportunities to team up with her! Anyone looking to engage their audiences in a deep but accessible discussion will do well to work with Lexi. You'll be happy you did."

— Jody Blankenship, President and CEO, Indiana Historical Society

"Alexandra gave an enlightening and engaging presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis. We cannot wait to read her book!"

— David Young, President, Indianapolis Kiwanis Club

"She is an in-demand speaker, but was generous with her time in visiting our clubs throughout the state. Her passion for civil discourse is contagious. I heard her talk on a number of occasions, and was impressed by her ability to tailor her remarks to speak specifically to each audience she addressed. Her message on civil discourse and civility in our country is essential. Given my involvement with Rotary Clubs, I hope to include her speaking and ideas throughout the state in the years to come. She is an amazing person, passionate about her causes and able to command her audiences easily and professionally every time. I can assure you that you will not regret inviting her to speak to your group or at your event!"

— Raymond Kramp, District Governor, Rotary Clubs of Indiana (2020-2021)