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Professor Pippa Norris Hon LLD

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Among the countless books and articles written about the global rise of populism, you'll find plenty of speculation and partisan views. For an informed, evidence-based opinion of the subject, look no further than the guest we're honouring today - someone who has spent decades researching and lecturing on the world's most pressing political issues.

A Harvard lecturer and prize-winning author, she has published around 40 books and her work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. She's one of the most cited political scientists in the world - in fact, she's ranked 4th by Google Scholar. She's been an expert consultant to international organisations such as UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the World Bank and the UK Electoral Commission. She's also a Warwick graduate - so she must know what she's talking about!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome back one of our own. Back to the place that helped fuel her passion for politics, and set her on the path to becoming a world-renowned authority in her field. Welcome back Pippa Norris.

More than 40 years ago, Pippa was, like you, sitting amongst the audience - a Warwick graduate of Politics and Philosophy. She went on to study for Master's and Doctoral degrees in Politics at the London School of Economics, and then to teach at the University of Edinburgh. Since 1992, Pippa has taught in Comparative Politics at the John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She's also Professor of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney. She's also the founding director of the Electoral Integrity Project, a multimillion dollar research initiative that has generated numerous books, articles and reports.




Today, Pippa is an eminent political scientist and public speaker whose comparative research has been recognised by a string of prestigious awards. I will not list them all now, as there are quite a few. Instead, I would like to share with you three of Pippa's strengths which typify her as the highly regarded academic she is today.

Firstly: she is passionate. She has an intense interest in politics. Yesterday, she gave a lecture on populism and a seminar on electoral integrity, here at Warwick, and I can assure you it was inspiring and thought-provoking. She explained why populism is rising around the world. She argued the populist appeal is about culture, not the economy. This led to a lively debate, about Trump, Brexit and democracy. Pippa shares her knowledge with endless energy.

She also has great determination. She wants to make a difference. You can see this in Pippa's research, which started in the field of gender politics. Then came her work on elections, public opinion, voting behaviour, democracy, political campaigns, the internet, populism and electoral integrity. Very different topics, but all with one overriding principle: these themes are of huge importance. She deals with matters which are timely, and she focuses on current political events. Pippa says she aims "to inspire everyone to improve democracy and human rights". She does this not based on opinions but based on facts, empirical evidence, and scientific knowledge.

Finally? She is driven. In 2002, I met Pippa for the first time, when I was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard, and my first impression was 'wow, she just starts working and never seems to stop!' In this particular year, she finished not just a book but also several articles. Pippa is the most productive political scientist I know.



Unsurprisingly, Pippa's favourite animals are the hard-working bees. Pippa is not just passionate about politics, but she is also an eager bee-keeper. When her bees decided to swarm off into the woods with their queen, she had to look for them, and brought them home again. Just like her bees, Pippa seems to have endless energy.

So: our guest is passionate. Determined. Driven. Pippa Norris epitomises the values that we at Warwick hold most dear.

It is worth making time to hear more of the wisdom of this impressive, returning member of our community.

Vice-Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, Pippa Norris.