

## Spiral of Silence and the Iraq War Subject of Thesis

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The public is invited to attend a presentation by Jessica Drake of her master's thesis entitled "Spiral of Silence, Public Opinion and the Iraq War: Factors influencing One's Willingness to Express Their Opinion." The presentation takes place on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 9 a.m. in 01-4287.

Discussing controversial issues may be hard for some individuals because they fear they may become isolated. The Iraq War is one such controversy about which some individuals might avoid publicly expressing their opinion. Spiral of silence, a communication theory set forth by Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann can be used to explain why some individuals will publicly express their opinion of the Iraq War while others will not. A Web-based survey was distributed to Rochester Institute of Technology faculty, staff and students. This study investigated public opinion expression through interactive forms of media such as discussion forums, blogs and Web sites.