

# THE CONVERSATION US

89 South Street, Suite 202, Boston, MA 02111 USA



## A new podcast from The Conversation US

### Heat and Light: Stories from 1968, the year that changed America

#### Brief description of podcast:

1968 was a year of huge social upheaval for the United States. We go deep into six key but lesser known stories from that year, guided by people who were personally affected by them. So much so that they have devoted their lives to studying the history of 1968 – and how it continues to shape our society today, 50 years later.

From the students who challenged their schools' military connections and the tortured set up of American TV's first interracial kiss to the roots of Silicon Valley and the beginning of the end of the "traditional" American family. What was just heat? What brought light, too?

Hosted by award-winning journalist Phillip Martin, who remembers the heat and light of that year, the six-episode limited series includes the following episodes:

- The student occupation of Columbia University with Stefan Bradley of Loyola Marymount University and Michael Kazin of Georgetown University, who himself participated in the student uprisings of 1968
- How concerns about the women's movement, the Vietnam War and the decline of industry created a perception of the decline of the American family that shaped modern conservatism, with Natasha Zaretsky of Southern Illinois University.
- The first interracial kiss on American television – between two crew members of the starship Enterprise with Matt Delmont of Arizona State University
- A deeply personal discussion between Philip and Jeffrey Horner of Wayne State University, two native Detroiters, about the historical significance of race and class in the Detroit Algiers Motel incident and ensuing Kerner Commission Report.
- The mother of all demos that unveiled to the world fundamental elements of modern personal computing including the first mouse with Margaret O'Mara of the University of Washington
- The decline of the evangelical left as they lost the loyalty of many religious people over their opposition to the Vietnam War and how this later led to the rise of the religious right, with Jill Gill of Boise State University

#### About The Conversation US

The Conversation ([theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com)) is an independent, nonprofit publisher of commentary and analysis, authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. Our mission is "to promote truthful information and strengthen journalism by unlocking the rich diversity of academic knowledge and expertise for audiences across America." Launched in October 2014, The Conversation has, to date, worked with over 5,000 scholars from more than 630 American colleges and universities.

## **About the production team**

### **Host Phillip Martin**

In 1968, Phillip was a sixth-grader in Detroit's inner city. He is now a senior investigative reporter for WGBH news, Boston's local NPR. On WGBH-TV, he is a regular panelist for "Basic Black" and is a senior fellow with the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism. Phillip is executive producer for Lifted Veils Productions, a nonprofit journalism project dedicated to exploring issues that divide and unite society.

Phillip has worked as a supervising senior editor for NPR and was NPR's first national race-relations correspondent, from 1998 to 2001. In 1995, in his role as a senior producer, he helped create the international news program "The World," in collaboration with the BBC. He has received various journalism honors, including a 2017 Best Investigative Reporting award from the Society of Professional Journalists and a 2014 national Edward R. Murrow Award for investigative journalism.

### **Producer Maria Murriel**

Maria finished sixth grade in 2001. She is now a journalist, writer and audio producer who's covered immigration across the Western Hemisphere for most of her career. She reported on immigration and extremist politics for the international news program "The World," and was the first digital editor at WLRN, South Florida's public radio station.

She launched that station's first podcast, and since then she's produced podcasts for the global design firm IDEO, the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and she edits the artificial intelligence show "Talking Machines." Maria also reports on criminal justice and the cannabis industry as a freelancer, and she is an adjunct at CUNY's Graduate School of Journalism.

### **Associate Producer Jonathan Gang**

Despite it being 20 years before his birth, Jonathan is convinced that the best concert of all time was performed on April 5th, 1968, by James Brown. While not busy with podcast production, he works as an editorial researcher at The Conversation US. He is a recent graduate of Boston University with a master's degree in journalism. His work has appeared in print, on the air and online in the Boston Herald, Public Radio International, WGBH, The Denver Post, the Boulder Daily Camera and the Colorado Springs Independent.

### **Executive Producer Maria Balinska**

Maria's first political memory is of the Chicago convention of 1968. She is the editor and co-CEO of The Conversation US. An award-winning journalist, Maria spent the bulk of her career at BBC Radio in London as researcher, producer and then for 10 years as editor of the World Current Affairs Radio team. After a Nieman fellowship at Harvard, she launched Latitude News, a digital platform that introduced new ways of covering world affairs for American audiences. She is also the author of "The Bagel: The Surprising History of a Modest Bread" (Yale University Press, 2008).