

'Hate Facts' – Yes, People Are Now Using That Term

It's commonly said that a fact is what's expressible by a statement that is "proven" to be true—e.g. statements such as "2+2=4" and "the Pacific is the earth's largest ocean"—whereas opinions lack proof even when they happen to be true.

Yet in an era when more and more reality is weaponized for political purposes, the difference between fact and opinion is no longer that simple.

Take the concept of *alternative facts*. Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway was widely ridiculed last winter for using that phrase in defense of the White House's apparently inflated estimate of attendance at President Trump's inauguration. Many assumed that she had just concocted it as a euphemism for 'lie'. But she hadn't, exactly.

Like other attorneys, whose profession is amply represented in Washington, Conway would have been familiar with "alternative facts" as a term of art. Examples are given