

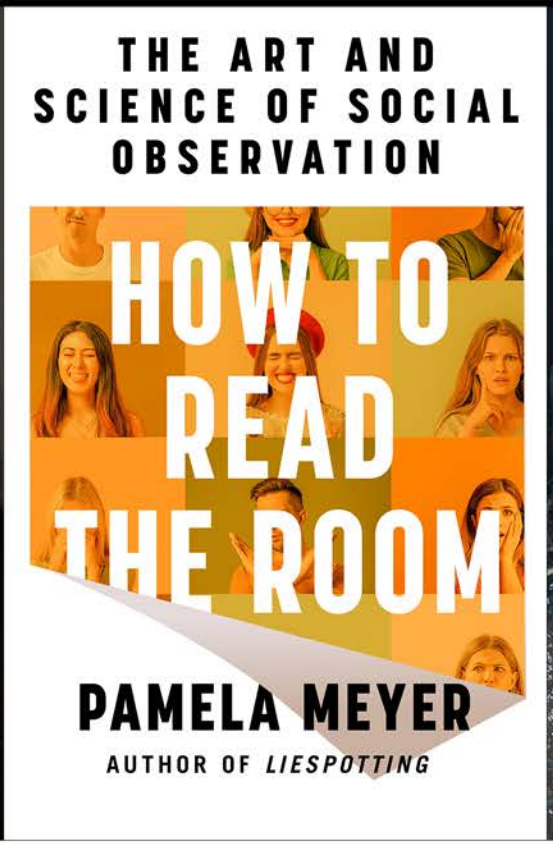



How to Read the Room: The Art and Science of Social Observation

Pamela Meyer

Founder and CEO of Calibrate and author of *Liespotting: Proven Techniques to Detect Deception*.

Heidi Stevens

Chicago-based writer and Director of External Affairs for the University of Chicago's TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health.

Monday, December 7, 2026, 7:00 PM CT

Register: www.bit.ly/MeyerFANWebinar

BOOK GIVEAWAY, sponsored by FAN! Details on Zoom registration page.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+

Presented by FAN and our member schools and organizations.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: PAMELA MEYER – ON ZOOM
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Monday, December 7, 2026 | 7:00 PM CT

How to Read the Room: The Art and Science of Social Observation
A FAN webinar featuring Pamela Meyer, in conversation with Heidi Stevens

REGISTER: www.bit.ly/MeyerFANWebinar

Book Giveaway: FAN is giving away copies of *How to Read the Room* to randomly selected Zoom attendees. Details on the webinar registration page.

Why do some people walk into a room and build trust almost at once, while others create tension without realizing it? **Pamela Meyer**, who has spent years teaching executives and investigators to spot deception, argues that reading the room is not an instinct reserved for a gifted few. It is a learnable skill, and one that increasingly shapes how we fare at work and at home.

In ***How to Read the Room: The Art and Science of Social Observation***, Meyer draws on behavioral science, intelligence-agency methods, and stories that range from comedy clubs and boardrooms to digital deepfakes and family dinners. She lays out a four-step framework that turns "reading people" into a disciplined practice: how to tell who holds real power regardless of title, sense when the emotional temperature has shifted, distinguish genuine agreement from polite assent, and notice when a meeting or a hard conversation is going wrong before anyone says a word. She also takes on the blind spots and ego that lead capable people to misjudge how they come across, and the ways screens and video calls wear down our social intuition. Her aim is influence without manipulation, and leaving every room better than we found it.

Meyer is the founder and CEO of Calibrate, which trains organizations in deception detection, and the author of *Liespotting: Proven Techniques to Detect Deception*. Her 2011 TED Talk, "How to Spot a Liar," has been viewed more than 34 million times and remains one of TED's most-watched talks.

Meyer will be in conversation with **Heidi Stevens**, Director of External Affairs for the University of Chicago's TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health. She writes a weekly nationally syndicated column, "Balancing Act." Stevens has been a FAN board member since 2021.

This event is suitable for youth ages 12 and up. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by FAN, in partnership with The Alliance for Early Childhood, The Ancona School, The Avery Coonley School, Avoca D37, Barrington D220, Beacon Academy, Bennett Day School, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago, Catherine Cook School, Compass Health Center, Connections Health, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township HS D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glenbrook HS D225, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Josephinum Academy, Kenilworth D38, Lake Bluff D65, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Lycée Français de Chicago, Magnetar Capital, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Oakton College, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Sacred Heart Schools, St. Bernard's School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Township High School D113, Township High School D214, Wilmette Public Library, The Winnetka Public Schools, Wintrust Financial, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.