PULPIT POLITICS

GENDER, RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN 2008

CO-SPONSOR:
CENTER FOR ELECTORAL POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY

TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2008
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
McNally Amphitheatre
Fordham University at Lincoln Center
140 W. 62nd St., New York City
CONFERENCE AGENDA

9 a.m.  WELCOME ADDRESS
Nancy A. Busch, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Chief Research Officer/Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Fordham University

9:10 a.m.  PANEL I:
RELIGIOUS VALUES, FAMILY VALUES, AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE
Moderator: Monsignor Charles J. Fahey
Marie Ward Doty Professor Emeritus of Aging Studies and Program Officer,
Milbank Memorial Fund

A Marriage Proposal:
The Union of Human Rights with Policies that Value Families
Gloria H. Albrecht, Ph.D
Professor of Religious Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies,
University of Detroit Mercy
I will make the argument that Christian concepts of economic human rights are fundamentally inconsistent with U.S. neoliberal capitalism that is itself anti-family. Yet, serious critique of the U.S. economic system is relegated to the political margins—the radical left. An effective concern for families (and gender equality) requires Christians to raise radical (i.e., structural) critiques.

Gender and Terror in Presidential Politics
Don Browning, Ph.D.
Alexander Campbell Professor Emeritus of Religious Ethics and Social Sciences, Divinity School, University of Chicago
Although terrorism and security are defining issues of presidential politics today, gender issues will not be forgotten. My remarks investigate how the old gender issues first emerging in 1994 will be redefined in 2008. I also ask how a Protestant interpretation of Roman Catholic subsidiarity theory can address tensions between gender politics and the politics of terrorism.

Panel Discussion and Audience Questions

10:10 a.m.  BREAK
10:20 a.m.  PANEL II:  RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Gender and Islamic Identity:  Ethics and Politics of Civic Responsibility
Etin Anwar, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

My talk will examine the dialectics between Muslims’ internalization of Islam within their own community and their externalization by which they define and redefine their identity. I will analyze the Islamic roots of Muslims’ sense of civic responsibility, the challenges of becoming effective citizens, the differences in attitudes and expectations toward civic responsibility between genders, and the skills required to engage in civic responsibility that is rooted in Islam, yet embedded within the shared ideals of the American way of life.

Life Outside the Ark:  Jewish Reflections on American Politics and Public Duties
Tsvi Blanchard, Ph.D.
Director of Organizational Development,  The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership

Judaism—a religious tradition rooted in duties, obligations and imperatives—understands and evaluates all human societies in terms of “Noachide law” with its six fundamental proscriptions and one positive demand. I will use this conception to suggest seven central areas of policy concern where contemporary American political discussion would benefit from a renewed, non-negotiable focus on deep, fundamental questions of values and principles.

‘Faithful Citizenship,’ U.S. Catholic Style:  Tensions and Trajectories
Christine Firer Hinze, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology
Associate Director of the Center for Ethics Education, Fordham University

Historically, U.S. Catholics have had an ambivalent relationship to American political life, at times embracing “outsider” status, but more often aspiring for civic inclusion and recognition. I will trace the ways prophetic/outsider and public/insider impulses appear to be operating among Catholics in 2008. Then, in light of central Catholic social principles (human dignity, the common good, solidarity, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable) I will chart and evaluate three possible trajectories for political engagement by U.S. Catholic women and men in the early 21st century.

Panel Discussion and Audience Questions
11:30 a.m.  LUNCH

12:30 p.m.  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
UNDER GOD WE TRUST:
FAITH AND POLITICS IN A DIVERSE AMERICA
Donna Brazile
Founder and Managing Director, Brazile and Associates, LLC
Chair of the Democratic National Committee’s Voting Rights Institute (VRI)
Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University

Introduction by Stephen Freedman, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, Fordham University

1:30 p.m.  BREAK

1:40 p.m.  Panel III:
POLITICS, POLICIES, AND GENDER EQUITY
Moderator: Nicole Fermon, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science, Fordham University

Gender and Justice in 2008:
Controversies and the Christian Contribution
Sidney Callahan, Ph.D.
Licensed psychologist, scholar and author
I will discuss whether and how issues of gender remains contested in our American society. What can Christianity contribute to the current discussion?

Gender and Politics in the 2008 and Other Elections
Susan J. Carroll, Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science and Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University and Senior Scholar at the Center for American Women and Politics of the Eagleton Institute of Politics
I will provide an overview of major trends and developments regarding women candidates and voters in the 2008 and previous elections.

Panel Discussion and Audience Questions

2:50 p.m.  BREAK
3 p.m.  
**PANEL IV:**  
THE USE AND ABUSE OF RELIGION ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL  
Moderator: Costas Panagopoulos, Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy,  
Fordham University

**Cultural Campaigning in American Elections**  
Kenneth D. Wald, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of Florida  
Wald will discuss how cultural differences implicating religion have become the staple of political campaigns in the United States. The techniques for mobilizing cultural tensions in American elections bear an uncomfortable similarity to political tactics in societies like Bosnia and Lebanon that have experienced prolonged civil wars. Nonetheless, Wald argues, there are mechanisms in the American polity that seem likely to constrain political tensions well before a “culture war” becomes a serious threat to political stability.

**The Secular Side of the Culture Wars in Contemporary American Society**  
Richard Fleisher, Ph.D.  
Professor of Political Science, Fordham University  
While considerable attention has been paid to the “Religious Right” and their role in the polarized state of contemporary American politics, less attention has been paid to the secular side of this conflict. This research will focus on those individuals who prefer the secular side of the current conflict. Who are those who are opposed to the increased role of religion in the public sphere? Using survey data, we will examine the demographic, attitudinal and behavioral profile of the “secular side” in American politics.

Panel Discussion and Audience Questions

4:10 p.m.  
**SUMMARY SESSION**  
Moderator: Celia Fisher, Ph.D.  
Director, Center for Ethics Education  
Marie Ward Doty Professor of Psychology, Fordham University  
Discussion among conference panelists and audience questions


**SPEAKERS**

Gloria H. Albrecht, Ph.D.

Minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is Professor of Religious Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies at University of Detroit Mercy. As a Christian feminist ethicist, she focuses on issues of social justice, particularly economic issues, especially as they are revealed through women’s work and lives, with specific attention to the impact of race/ethnicity and class. She is the author of *Hitting Home: Feminist Ethics, Women’s Work and the Betrayal of “Family Values”* (Continuum, 2002) and *The Character of Our Communities: Toward an Ethic of Liberation for the Church* (Abingdon, 1995), and several articles addressing anti-family economic practices.

Etin Anwar, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York. She is the author of *Gender and Self in Islam* (Routledge, 2006). She has published several articles on Ibn Sina, Meister Eckhart, Ibn Arabi, and women’s movements in Indonesia. She has also been featured in the XXI TV documentary called *Muslim Women in our Midst: The Path to Understanding in conjunction with America at the Crossroads* (2006). Her current research interests include Islamic feminism, Islamist Anti-Americanism, khilafah and democracy, and human rights of women in Southeast Asia.

Tsvi Blanchard, Ph.D.

Rabbi and director of organizational development at the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. He is a philosopher and psychologist who has spoken and written widely on ethics, healing, spirituality and the environment. Among other works, he is co-author of *Embracing Life and Facing Death: A Jewish Guide to Palliative Care* and teaches Jewish law at Fordham Law School.

Don Browning, Ph.D.


Sidney Callahan, Ph.D.

An author, scholar and licensed psychologist. She earned her B.A. in English (magna cum laude) from Bryn Mawr College, her M.A. in psychology from Sarah Lawrence College and a Ph.D. in social and personality psychology from the City University of New York. Sidney Callahan has written many books, articles and columns devoted to religious, psychological and ethical questions. She has been awarded many honors and served on many boards. She has been a tenured professor of psychology and held visiting chairs of moral theology and psychology at Georgetown University and St. John’s University in New York. Presently she is a Distinguished Scholar at the Hastings Center.

Susan J. Carroll, Ph.D.

Monsignor Charles Fahey  A priest of the diocese of Syracuse and the Marie Ward Doty Professor Emeritus of Aging Studies at Fordham University, where he also directed the Third Age Center. He has served on the boards of organizations and institutions concerned about aging. Currently, he is a program officer of the Milbank Memorial Fund and Chair of the National Council on Aging.

Nicole Fermon, Ph.D.  Professor of Political Science at Fordham University, specializes in political theory and feminist thought. She teaches courses on the history of political thought (ancient, modern and contemporary) as well as courses in democracy, nationalism, women’s studies and film. She has written on nationalism and Rousseau, on Sarah Kofman and the Holocaust, and on Luce Irigaray and micro-credit.

Celia B. Fisher, Ph.D.  The Marie Ward Doty Professor of Psychology and Director of the Fordham Center for Ethics Education. With over 100 publications and federal funding for ethics research, she also chairs the Environmental Protection Agency’s Human Research Subjects Board and has served on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections and as chair of the American Psychological Association’s Ethics Code Task Force.

Richard Fleisher, Ph.D.  Professor of Political Science at Fordham University, has published widely on the causes and consequences of partisan polarization in American politics. His research on polarization has appeared in such journals as the American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics and Political Research Quarterly as well as in chapters in several edited volumes.

Christine Firer Hinze, Ph.D.  Professor of Theology at Fordham University, is the author of Comprehending Power in Christian Social Ethics (1995), and has published extensively on foundational issues in Christian social ethics, Christian feminist ethics, and Catholic social thought in relation to economy, family and work, and social transformation. Her current book project is a Catholic feminist treatment of just work in the 21st century.

Costas Panagopoulos, Ph.D.  Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Electoral Politics and the Master’s Program in Elections and Campaign Management at Fordham University. He is also Research Fellow at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University. He served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow in the office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2004–2005. His academic research focuses on American politics, with an emphasis on campaigns and elections, voting behavior, public opinion and Congress, and has appeared in the American Journal of Political Science, Public Opinion Quarterly, Presidential Studies Quarterly, Electoral Studies and PS: Political Science and Politics.

Kenneth D. Wald, Ph.D.  Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Florida, specializes in the study of religion and politics. His most recent book is Religion and Politics in the United States (5th edition, 2006). He has held visiting appointments at Harvard University, the University of Haifa, the University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, Scotland), Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Centennial Center for Politics and Policy in Washington, D.C. He edits the book series, Studies in Social Theory, Religion and Politics for Cambridge University Press and serves on the Task Force on Religion and Democracy of the American Political Science Association.
Donna Brazile

One of the best-known, most influential African-American women in modern American political life. She is Chair of the Democratic National Committee’s Voting Rights Institute, an organization established in 2001 to help protect and promote the rights of all Americans to participate in the political process.

Prior to joining the Gore campaign, Brazile was Chief of Staff and Press Secretary to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia where she helped guide the District’s budget and local legislation on Capitol Hill. A veteran of numerous national and statewide campaigns, Brazile worked on several presidential campaigns for Democratic candidates, including Carter-Mondale in 1976 and 1980, Rev. Jesse Jackson’s first historic bid for the presidency in 1984, Mondale-Ferraro in 1984, U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt in 1988, Dukakis-Bentsen in 1988, Clinton-Gore in 1992 and 1996; and Gore-Lieberman in 2000, where she served as campaign manager and made history as the first African-American woman to lead a major presidential campaign.

Brazile is a weekly contributor and political commentator for CNN, a political consultant for ABC News, and a contributor to NPR’s Political Corner. Author of her memoir, *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*, and co-author of *What We Do Now* (Melville House, 2004), Brazile is also a columnist for *Roll Call* newspaper, *Ms. Magazine*, and the author of a syndicated column.

In addition to being founder and managing director of Brazile and Associates, a political consulting and grassroots advocacy firm based in the District of Columbia, Brazile serves as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. She has served as a senior lecturer at the University of Maryland, resident fellow at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics and as the Senator Wyona Lipman Chair at Rutgers University Center for American Women in Politics.

Brazile is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including *Washingtonian Magazine*’s 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C., *Essence Magazine*’s 50 Most Powerful Women in America and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Award for Political Achievement.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, she earned her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1981 and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Louisiana State University in May 2005. Firmly grounded in her humble Louisiana roots, Brazile is a fierce advocate for the poor and minorities. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, the guiding agency charged with addressing the state’s recovery after Hurricane Katrina.