YOU'RE INVITED!

The Election 2016: What We Learned, and What Comes Next

Join us two days after Election Day for a free panel and reception to recap the events leading up to the election and discuss what we can expect in the months following the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States.

“The Election 2016: What We Learned and What Comes Next”
Thursday, November 10, 2016, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
Anderson Academic Commons

Panelists:
Deborah Avant, Professor, Josef Korbel School of International Studies
Sam Kamin, Vicente Sederberg Professor of Marijuana Law and Policy
Lisa Martinez, Associate Professor of Sociology
Seth Masket, Professor of Political Science
Megan Verlee, Colorado Public Radio
Nancy Wadsworth, Associate Professor of Political Science

Register here!

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Faculty & Staff Awards
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EVENTS

- Faculty Lecture: Nov 3
- Theatre: Nov 3-13
- Film Screening: Nov 13

FULL EVENT CALENDAR

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Kudos to AHSS Award Recipients

The divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences took home the most awards at the annual University of Denver faculty and staff awards luncheon in October. The following colleagues were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the University during the 2015-2016 academic year:

Alyssa Boltinghouse, assistant to the chairs of religious studies and philosophy: Innovator
Award
Helene Grall-Johnson, adjunct lecturer of French: Ruth Murray Underhill Teaching Award
Seth Masket, professor of political science: Distinguished Scholar Award
Nancy Wadsworth, associate professor of political science: Faculty Service Award
Linda Wang, professor of violin at Lamont School of Music: United Methodist Church, University Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award

“Out of 10 award recipients this year, five come from AHSS,” said Dean Danny McIntosh. “Our faculty and staff are doing work that is not only recognized but is applauded across campus. Congratulations to these colleagues for their well-deserved awards.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Recent International Alumna Studies Emerging Field at Columbia

Xinghang Lu (BA ’16, economics) had never been to Colorado - let alone America - when she arrived on campus at DU in 2012. Originally from China, Lu made the decision to relocate to Denver to pursue her interest in studying economics.

The National Higher Education Entrance Examination (commonly known as Gaokao), is a prerequisite exam for admission into the majority of higher education institutions in China. Most Chinese universities use the exam to assign majors to students. In many cases, students cannot choose for themselves. Lu was assigned food science at Jinan University, Guangzhou, despite her desire to study economics.

“I love economics, ever since high school. I wanted to study economics and I could not change my major since the university already assigned me one,” Lu said. “I heard from my friends who studied in the U.S. that they could choose every major they wanted to learn in the U.S. Under consideration, I decided to quit my university in China and transfer to the U.S.”

It proved to be a life-changing decision for Lu. She excelled in DU’s economics department and received the J. Fagg Foster Award, which is given annually to the most outstanding students studying political economy. Now she is living in New York as an applied analytics graduate student at Columbia University. Read more...

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor’s New Book Connects Geo-social Media to a New Global Middle Class

Since 2011, Erika Polson, associate professor of media, film and journalism studies (MFJS), has been teaching students to plug into the wider world around them.

Polson’s research deals with connections, highlighting the use of social media to create and reinforce communities of diverse groups of mobile professionals in global cities. Her book, Privileged Mobilities: Professional Migration, Geo-Social Media, and a New Global Middle Class, introduces readers to a new generation of expatriates, who—unlike counterparts in previous generations—use digital media to access local social scenes in global cities, building a “global network” that Polson argues is key...
Groups using meetup.com and similar websites organize get-togethers all over the world, and the book shows how participants use these social networks to recreate themselves as “international people” rather than simply living as strangers in a new place—they then use such identities to benefit both socially and professionally.

Although the digital media landscape changes quickly, Polson believes her book is about much more than a new technology. Read More…

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Grant Leads to Exploration of Latinx Religious Devotion

Elaine Penagos enjoyed a remarkable first year as a grad student in the department of religious studies. She entered the program in 2015 as a Wallace B. Cliff Award recipient in honor of the emeritus professor given to an outstanding religious studies MA student. Throughout the year, she proved repeatedly that the award was well-deserved.

In May, Penagos was invited to present her paper “The Afro-Cuban Response to the Restrictions of Being Mary: The Madonna-Whore Dichotomy, Ochún and Our Lady of Charity” at the IRISE Graduate Paper Competition, and received a $500 award to support her professional development. Later that month, she was selected to speak at the release party for the summer 2016 issue of the DU journal As/Us, a special issue dedicated to women of color and gender non-conforming people of color in higher education.

Most recently, Penagos was awarded a $1,000 AHSS Student Research Grant for her research project “The Cult of San Lazaro & Babalú Ayé – Faith and Healing in Cuban Culture in Miami,” which focuses on San Lazaro’s status as a healer among Cubans and other Latinx (gender-neutral alternative to Latino/a) living in South Florida. Last summer, she traveled to Miami to conduct ethnographic research for this study. Read More…

FEATURED EVENTS

FACULTY LECTURE: November 3, 4:00 p.m. – From God to Mammon: The ‘Deep Theology’ of Contemporary Neo-Liberalism

From the writings of Max Weber to Mark Lilla's The Stillborn God and Charles Taylor's A Secular Age, a variety of theorists have sought to analyze and identify the theological underpinnings of modern political thought. But only now are we beginning to recognize that the ideological framework for global capitalism, commonly referred to as neoliberalism, also has a profound but unacknowledged religious genealogy. Learn more from Professor Carl Raschke from the department of religious studies. Register here.

THEATRE: November 3-5, 9-12, 7:30 p.m.; Nov 13, 2:00 p.m. – Art

In this Tony award-winning play, three friends are thrown into unexpected chaos when one of them spends a small fortune on a modern painting. This biting comedy relentlessly and hilariously interrogates the meaning of art and friendship. Written by Yasmina Reza and directed by Greg Ungar. Held in the Byron Theatre, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Purchase tickets.

FILM SCREENING: November 13, 2016, 1:30-3:30 p.m. – RMJHS Annual Meeting, screening of “Jewish Pioneers” and exhibit
The Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society & Beck Archives, and the Center for Judaic Studies invite you to attend the RMJHS annual meeting and a special screening of the Rocky Mountain PBS Special “Jewish Pioneers” featuring the life and work of Otto Mears, “Pathfinder of the San Juans.” Free and open to the public. Reservations required.