

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan

presents

The Second 2010-2011 Thursday Morning Lecture Series

## **Current Political Squabbles: Are They Resolvable?**

November 4 CORPORATE SPENDING IN MICHIGAN POLITICS: A NEW WAVE?

Rich Robinson

*Executive Director, Michigan Campaign Finance Network*

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. F.E.C.* sparked a great deal of speculation on the new role of corporate money in politics. Rich Robinson will show examples and provide data on the extent of corporate spending in Michigan state campaigns over the past decade, and he will analyze trends from this year's elections. Discussion of strategies for bringing underground corporate-backed spending into the sunlight will be included. The Michigan Campaign Finance Network is a nonpartisan, nonprofit coalition of organizations and individuals concerned about the influence of money in politics and the need for campaign finance reform.

November 11 ARE THE EVANGELICALS AN ETHNIC GROUP?

Ron Stockton, PhD

*Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan-Dearborn*

Professor Stockton will argue that the Evangelical Right, as a political movement, can best be understood by recognizing that its prime leadership and its population base is an ethnic group, particularly the Scots-Irish. This historically significant population group is the only ethnic group in the country that does not think of itself as an ethnic group and is largely unrecognized by the larger population as such a group. Professor Stockton has published books on public opinion, church conflict, and, most recently, *Arab-Americans: Citizenship and Crisis* and *Arab-Americans After 9/11*, a team-research project. He has a long-standing interest in religious movements and religious ideologies in politics.

November 18 ECONOMICS IN THE WAKE OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Christopher House, PhD

*Associate Professor of Economics, Faculty Associate at the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research*

The collapse of the housing bubble in 2007 and the subsequent financial crisis in

2008 led to dramatic policy actions on the part of the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Treasury Department. The lecture will discuss major macroeconomic events prior to 2007 and the policy responses following the financial crisis. The presentation will cover possible causes of the crisis, financial regulatory reform and the implications of these events for the future of the study of economics.

## NO LECTURE ON THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 25

### December 2 MAINTAINING CONTROL AND INDEPENDENCE FOR ELDERS AND CAREGIVERS

Jim Schuster  
*Certified Elder Law Attorney*

The lecture focuses on dealing with incapacity. Attorney Schuster lists and sorts out issues surrounding basic and advanced planning, such as power of attorney, resuscitation, living trust, compensating caregivers and Medicaid. Jim Schuster is Chair, *ex officio*, Law and Advocacy Section State Bar of Michigan and has published articles on Elder Law for the Michigan Bar Journal, Michigan Lawyer's Weekly and other legal publications.

### December 9 WHOSE TEA PARTY?

Lisa Disch, PhD  
*Professor at the Departments of Political Science and Women's Studies,  
University of Michigan*

What is the Tea Party? A protest movement? A third political party? Whom does it represent? Is it a grass roots movement or an 'Astroturf' creation of the Washington establishment? Do Tea Partiers have a coherent ideological program? Are they good or bad for the Republicans? This talk will address some of these basic questions about the Tea Party phenomenon, in light of the recent mid-term elections. Professor Disch is the author of two books, *Hannah Arendt and the Limits of Philosophy* (Cornell U Press 1994) and *The Tyranny of the Two-Party System* (Columbia U Press 2002). She is currently writing a book on political representation.

### December 16 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AIR TOXICS RISK, AND THE SCHOOL-AGED POPULATION IN MICHIGAN

Paul Mohai, PhD  
*Professor at the School of Natural Resources and Environment, and Faculty  
Associate at the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan*

Dr. Paul Mohai will be discussing the distribution of air pollution from industrial sources around schools in Michigan; whether racial and socioeconomic disparities in such distribution exist, and whether these burdens are linked with student performance and health. He teaches courses on Environmental Justice, Environmental Policy, and Environmental Public Opinion. His research involves studying the distributions of environmental burdens and their consequences on health and socioeconomic well-being. He authored or co-authored numerous publications on the subject of race and the environment.

This lecture series was planned by Dan Converse, Muriel Converse, Jim Salberg, Judith Smith, Wes Vivian, and John Dorcey, chair.

Note: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan reserves the right to substitute speakers. Lecture is canceled whenever Ann Arbor Public Schools close due to severe weather. Call 734-998-9351 to confirm cancellation of the day's scheduled lecture.

For more information about Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan go to <http://olliumich.org>

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