POLITICAL PANIC & LOADED LANGUAGE: Does Same-Sex Marriage Assure GLBT Equality?
Understanding Minnesota's Marriage Amendment

Friday, September 28, 2012

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?" This proposed amendment will appear on the ballot in November 2012. Join us for a dynamic conversation offering political and historical background about same-sex marriage, as well as the breadth and complexity of other issues important to the GLBT community.

Panelists: Susan Raffo, Co-Executive Director, PFund Foundation; JB Mayo Jr., Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development; Andrea Jenkins, Policy Aide, Ward 8, Minneapolis City Council; and Richard Carlborn, Campaign Manager, Minnesotans United for All Families. Moderator: Matthew Antonio Bosch, Director, University of Minnesota GLBTA Programs Office.

THE NICE SLICE: Capitalism, the One Percent and the Occupy Movement

Friday, October 26, 2012

The 2008 banking crisis, growing class inequalities, and the foreclosure crisis all present challenges for global capitalism. The recession and high unemployment have contributed to the rise of two opposing movements: the Tea Party and Occupy Movement. Join us to examine these recent events, and their relationship to class, the history of labor, and public policy.

Panelists: Rose Brewer, Professor, University of Minnesota Department of African-American & African Studies; Nick Espinosa, Occupy Homes Minnesota Movement; Christopher Phalen, Professor and Chair, University of Minnesota Department of Economics; Peter Rachleff, Professor of History, Macalester College. Moderator: Catherine R. Squires, University of Minnesota Cowles Professor of Journalism, Diversity and Equality.
THE LINE BETWEEN SECULAR & SACRED: Religion, Public Institutions and the Constitution
Friday, November 16, 2012

The role of religion in politics and public life has been a point of contention and debate throughout American history. Conflicts between religious practice and public space have occurred in public schools, governmental workplaces, and public buildings. Join this discussion examining the rights and limits of religious freedom as stated in the Constitution and interpreted through several Supreme Court decisions.

Panelists: Professor Fred Morrison, University of Minnesota professor of international law, Constitutional law, and comparative public law; Rev. J. Cody Nielsen, Director, Wellesley Foundation; Sarah Routman, Executive Director, University of Minnesota Hillel House; Matthew C. Palombo, Faculty in Philosophy and Global Studies, Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Moderator: Kimberly D. Hewitt, Director of the University of Minnesota’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (a unit within the Office for Equity and Diversity).

NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON’T: Society’s Struggle with Invisible Disabilities
Friday, January 25, 2013

By looking at them, would you think celebrities like George Clooney, Halle Berry and Lady Gaga have disabilities? Outward appearances can mask hidden disabilities, and data show nearly 20% of U.S. residents reported some level of disability in 2005. Join us for a conversation that may open your eyes to the challenges and opportunities of living with disabilities that are “hidden in plain sight.”

Panelists: Michael Peden, Sports Reporter for Examiner.com; Brian Jost, former pilot and current NAMI “In Our Own Voice” Coordinator; Carol Ely, Community Program Specialist, University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration; and Sue Abderholden, Executive Director, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Moderator: Anne Phibbs, Director of Education, University of Minnesota, Office for Equity and Diversity.
RACISM IN A “POST-RACIAL” AMERICA – A Candid Conversation

Friday, February 22, 2013

With the 2008 election of the country’s first African-American president, some hoped the nation had reached post-racialism. But the wealth and achievement gaps have grown, men of color comprise a large number of our prison inmates; discrimination against Indigenous people continues, and anti-immigration policies are on the rise. Join us for a candid discussion on how race and racism inform these issues.

Panelists: Booker Hodges, Executive Director, Minneapolis Office, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, (NAACP); Ruby Azurdia-Lee, President, Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES); Lisa Sun-Hee Park, University of Minnesota Professor of Sociology and Director, Asian American Studies Program; Louis Mendoza, Associate Vice Provost, University of Minnesota Office for Equity & Diversity and Chair, Department of Chicano Studies. Moderator: Rickey Hall, Assistant Vice President, University of Minnesota Office for Equity and Diversity.

MY MAMA TOLD ME: Women Across Generations Talk about Advances, Setbacks, and Hopes for the Future

Friday, March 29, 2013

Whether you use the term feminist, womanist, or something else, this conversation brings women across generations together to talk about issues that both unite and divide. Enriching and complicating one’s views are the intersections of age, race, class, ethnicity, culture, and sexual identity. Join us for a dynamic, nuanced look at the continuing struggle for women’s equality across generations.

Panelists: Debra Fitzpatrick, Program Director, Center on Women and Public Policy, University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs; Sandra Vargas, President and CEO, Minneapolis Foundation; Brittany M. Lewis, Graduate Fellow, University of Minnesota Department of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; and Kimberia Sherva, Director, Slutwalkminneapolis.org. Moderator: Peg Lonnquist, Director, University of Minnesota Women’s Center.
WHY I LEFT HOME: Stories about Migration, Immigration, and Globalization

Friday, April 19, 2013

The Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation lists the US as the leading destination for permanent immigrants. People emigrate for complex reasons – war, natural disaster, economic opportunity – and deal with many obstacles in pursuit of a new home. Engage in a conversation among professionals trying to assist new immigrants, some of whom will share their own stories even as they have become professionals living aspects of the American dream.

Panelists: MayKao Y. Hang, President and CEO of the Wilder Foundation; John Keller, Executive Director, Immigrant Law Center; Juventino Meza, Director, NAVIGATE Minnesota; Ahmed Yusuf, Somali community activist and author of Somalis in Minnesota. Moderator: Louis Mendoza, Associate Vice Provost, University of Minnesota Office for Equity and Diversity.