



The Soul of a Polarized Nation

The U.S. Presidential Election of 2024 and
the Outlook for American Democracy

Center for American Studies
Department of Language and Literature
University of Southern Denmark

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Event #1: Pre-Election Seminar

Thursday, October 3

DIAS Auditorium

13.15-13.30. Welcome by Rector of SDU Jens Ringsmose

13.30-15.00. Double Presentation Focusing on Past and Present Struggles over US Political Identity and Democracy

E. J. Dionne, Distinguished University Professor at Georgetown University, Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Senior Fellow in Governance at the Brookings Institution, journalist, political commentator, and op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*, as well as frequent public commentator for National Public Radio and MSNBC.

“Contemporary Political Battles over the Soul of the Nation.”

David B. Woolner, Professor of History and the Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation Fellow in Roosevelt Studies at Marist College, former Danish Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in American Studies at SDU, former ED of the Roosevelt Institute, New York.

“Franklin Roosevelt and the Struggle for Democracy: How the Past Might Inform Today’s Polarized World.”

15.00-15.45. Presentation on Activism and Citizen Participation

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, former President of the League of Women Voters, the first woman of color to hold that position. She is also the author of *One Man, One Vote: The History of the African American Vote in the United States* as well as, *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters*, honoring the contributions of women of color in the suffrage movement and its legacy organization which received the 2020 *INDIES* Bronze Award in Women’s Studies.

“Activism and Citizen Participation: U.S. Elections 2024.”

Friday, Friday, October 4

Auditorium U300

12.00-13.00. Lecture

Niels Eichhorn, Ph.D. in American History from University of Arkansas, IB History Teacher, Stiftung Louisenlund, and author of three books on the American Civil War:

“Fraud, Fake News, and Violence: Democracy in US Elections Then and Now.”

13.00-13.15. Coffee break and change of auditorium

Auditorium U140

13.15-14.45. Presidential election roundtable

E.J. Dionne, Distinguished University Professor at Georgetown University, Visiting Professor at Harvard University, Senior Fellow in Governance at the Brookings Institution, journalist, political commentator, and op-ed columnist for *The Washington Post*, as well as frequent public commentator for National Public Radio and MSNBC.

David B. Woolner, Professor of History and the Judy and Peter Blum Kovler Foundation Fellow in Roosevelt Studies at Marist College, former Danish Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in American Studies at SDU, former ED of the Roosevelt Institute, New York.

Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, Associate Professor of History, CAS.

Jørn Brøndal, Professor and Chair, CAS.

14.45-16.00: Online event featuring three former Danish Fulbright Scholars in American Studies

Andrew Hartman, Professor of History, Illinois State University.

“First Time as Tragedy, Second Time as Farce: Neoliberalism and the Culture Wars in the Age of Trump.”

Laura Browder, Professor of American Studies, Richmond University.

“Courting the Bro Vote: The Battle for the Young White Male Vote in the 2024 Election.”

Ray Haberski, Professor of History, Director of American Studies and Associate Dean, Indiana University, Indianapolis.

“In Love with War: How Every War became a Just War for America.”

Event #2: Election Night (organized by DSAAS)

Tuesday, November 5

Presidential election night at SDU organized by the students and featuring an invited scholar of US politics/history from Europe or Denmark. Traditionally, the Danish Student Association for American Studies (DSAAS) at CAS organizes this event after the semester starts up in September. We expect that the event will include—

A presentation on the presidential election by an invited scholar on US politics/culture, ideally a US scholar based in Europe e.g., on a Fulbright grant. We calculate with this in the proposed budget.

An election night quiz.

Live transmission of election results from the United States all night long.

Live transmission from American Studies students/former American Studies students currently in the United States.

Event #3: Seminar on Polarization

Classroom U92

Friday, November 15

10.15-12.00: Johannes Völz, Professor Dr. of American Studies, Democracy, and Aesthetics, Goethe University Frankfurt.

“The Aesthetics of Polarization: The Role of Literary Criticism in the US American Election.”

Event #4: American Studies Festival

Thursday, November 21

Auditorium U110

12.15-12.25. Welcome.

12.25-13.25. Nicole Hemmer: Associate Professor of History Director of the Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Center for the American Presidency, Vanderbilt University:

“The MAGA Revolution: How the Party of Reagan Became the Party of Trump.”

13.25-14.00. Andreas Brunebjerg Jørgensen and **Alexander de Summer-Brason**, MAs in American Studies and alumni from SDU:

“The Continued Fight for the Soul of America: Reflections from Election Week in the Battleground State of Wisconsin.”

14.00-14.15. Coffee break and change of auditorium

Auditorium U1

14.15-16.00. Your Job Prospects as an American Studies Candidate

Panel of MAs in American Studies who are alumni from SDU.

Friday, November 22

DIAS Auditorium

10.15-11.45. The Annual Honora Rankine-Galloway Address

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, former President of the American Studies Association and currently Professor of Humanities and Professor of English, Stanford University:

“Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Trojan Horse in the Classroom?”

American Studies Student Award ceremony administered by a representative of the United States Embassy.

11.45-12.45. Lunch.

12.45-13.45. James Fisher Fishkin, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University:

“Can Deliberation Cure the Ills of Democracy?”

13.45-14.00. Coffee break.

14.00-15.00. Gina Caison, Kenneth England Professor in Southern American Literature, Georgia State University:

“Lewis Baltz, California Exceptionalism, and the Horizons of Possibility.”

15.00-17.00. Students Presentations and the American Studies Student Award Ceremony Administered by a Representative of the United States Embassy.

Event #5: Lecture by Nobel Prize Laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz

Date TBD (but participation confirmed)

Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences Laureate and Professor of Economics, Columbia University.

Title TBA.