

NATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE  
ON VOTING RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

9:30 – 10:00 am	Campus Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:30 – 4:00 pm	Campus Center, Grounds for Change	FS:102 Student Quilt on Display <i>Elizabeth Ozorak</i>
10:00 – 11:30 am	Campus Center	<u>BREAKOUT SESSION I</u>

A. Campus Center 301

**PANEL: Impossible Possibilities: Post-Liberal Reconsiderations of Freedom and Revolution**

Paul Kahn is a leading contemporary political philosopher and constitutional law scholar who has contributed to discussions of political theology, torture and terror, and the relationship between revolution and the constitutional order. His work is characterized by a critique of modern political liberalism, specifically in terms of how the supposed rule of law precludes, disavows or obfuscates the exercise of political sovereignty. Key to this conference's concerns, Kahn provides an alternative understanding of political theory and action so that there might be a fuller appreciation of the nature and effectiveness of democratic participation. The three panelists are joined together by their common interest in how Kahn illuminates the nature of political freedom and the possibilities for revolutionary change.

Chair: *Jeffrey Robbins*

**“Green Revolution: Applying Paul Kahn’s Narrative Approach to Environmental Philosophy”**

*Victoria Gluszko*

**“The Double-Bind: Freedom and Determinism in the Work of Paul Kahn”**

*Elizabeth Shatto*

**“Revolution: Making the Impossible Possible”**

*Douglas Stansley*

B. Campus Center 302

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: International Perspectives on Democracy and Participation**

Chair: *Shannan Mattiace*

**“Democracy and a Place Destroyed by Crack”**

*Rodolpho Camargo*

**“Secular Umbrella Parties in Authoritarian and Democratic States: An Analysis of the Constitutions of Mexico and India”**

*John Watt*

**“Comparative Vigilantism: Armed Movements in Mexico and the U.S.”**

*David Belfiglio*

C. Campus Center 206

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: Psychosocial Dynamics of Participation**

Chair: *Lydia Eckstein*

**“The Effect of Situational Power on Disgust Sensitivity in College Students”**  
*Matthew DeMichiei*

**“The Effect of Stereotypically Black and Female Names on Voting Decision-making”**  
*Caroline Cooper*

**“Intersex in a Democracy”**  
*Sydney Fernandez*

**“Experiment to Determine Whether or Not People Truly Feel Their Vote Does Not Matter”**  
*Jordan White*

**“Self-Esteem and Political Ideology”**  
*Stephen Anderson*

D. Campus Center Grounds for Change  
PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: **Women’s Movements in Historical Perspective**  
Chair: *Barbara Shaw*

**“Finnish American Temperance Movements: Creating Citizenship through Immigrant Communities”**  
*Brigit Stack*

**“Birth Control and its Impact on Women’s Democratic Participation in the 1960s”**  
*Don Seitz*

**“Drawing from the Well that is Womanist: An Investigation of Black Feminist Thought and the Material Realities that Necessitate its Survival”**  
*Samantha Samakande*

**“In the Trenches: An Analysis of the Industrialization of Women’s Roles during WWII”**  
*Kerri Barron*

11:45 – 12:45 pm

Tippie Alumni Center Lobby

LUNCH

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**“Why Are Women Less Likely to Run for Political Office at Allegheny College?”**  
*Lucie Shiffman*  
*Kierra Price*  
*Kristen Locy*

**“The Roles of Religion and Prejudice as They Affect the Formation of Social Movements”**  
*Brittany Griffith*

**“Community-Based Participatory Research and Community Health”**  
*Erica Bryson*

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Tillotson Room

**Welcome**  
*Brian Harward*  
*John Aldrich*

*Shannan Mattiace*

**PLENARY**  
**Dr. Gabriel Sanchez**  
**University of New Mexico**

**“The Impact of Voter ID Laws on the Electorate”**

2:00 – 2:30 pm

BREAK

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Campus Center

BREAKOUT SESSION II

A. Campus Center 301

**PANEL: Paul Kahn and Contested Social Imaginaries**

Paul Kahn offers an alternative to the Classical Liberal model of politics as a realm of rational agreement functioning mainly through law. Instead, Kahn develops a political theology that sees a social imaginary as the foundation for politics. Politics as it is actually lived is based more on the imagination than rational calculation. Our papers explore both Kahn’s version of the social imaginary and alternatives to the dominant social imaginary in the United States.

Chair: *J. Noel Hubler*

**“You Believe: Civil Religion and Western Democracy”**

*Olivia Edwards*

**“We (are not) the People: Dominant Imaginary and Social Exclusion”**

*Peyton Carper*

**“Criminal Sovereignty: The Social Imaginary Behind Criminal Activity”**

*Giovanna Ortiz*

B. Campus Center 302

**PANEL: Participatory Authoritarianism: Modes of Political Participation and Accountability in Contemporary China**

While China has received a great deal of international scholarly and media attention for its economic reforms and concomitant rapid growth, it has also engaged in important legal and political reforms over the course of its 35 years of establishing “socialism with Chinese characteristics.” What reforms are the contemporary Chinese party-state adopting to promote greater citizen participation and governmental accountability? What sorts of legal, political, and social transformations are occurring in China today to allow for greater citizen involvement in the political system, while still allowing for firm, one-party rule on the part of the Chinese Communist Party? What are the successes and limitations of these various approaches to political and legal reform in an authoritarian state? These are some of the questions that this panel seeks to address, through various case studies of the Chinese legal system, local elections, and civil society.

Chair: *Sharon Wesoky*

*Liesel Anderson*

*Jasmine Clark*

*Monica Main*

*Yemi Olaiya*

*Carly Whisner*

C. Campus Center 206

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: Movements, Deliberative Democracy, and Voting Behavior**

Chair: *Andy Bloeser*

**“How the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement was Inherited by Students’ Movements of the 60s”**

*Marlana Margaria*

**“Anonymous as a Social Movement”**

*Garret Scronce*

**“Participatory Budgeting in Pittsburgh: Effects and Outcomes of an Experiment in Deliberative Democracy”**

*Marko Gudic*

**“Behind the American Voter”**

*Colleen Ryan*

D. Campus Center, Grounds for Change

**PANEL: Covering Injustice, Then and Now: The Challenges of Journalism in Little Rock, the Mississippi Delta, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pennsylvania**

This panel will explore the ethical and practical challenges journalists have experienced covering civil-rights-related stories in this country and the wider civic implications of those challenges. Christina Bryson will consider the ethical and political trade-offs involved in *Look Magazine’s* controversial reporting of Emmet Till’s murder and suggest what such a case tells us about the politics of professional protocols in the presence of starkly unequal power relations. Meghan Hayman will consider the pressure certain events in the civil rights movement put on the journalistic credo of non-participation, and Amanda Spadaro will explore how the news media has covered the current voter I.D. controversy. While each presentation engages material and stories of inherent interest to attendees, the panelists will also explore how these stories, as disruptions of or challenges to the protocols of journalistic “objectivity,” matter to our contemporary American democracy.

Chair: *Ben Slote*

*Christina Bryson*

*Meghan Hayman*

*Amanda Spadaro*

4:00 – 4:15 pm

Tippie Alumni Center

BREAK

4:15 – 5:15 pm

Tillotson Room

**PLENARY**

**Dr. Anne Boxberger Flaherty  
Southern Illinois University**

**“Voting Rights and Participation for American Indians in Federal and State Politics”**

5:15 – 6:45 pm	Tillotson Room	DINNER
7:00 – 8:15 pm	Ford Chapel	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Dr. Carol Geary Schneider</b> <b>Association of American Colleges</b> <b>and Universities</b>

**“Democracy and Opportunity: How Liberal Education Can Foster Both”**

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 – 9:00 am	Campus Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Campus Center, Grounds for Change	FS102 Student Quilt on Display
9:00 – 10:30 am	Campus Center	<u>BREAKOUT SESSION III</u>

- A. Campus Center, Grounds for Change  
PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: **Artistic Expression and Movements for Justice**

Chair: *Eleanor Weisman*

**“Dance as a Gift to Democracy”**  
*Sydney Fernandez*

**“Difference and Dance: How Oppressed Groups Speak Out about their Oppression”**  
*Meaghan Gilbert*

**“Hip Hop as Collective Action in Times of Social Injustice”**  
*Paige Cooper*

**“Art Influencing Life: The Effect that Hip Hop has on African American Political Participation”**  
*Triniece Cummins*

- B. Campus Center 302  
PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: **Overcoming Barriers to Participation**

Chair: *John Aldrich*

**“Mapping the Vote: Expanding the Minority Young Adult Electorate”**  
*Iska Nardie-Warner*  
*James Morris-Lent*  
*Michael Augustine*

**“Our Ballots are Soaked in Blood”**  
*Brittany Griffith*

**“Jeopardizing the American Right: The Relationship between Ex-Felon Disenfranchisement Laws and the Democratic Process”**  
*Hannah Levien*  
*Brooke Zywick*

**“Voting as a Privilege: The Constitutionality of Felon Disenfranchisement as Decided by the U.S. Supreme Court”**

*Heather Bosau*

C. Campus Center 206

**PANEL: College, Social Movements, and Tumblr: The Rhetoric of Participatory Citizenship**

This panel explores three separate instances of identity articulation within the broader culture of neoliberalism in the United States. The goal of this interactive panel is to present three separate research projects, ranging across the field of cultural studies, in order to realize the interconnected nature of seemingly discordant identities through rhetorical practices that infect both ambivalent subjects and political activists. Together, this panel hopes to disrupt embedded notions about political participation and offers different tactics and strategies for action.

Chair: *Zachary Cramer*

**“The People United Will Never Be Defeated: Social Media, Intercommunication, and the Production of Ferguson's Resistant Subject in Neoliberal Times”**

*Megan Bart*

**“Occupational Therapy: Occupy Wall Street's Tumblr Page and Its Rage-Induced Potential in Neoliberal Crisis”**

*Zachary Cramer*

**“Diversity Discourses at Allegheny College: The Commodification of Citizenship in Neoliberal Times”**

*Lee Scardinaro*

D. Campus Center 301

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: Rights Claims and Issue Activism**

Chair: *Jackie Gehring*

**“The Relationship between System Justification and Participation in Social Activism”**

*Autumn Vogel*

*Amanda Warner*

**“Political Voices of American Women: The Anti-Feminist Movement, 1972-Present”**

*Naomi Young*

**“Interpreting ‘Because of Sex:’ The History of LGBT Discrimination Claims under Title VII”**

*Brianna Cusanno*

**“An Economic View of Sexual Identity/Disabilities and Education in the United States in Relation to Happiness”**

*Jesse Clemente*

10:30 – 11:00 am

BREAK

11:00 – 12:30 pm

Campus Center

BREAKOUT SESSION IV

A. Campus Center 301

PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: **Activism and Change at Allegheny**

Chair: *Zac Callen*

**“The Allegheny Democracy: Past, Present, and Future”**

*Lauren Wind*

**“Moving Forward”**

*Emily Overheim*

**“The Catalyst for Change: How Allegheny’s Cancellation of Classes Opened the Floodgates for Change and How that Movement is Connected to a Larger Picture”**

*Taylor Shaw*

**“The Administrative Executive Committee and What it Means for Allegheny’s Community”**

*Bennett Gould*

B. Campus Center 302

PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: **Injustice and the Judiciary**

Chair: *John Christie-Searles*

**“The Death Penalty and the Alabama Judicial Process”**

*Sydney Fernandez*

**“A Public Defender’s Perspective”**

*Angela Mauroni*

**“Progression In and Out of Court: The Evolution of Gay Rights”**

*Carly Whisner*

**“An Examination of the Court’s Progress in Higher Education Affirmative Action”**

*Zachary Clark*

C. Campus Center, Grounds for Change

PANEL: **The Andrew Goodman Foundation’s Vote Everywhere Project: “Why Vote Everywhere?”**

This panel explores voter registration and civic participation as a bridge to issues activism. The Andrew Goodman Foundation's “Vote Everywhere” program develops a national community of campus leaders, called Ambassadors, who engage, educate, and mobilize their peers to take collective action using votes, voices, and networks. Please join Evelyn Burnett, Vice President of Economic Opportunity at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress and AGF’s Millennial Advisory Council and Allegheny College’s Vote Everywhere Ambassadors, Brianna Cusanno and Imani Prince as they discuss the efforts of young people taking collective actions for social justice in their communities.

Chair: *Andy Bloeser*

*Evelyn Burnett, Andrew Goodman Foundation*

*Brianna Cusanno*, AGF Vote Everywhere Ambassador  
*Imani Prince*, AGF Vote Everywhere Ambassador

D. Campus Center 206

**PANEL: What Does Algebra Have to do with Civil Rights?**

Like civil rights, math education provides two crucial means of participation in society: political access and economic opportunity. First, basic math education allows individuals to actively participate in a democratic and free society. Second, higher-level math education gives people a fair shot at employment in our technology-driven marketplace. Furthermore, a more skilled workforce promotes economic growth within society as a whole. The presentations by the panelists will be followed by an opportunity for Q&A and open discussion.

Chair: *Susan Slote*

*Jack Fueger*  
*Chelsea Greene*  
*Tyler Walker*

12:40 – 2:00 pm

Tippie Alumni Center

**LUNCH PLENARY**

**Dr. Joy James**  
**Williams College**

**"Dishonor and Civic Virtue: Race and Gender Politics in the Expansion of Advocacy Democracy"**

2:15 – 3:45 pm

Campus Center

**BREAKOUT SESSION V**

A. Campus Center 301

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: The U.S. Supreme Court in the Constitutional System**

Chair: *Robert Seddig*

**"Unilateral Executive Action during Times of National Crisis"**

*Mallory Silbert*

**"Marriage Equality, Litigation Demand and the Path of the Law"**

*Naomi Young*

**"Affirmative Action in College Admissions"**

*Hanna Hebert*

**"From Affirmative Preference to Affirmative Fairness: Socioeconomic Based Affirmative Action and the U.S. Supreme Court's Developing Support for It"**

*Jacqueline Copen*

B. Campus Center 302

**PAPERS/RESEARCH DESIGNS: Place, Perspective, and Participation**

Chair: *Shanna Kirschner*



**“Who Am I? A Complex Assessment of Double Consciousness in African American Culture, Dance, and Democracy”**

*Kassandra Krason*

**“Emerging Concerns: Exploring the Impact of the Media’s Portrayal of Ebola on Political Ideology and Prejudice”**

*Meghan Murphy*

**“The Desegregation of Higher Education: How the Desegregation of Ole Miss Shook Up the Civil Rights Movement, the University of Mississippi, and the Community”**

*Taylor Shaw*

**“Democratic Politics and the News Media”**

*Sarah Naughton*

C. Campus Center, Grounds for Change

**PANEL: Mapping Neo-Liberalism: Democratic Participation and Reinventing Citizenship**

Students in the Media and Identity class are mapping the social totality of U.S. neoliberalism throughout the semester, tracing links between economy, politics, culture, identity, and everyday life. For this workshop, we will collaborate on creating a singular mind-map of neoliberalism to present. Each panelist will speak briefly about the links in the map and the relationship between both the theoretical concepts on the map and the real-world examples of neoliberalism. We hope to bring a democratic and pedagogical approach to this workshop, and thus hope to function as facilitators for a discussion among participants.

Chair: *Joe Tompkins*

*Quinn Kobelak*

*Jess Schombert*

*Autumn Parker*

4:00 – 5:15

Ford Chapel

**CLOSING PENARY**

**Dr. John Aldrich**

**Duke University**

**“How the Voting Rights Act Changed the South and Created Our Current Politics”**

The conference is funded through the generous support of the Bywater Fund for Social Justice Programming.

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**voteeverywhere**

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