



# THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

## *McLean Center for the Study of Culture & Values*

### Message from the Director

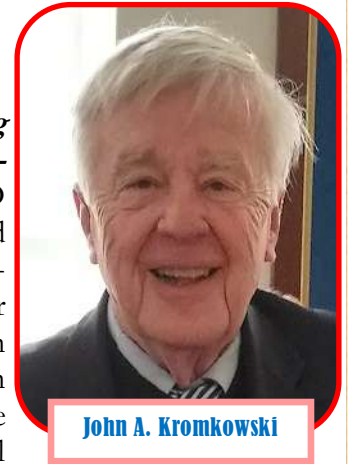
This Fall the McLean Center Wednesday Colloquy Series is titled, *The Meaning of Democracy: Practicing Citizenship and Understanding Pluralism in America*. The series will be offered in a ZOOM format. The constraints caused by COVID 19 required canceling Spring and Summer seminars and all but one of our scheduled international conferences were postponed. Yet this emergency offers a significant opportunity to expand participation, beyond the friendly confines of the library/seminar room in the basement of Gibbons Hall. We are no longer limited to the participation of our campus community and by the size of our room, (though we hope to regain the personal warmth of hospitality and the well-being induced by pizza and salad); we expect to reconstitute the face to face research sharing community when we are all safe and healed.

The ZOOM format for the Wednesday Colloquy Series will allow us to engage participants from other universities and academies of science associated with our outreach partner the **Council for Research in Values and Philosophy**. This will enable us to reach other scholarly communities in various countries and to continue the exploration of topics of our most recent Annual International Seminars such as: *Power, Truth and Trust: In search of More Human Governance* (2018); *The Foundations and Challenges of Contemporary Democracies* (2019), and *Nations, States and the Transformation of Boundaries* (2020 postponed to 2021).

Moreover, our current theme, *The Meaning of Democracy: Practicing Citizenship and Understanding Pluralism in America* has the capacity to intersect and to extend the participation of CUA in the project initiated by the *Fondazione Gravissimum Educationis*. Previous contributions of the McLean Center to this multi-university scholarly effort of the Pontifical Foundation of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education included campus-wide participation in the Michael Walzer-Charles Taylor dialogue on the meaning of democracy and a follow-up faculty planning seminar to focus and to deepen efforts that could address the educational urgency related to clarifying and to fostering research regarding cultures and values in multi-cultural and multi-religious contexts. The Wednesday Colloquies will consist of a set of talks given by scholars and practitioners who are specialized in American political situations and discourse, and their relationship to the meaning of democracy.

As we begin another phase of critical clarification of the theory and practice of democracy—its foundations and challenges—it is worth noting that our previous seminars and colloquies were designed to be collaborative. This mode of mutual education in an essential way makes it a form of democracy and an opening into the practice of truth seeking and truth telling. Thus, it is appropriate after a few years of this project to quote excerpts from an account of our activities written by Dr. David Walsh, whose participation in the seminars and colloquies well prepared him to present a preliminary assessment to a consultation on *Democracy: An Educational Urgency in Multi-cultural and Multi-religious Contexts* sponsored by the *Fondazione Gravissimum Educationis*. Walsh says, “The need for communication and education is paramount in the work of our McLean Center as it seeks to partner with collaborators from around the globe.”

The colloquies will be held on Wednesday in September and October 2020, 12:40pm-2:00pm. See **CUA Nest** for additional details. For questions or accommodations and RSVP contact MCSCV at 202-319-6089, email [cua-cscv@cua.edu](mailto:cua-cscv@cua.edu).



John A. Kromkowski

John A. Kromkowski  
August, 2020

**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

**The Law-and-Order Presidents:  
From Catching Fugitive Slaves to Caging Immigrants**



**Joshua L. Miller**

**Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Congress  
Ph.D. Graduate of The Catholic University of America**

***September 9, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **Just Two Words: Political Catholicism and Implications for Democracy**

(Now almost six decades after Vatican II and the direct engagement with American politics that the U.S. bishops made as a fruit of the Council, both political and church institutions have found there are implications for a free church in a free society.)



**Steven P. Millies**

**Associate Professor of Public Theology  
Director, The Bernardin Center  
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago**

***September 16, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **Civic Education as a Foundational Component of Democracy: Engaging the American Polity in a Time of Crisis**

(The focus will be on the importance of civic education – both the formal and informal types – that are needed to undergird a functioning democracy. The intent is to raise ideas parallel to Burke’s “little platoons of everyday life” and Tocqueville’s comments about the character of American culture, but with a larger focus on the practical rather than the philosophical. As a nation we largely abandoned the teaching of civics more than a quarter of a century ago, and it clearly shows in our public and private deliberations around politics and the role of citizens in society today. One of the causes for this is a profound lack of knowledge about the nation’s history, its civic and political traditions, and a general loss of much sense of community and social cohesion.)



**Eugene Halus**  
**Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge, PA**

***September 23, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm***  
***Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **Democracy on Trial: The 2020 Election**



**John K. White**

**Professor, Department of Politics  
The Catholic University of America**

***September 30, 2020, 1.00pm-2.30pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **Democracy in the Hallways of a State House**

(Assistant Majority Leader Ryan Fecteau interned at the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the data firm Catalist and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's office while studying at The Catholic University of America and was elected at 22 years old to the Maine State Legislature. He will discuss his up close and personal experience with democracy and the unique ways in which the Maine State Legislature is accessible to the public.)



**Ryan Fecteau**

**The Assistant Majority Leader, The Maine House of Representatives**

***October 7, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **Elements of the Rule of Law in Late Medieval English Politics**

(This presentation will define key elements of the rule of law in contemporary political discourse, and will examine the presence of these elements in the political writings of 15th century jurist Sir John Fortescue.)



**John Mickey**

**Ph.D. Graduate of The Catholic University of America**

***October 14, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

# **The Specter of Democratism**



**Emily B. Finley**

**Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University**

**Managing Editor, *Humanitas***

***October 23, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm***

***Online Zoom Webinar***



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**2020 Fall Wednesday Colloquies**

**Our Common Ground on the Edge of Humanity:  
Reflections on Power, Authenticity,  
Polarization and Entanglement**



**Cecil Chabot**

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow & Lecturer in First Peoples Studies  
The School of Community & Public Affairs  
Concordia University, Montreal**

***October 28, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm  
Online Zoom Webinar***



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