

2020 Spring Colloquies

What Does It Mean to Speak “Literally”?

Words, Metaphors, and the Literal Sense of a Text

(In many disciplines, but perhaps especially law, philosophy, and religion, people often focus on the “literal” meaning of a text. Sometimes the literal sense of a text is the final goal of interpretation, as when someone just wants to know what a text “literally” means. Other times the literal sense of a text is identified only to be cast aside in favor of a more flexible reading: for example, when the “literal” meaning of the book of Genesis is contrasted with its true religious meaning, or when the literal meaning of a law is contrasted with its actual legal force. Yet there is surprisingly little agreement about what exactly the literal sense of a text consists in. Furthermore, the line between “literal” and “metaphorical” is a lot more blurry than is often recognized. This talk will discuss these questions, highlight the importance of metaphor in the way words work, and offer some suggestions for understanding what it means to talk about the literal sense of a text.)



Nicholas E. Lombardo
School of Theology and Religious Studies
The Catholic University of America

January 22, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm
Gibbons Hall B-12

The 2020 Spring colloquies are scheduled for one hour and 20 minutes (12.40pm-2.00pm) with a pizza and salad luncheon.



For questions or accommodations and RSVP, please contact:
McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values (MCSCV)
Telephone: 202/319-6089; Email: cua-cscv@cua.edu

































































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2020 Spring Colloquies

Nation Dreaming: A Consideration of the American Dream in Poland, the U.S., and among Polish Americans

(The recent research of Dr. Hanson and Dr. White examines the cooperation and influences between Poland and the U.S. on their respective Dreams, including the influence of the American Dream on Polish Americans and their potential distinctness from those who remain in Poland. Attitudes involving the Dream that are examined include beliefs about freedom, liberty, democracy, getting ahead, status/mobility, and inequality. Although scholars have compared these belief systems across countries, there has been no distinct focus on Poland and the U.S., and those who immigrate between these countries. Findings show that Polish Americans agree with other Americans on a majority of items measuring elements of the American Dream. In contrast, Americans and Poles have significantly different opinions on each of the American Dream items. Usually it is Americans who are more supportive of indicators of the American Dream. When considering the three groups, Polish Americans, Americans, and Poles, our conclusions suggest a trend where Polish Americans are a hybrid of other Americans and Poles when it comes to their views on the Dream. Conclusions and implications are provided within the historical context of the long history of cooperation between the U.S. and Poland in fights for freedom and democracy.)



Sandra L. Hanson **John K. White**
Department of Sociology Department of Politics
The Catholic University of America (CUA)

January 30, 2020 12.30pm-2.00pm
Gibbons Hall B-12

The 2020 Spring colloquies are scheduled for one hour and 20 minutes (12.40pm-2.00pm) with a pizza and salad luncheon.



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St. Mary's Church on the Rynek





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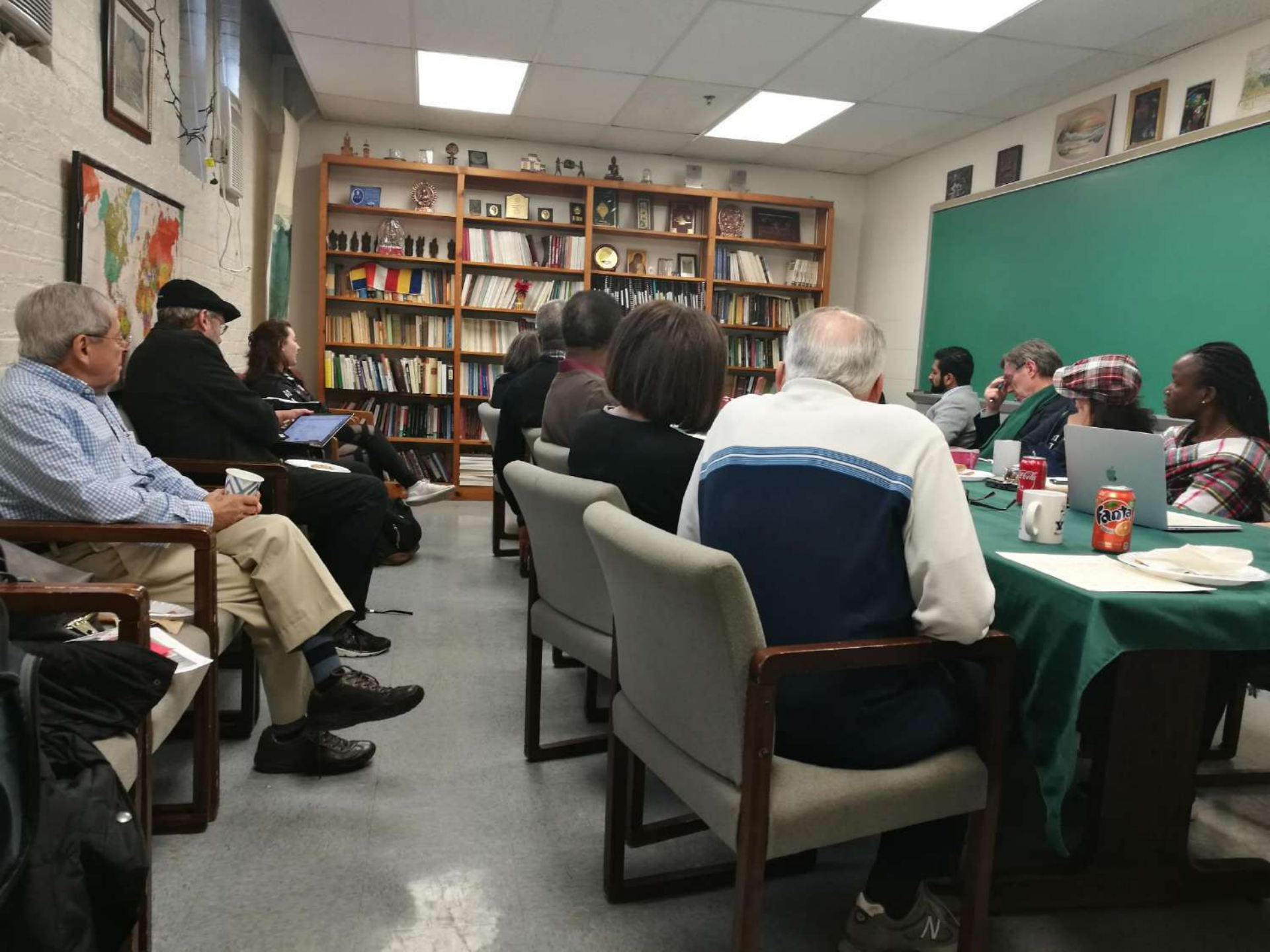




























2020 Spring Colloquies

The End of Asylum?

Notes from the South Texas Family Detention Center

(Since early 2017, the current administration has worked to dismantle the U.S. system of asylum and further degrade the due process rights of migrants and asylum seekers, making it harder for them to establish a credible fear of persecution, limiting the number of migrants processed at US. ports of entry, forcing them to remain in Mexico to await their immigration hearings, and declaring new groups of people ineligible for asylum. Dr. Young will discuss the current legal and political threats to asylum in the United States, and reflect upon her experience as a volunteer legal advocate for detained women and children asylum-seekers at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas.)



Julia G. Young
Department of History
The Catholic University of America

February 12, 2020 12.40pm-2.00pm
Gibbons Hall B-12

The 2020 Spring colloquies are scheduled for one hour and 20 minutes (12.40pm-2.00pm) with a pizza and salad luncheon.



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2020 Spring Colloquies

Youth: The Key to Our Democratic Renewal



James Youniss
Department of Psychology
The Catholic University of America

February 27, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm
Gibbons Hall B-12

The 2020 Spring colloquies are scheduled for one hour and 20 minutes (12.40pm-2.00pm) with a pizza and salad luncheon.



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