This Fall the McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values organized its Wednesday Colloquy Series titled, *The Meaning of Democracy: Practicing Citizenship and Understanding Pluralism in America*. The series offered in a ZOOM format. The constraints caused by COVID 19 required canceling Spring and Summer seminars and all 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 allowed us to engage participants from other universities and academies of science associated with our outreach partner the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP). This enabled 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, the theme, *The Meaning of Democracy: Practicing Citizenship and Understanding Pluralism in America*, had 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 consisted 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.”

Meanwhile the McLean Center also co-organized two international online seminars with the Liaoning University in Shanyang, China “Building Global Governance in a Time of Global Crisis,” July 18, 2020 (Beijing Time) and the RVP-Iasi Center at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania “Rethinking Borders and Boundaries: Exploring New Ways of Intercultural Encounters,” October 17, 2020 (Iasi Time)
The Meaningfulness of Life

January 22, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

What Does It Mean to Speak ‘Literally’? Words, Metaphors, and the Literal Sense of a Text

January 30, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

Sandra L. Hanson and John K. White
Department of Sociology and Department of Politics
The Catholic University of America

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

February 12, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

The End of Asylum? Notes from the South Texas Family Detention Center

February 27, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

James Youniss
Department of Psychology
The Catholic University of America

Youth: The Key to Our Democratic Renewal

September 9, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

**Joshua L. Miller**
Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Congress  
Ph.D. Graduate of the Catholic University of America

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

September 16, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

**Steven P. Millies**
Associate Professor of Public Theology  
Director, The Bernardin Center  
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago

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

September 23, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

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

September 30, 2020, 1.00pm-2.20pm

**John K. White**
Professor, Department of Politics  
The Catholic University of America

*Democracy on Trial: The 2020 Election*
October 7, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

*Democracy in the Hallways of a State House*

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October 14, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

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

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October 21, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

**Emily B. Finley**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University
Managing Editor, *Humanitas*

*The Specter of Democratism*

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October 28, 2020, 12.40pm-2.00pm

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

*Our Common Ground on the Edge of Humanity: Reflections on Power, Authenticity, Polarization and Entanglement*
Building Global Governance in a Time of Global Crisis

Place: Liaoning University, Shenyang, P.R. China
Time: July 18, 2020 (China Time)

Program

8.30—9.00 Opening Session

Xie Xiaojuan
School of Marxism
Liaoning University
Shenyang, PR China

William A. Barbieri
The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy
9.00—11.30 First Session

9.00—9.30

John A. Kromkowski
The CUA McLean Center for the Study of Culture and Values
Washington, DC

The Search for a Science of Order: Elemental Aspects of Governance, Social Cohesion and Economic Well-being

9.30—9.50 Discussion

9.50—10.20

William Sweet
St Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, Canada

Insecurity, Law, and Global Governance: Some Insights from the History of Philosophy

10.20—10.40 Discussion

10.40—11.10

Carlos Maldonado Castaneda
University of Bosque
Bogota, Colombia

The Complexity about Fighting Poverty

11.10—11.30 Discussion

11.30—14.00 Lunch Break
14.00—17.20 Second Session

14.00—14.30

Balaganapathi Devarakonda
University of Delhi
Delhi, India

Re-Globalisation: The New Post-Pandemic Global Order

14.30—14.50 Discussion

14.50—15.20

Holger Zaborowski
Universität Erfurt
Erfurt, Germany

The Corona Crisis and the Need for Global Solidarity

15.20—15.40 Discussion

15.40—16.10

Dan Chitoiu
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University
Iasi, Romania

Governance as Quest for Wellbeing: Crisis Scenarios

16.10—16.30 Discussion

16.30—17.00

João J. Vila-Chã
Gregorian University
Rome, Italy

The Responsibility of Governance in the Face of a Major Crisis

17.00—17.20 Discussion
17.20-17.30 Concluding Session

Xie Xiaojuan
School of Marxism
Liaoning University
Shenyang, PR China

Hu Yeping
The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy

*N.B. Each speaker will have 30 minutes for presentation, 20 minutes for response and discussion. All participants are welcome to give comments and ask questions in relation to the seminar thematic. If you are interested in taking part in this online seminar, please contact Dr. Zhang Jialin, School of Marxism, Liaoning University, Shenyang, P.R. China; Email: zhangjialin0429@126.com; Telephone: (86)158 0405 6829.
AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR (ONLINE)
Rethinking Borders and Boundaries: Exploring New Ways of Intercultural Encounters

RVP-Iasi Center at Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania
Saturday October 17, 2020 (Iasi Time)

Program

9.00—9.30 Opening Session

Moderator

Dan Chitoiu
RVP-Iasi Center
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University
Iasi, Romania

Luca M. Scarantino, President
The International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP)
9.30 — 12.00 First Session

9.30 — 10.00

Ouyang Kang
Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China

The New Boundaries and Cross-Cultural Encounters in the Post Pandemic Time

10.00 — 10.30

John Ozolins
Notre Dame University, Sydney, Australia

Australian Borders in a Time of Co-Vid 19

10.30 — 11.10

Asha Mukherjee
Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India

Borders and Boundaries: Tagorean Way of Encountering and Breaking

11.00 — 11.30

Michael Dua
Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Gotong Royong: A Philosophical Foundation of a Transversal Way of Thinking in Intercultural Encounters

12.00 — 12.45 Discussion
14.00 — 16.45 Second Session

14.00 — 14.30

Nur Kirabaev
Russian People's Friendship University, Moscow, Russia

Dialogue of Civilizations: Intercultural Philosophy in the Time of Modern Social Crisis

14.30 — 15.00

Joseph C.A. Agbakoba
University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

Heterosis, Colligative Hermeneutics and Fusional Scholarship: An African Perspective in Intercultural Philosophy

15.00 — 15.30

Jūratė Baranova Rubavičienė
Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

Teaching Solidarity through Multimodality: Philosophical Reflections

15.30 — 16.00

Riccardo Pozzo
University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

Innovation for the Reflective Society

16.00 — 16.45 Discussion
16.45-17.00 Concluding Session

Moderator
Oana Cogeanu
RVP-Iasi Center
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University
Iasi, Romania

Hu Yeping
The Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (RVP)

For more information contact Drs. Dan Chitoiu (dan811@yahoo.com) and Oana Cogeanu (oa_na_co@yahoo.com).