22nd Annual California Studies Conference

Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St.
Oakland, CA

April 28, 2012

HOW DEMOCRATIC IS CALIFORNIA?
“Democracy” is supposed to be the guiding ideal of American politics: a belief in popular sovereignty and representative government. Yet recent developments, from the USA Patriot Act to the Citizens United decision and from enrichment of the 1% to financial collapse, have shaken our faith in democracy. It leads us to ask: what is the present state of Democracy in California and what should be done to restore the power of the people?

Track I
Elections and Exclusions
9:30-10:50
Century of Progressivism: The Legacy of 1911
[California Room]
Chair: Charles Wollenberg, Berkeley City College; Mary Ann Irwin, Diablo Valley College; Louise Dyble, author of Paying the Toll and historian, Michigan Tech; Peter Schrag, author of Paradise Lost & former editor & columnist, Sacramento Bee.

Track II
Citizenship and its Discontents
Public Education for a Democratic Citizenry
[James Moore Theater]
Chair: Rachel Brahinsky, UC Berkeley; Wendy Brown, Chair, UC Berkeley Faculty Association; Matt Goldstein, President, Peralta Federation of Teachers; Jessica Taal, San Lorenzo school teacher; Shane Boyle, UC Berkeley graduate student.

Track III
Popular Protest and its Enemies
Popular Media Organizing: From Posters to Blogs
[Lecture Hall]
Chair: Lincoln Cushing, Oakland Museum of California; Melanie Cervantes, graphic artist, Dignidad Rebelde; Lincoln Cushing, author, poster archivist and artist; Keith Kamisugi, Equal Justice Society.

10:50-11:00
Coffee break

11:00-12:20
Grassroots Movements in Hard Times: Occupying the Public Sphere
[California Room]
Chair: Lisa Feldstein, City Planning, UC Berkeley; Calvin Welch, Public Interest Clearinghouse; Dave Snyder, Director, California Bicycle Coalition; Yvonne Yen Liu, Applied Research Center; Daniel Krause, Director, Californians for High Speed Rail.

Making Democracy Work: Ways Out of the Mire
[James Moore Theater]
Chair: Frank Gruber, attorney and writer, Santa Monica; Dennis Zane, Director, Move L.A. and former Mayor of Santa Monica; Robin Levitt, Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association; Josh Sonnenfeld, Save the Bay campaign manager.

The Crisis of Representation: People of Color in Electoral Politics
[Lecture Hall]
Chair: Lisa Maldonado, Executive Director North Bay Labor Council; Dorsey Nunn, Director, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children; David Levitt, candidate for California State Senate; Rini Chakraborty, Western Regional Director, Amnesty International.

12:20-1:15
Lunch - pick up lunches in entrance lobby and enjoy the museum gardens

12:45-1:15 Walk-through tour of OMCA exhibit “All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters” by guest curator Lincoln Cushing. Sign-up at registration required, assemble at registration table. No food or drink in gallery!
1:15-1:45

**Carey McWilliams Award Ceremony**

(Lecture Hall)

Honoring **Robert Gottlieb**, Luce Professor of Environmental Studies Occidental College, author of 11 books, including *The Next Los Angeles, Reinventing Los Angeles, Forcing the Spring* and *Environmentalism Unbound*.

1:45-2:15

Break

+ **Walk-through tour** of OMCA exhibit “All of Us or None: Social Justice Posters” by guest curator Lincoln Cushing. Sign-up at registration required, assemble at registration table.

2:30-3:45

**Rules of the Electoral Game:**

*Playing with Loaded Dice*

[California Room]

Chair: Richard Walker; UC Berkeley; Karin MacDonald, Election Research Center; UC Berkeley; Corey Cook, Director, Leo McCarthy Center, USF; Judy Cox, Oakland League of Women Voters; Guttam Dutta, Election law specialist.

**Policing & Repression:**

*The Thick Blue Line*

[James Moore Theater]

Chair: Elaine Elinson, author & editor; Seth Rosenfeld, reporter and author of *Subversives*; Summer Hararah, Asian Law Caucus-National Security and Civil Rights Program; Linda Lye, attorney, ACLU of Northern California.

**Immigration as Democratic Challenge**

[Lecture Hall]

Chair: Tomás Summers Sandoval, Pomona College; Cinthya Muñoz, Organizer, Causa Justa::Just Cause; Xochitl Cortez, Dolores Street Community Services; Francisco Ugarte, Attorney, SF Immigrant Legal & Education Network; a guest from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center.

3:45-4:00

Break

4:00-4:45

**Plenary** [James Moore Theater]

**California Democracy on the 20th Anniversary of the 1992 L.A. Riots/Uprising**

Discussion leader: Richard Walker; *an open discussion among all participants.*

In light of the Occupy Movement, we forego the usual Plenary to bring together all participants in the conference for an open and frank discussion of whether California politics and government are failing to reflect the will of the people. We encourage everyone to raise examples of tangible efforts to restore Democracy in this state. The anniversary of the L.A. riot/uprising is a sobering occasion for asking whether popular disenfranchisement and dissatisfaction are any less than they were twenty years ago.

5:00

**End of conference** and goodbyes

5:30-7:00

CSA Board Meeting and nominations for Steering Committee (dinner meeting at Lake Chalet restaurant on Lake Merritt, 3 blocks north of the Museum) Chaired by Lincoln Cushing
The California Studies Association (CSA) is an independent organization, dedicated to the exchange of ideas about California, the promotion of an integrated understanding of California as a region, and to creating a public discourse on the future of this richly textured state. For more information about the California Studies Association, see CSA web: californiastudiesassociation.berkeley.edu

Videography by The Working Group / Rhian Miller.
Make your voice heard by videorecording your thoughts, ideas and responses to the question, “How Democratic is California?” and other queries in the Learning Center 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 and 12:30-5:00.

Special thanks to the Oakland Museum of California and Cal Humanities.
Food provided by Bevels Catering.
Conference graphic by Lincoln Cushing.