The 2020 Citizenship and Civic Leadership in America spring conference is dedicated to a discussion of the concept of citizenship: its origins, its meaning, and its contemporary place and relevance in American democracy and the global community.

February 28, 2020

8:30 - 9:30 A.M. | Breakfast and check in

9:30 - 10:45 A.M. | Keynote: "Nationalism and America" with Rich Lowry

It is one of our most honored cliches that America is an idea and not a nation. Lowry will discuss why this is false, and why America is indisputably a nation, and one that desperately needs to protect its interests, its borders, and its identity.

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM | Panel: What is a Citizen?

What does it mean to be a citizen? This panel will look at liberal political thought represented by John Locke, Rosseau and Aristotle.

Catherine Zuckert, Arizona State University | Susan Collins, Notre Dame | Michael Zuckert, Arizona State University | Clifford Orwin, University of Toronto

12:30 - 1:30 PM | Lunch Break

1:30 - 3:00 PM | Panel: American Citizenship and the Constitution: What the 14th Amendment teaches us

This panel will address the questions: who is a citizen under the American Constitution? What rights come from American citizenship?

Rogers M. Smith, University of Pennsylvania | Elizabeth Beaumont, UC Santa Cruz | Kurt Lash, University of Richmond School of Law

3:15 - 4:45 PM | Panel: Citizenship and Democracy

What is the office of the citizen in contemporary American democracy? This panel will consider the understanding of the citizen from the time of the Founding to the present.

Henry Olsen, Ethics and Public Policy Center | Susan McWilliams Barndt, Pomona College | Greg Weiner, Assumption College

5:00 - 6:15 PM | Evening Keynote: "The Decline of Democracy Standing Up for Liberal, Democratic Values" with Yascha Mounk

To Yascha Mounk, we are facing a global crisis. Support for liberal democracy has fallen markedly across Western Europe and North America—and this development is especially stark in the U.S., and especially amongst its youth. In this timely, necessary talk, Mounk outlines how radical animosity and promising violence arise—and, vitally, what we can do to combat them.
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February 29, 2020

8:00 - 9:00 A.M. | Breakfast and check in

9:00 - 10:30 A.M. | Panel: American Citizenship in a Global Context: Rootedness and Globalism

Contemporary discourse reflects a fundamental tension between, on the one hand, a globalized ideal of citizenship based on universal human rights, according to which national borders only serve to limit human freedom or trade, and, on the other hand, a desire for local community based on civic participation, friendship, and a dedication to a common good-- In this "think globally, act locally" world, can there be a conception of citizenship informed by America’s unique historical and philosophical situation that is somewhere between city and global power?

Christopher Caldwell, Claremont Institute | Shikha Dalmia, Reason Institute | Ann Ward, Baylor University | Henry Thomson, Arizona State University

10:45- 12:15 P.M. | Panel: Citizenship and Identity

In a New York Times Op-Ed following the 2016 election, Mark Lilla calls for the end of “identity liberalism,” which, he argues, focuses on the issues that divide Americans -race, gender, and sexual identity- to the distorting exclusion of what Americans have in common. Has identity politics divided Americans and distracted them from their commonality and from the shared dedication to the principles of the Declaration?

Glenn Loury, Brown University | Lucia Martinez Valdivia, Reed College | Elizabeth Corey, Baylor University | Gail Heriot, University of San Diego School of Law

12:15 - 12:30 | Break for box lunches

12:30 - 1:45 PM | Panel: Civic Education and Renewal: Restoring American Civic Legitimacy

What is education for if not to prepare citizens for meaningful civic participation in the institutions of American government and society? How can we restore healthy civic participation and discussion to American democracy? What sort of education will the renewal of our civic institutions require?

Bill McClay, Oklahoma | Peter Levine, Tufts | Paul Carrese, The School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership