

Center for the Study of Religion is pleased to announce a round table on:

## “Evangelicals and the 2008 Primaries”

**Evangelicals and the 2008 Primaries**  
A Roundtable Discussion

Friday, February 8  
at 4:30 PM  
East Pyne 010

Darren Dochuk  
*Purdue University*

Michael Hout  
*University of California at Berkeley*

Robin H. Rogers-Dillon  
*Queens College, City University of New York*

Melani McAlister  
*George Washington University*

### Featuring:

**Michael Hout**, University of California at Berkeley

**Melani McAlister**, George Washington University

**Robin H. Rogers-Dillon**, Queens College, City University of New York

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### About the Participants:

**Michael Hout** earned a B.A. in History and Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology from Indiana University. He taught at the University of Arizona for eight years before moving to Berkeley in 1985. He teaches courses on inequality and data analysis. In his research, Mike uses demographic methods to study social change in inequality, religion, and politics. He and Claude Fischer recently published *Century of Difference: How America Changed Over the Last One Hundred Years* (Russell Sage Foundation 2006), a book documenting and interpreting major social and cultural trends in the United States that exemplifies this approach. Another book, *The Truth about Conservative Christians* with Andrew Greeley (University of Chicago Press 2006) corrects the many false stereotypes about conservative Christians. A couple of illustrative papers include "Tightening Up: Declining Class Mobility during Russia's Market Transition" (*Am. Soc. Rev.*, October 2004), "The Demographic Imperative in Religious Change" (*Am. J. of Soc.*, Sept. 2001) and "How 4 Million Irish Immigrants Came to be 40 Million Irish Americans" (with Josh Goldstein, *Am. Soc. Rev.*, April 1994). Previous books are: *Following in Father's Footsteps: Social Mobility in Ireland* (Harvard Univ. Press 1989) and, with five Berkeley colleagues, *Inequality by Design* (Princeton Univ. Press, 1996). Mike Hout's honors include election to the National Academy of Sciences in 2003 and the American Philosophical Society in 2006. Mike currently chairs the Graduate Group in Sociology and Demography and the Berkeley Population Center. For 2006-2007, Mike is a Visiting Research Scholar at Princeton University's Office of Population Research.

**Melani McAlister** is Associate Professor of American Studies and International Affairs at George Washington University. She received her PhD from Brown University (1996) and her BA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. In the fall of 2007, she was a fellow at the Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University. Prof. McAlister writes and teaches about U.S. cultural history, cultural theory, religion, and international affairs. She is the author of *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (University of California Press, rev. ed. 2005, orig. 2001). She has published scholarly articles on topics ranging from US cultural responses to 9/11 to the history of US feminist organizing against female circumcision. In recent years she has analyzed U.S. perceptions of the Middle East in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Nation*, among others, as well as in interviews with CNN, BBC, Voice of America, and NPR. She has traveled widely as a speaker and consultant in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. She is on the international board of the Center for American Studies and Research at the American University of Beirut. Prof. McAlister has also served on the editorial boards of *American Quarterly*, *Diplomatic History*, and *American Literature*. She is currently working on a study of U.S. Christian evangelicals, popular culture, and foreign relations, tentatively titled: *Our God in the World: The Global Visions of American Evangelicals*.

**Robin H. Rogers-Dillon** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY) and the CUNY Graduate Center. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1998. Her primary areas of research have been poverty, politics, and social policy. From 1998- 2000, Dr. Rogers-Dillon was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Yale University. In 1995-96, she served in Washington DC as a Congressional Fellow on Women and Public Policy. She is the author of *The Welfare Experiments: Politics and Policy Evaluation* (Stanford University Press, 2004) and articles including, "Hierarchical qualitative research teams: Refining the methodology" (*Qualitative Research*, 2005) and "Federal Constraints and State Innovation" (*Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 1999). In 2008, Dr. Rogers-Dillon joins the Editorial Board of *Society*. For 2006-2007, She is an Affiliate Fellow at Princeton University's Center for the Study of Religion conducting research on the shifting boundaries between religion and the state in the United States, particularly in social welfare programs.

#### **About Center for the Study of Religion:**

Founded in 1999, Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University encourages greater intellectual exchange and interdisciplinary scholarly studies about religion among faculty and students in the humanities and social sciences. The Center aims to facilitate understanding of religion through an integrated program of support for Princeton faculty to pursue research and teaching on thematic projects, awards for Princeton graduate students to complete dissertation research, interdisciplinary seminars, undergraduate courses, public lectures, and opportunities for visiting scholars to affiliate with the Center. In 2006, the Center began an initiative on Cognition and Religion, sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. This initiative encompasses a series of lectures and symposia, an ongoing seminar, and a number of empirical projects.

Press Release: 1/29/2008  
[www.princeton.edu/~csrelig](http://www.princeton.edu/~csrelig)

**Other upcoming events at the Center for the Study of Religion include:**

2/21-23/08 "[Mysticism, Reformation, and the Birth of Modernity](#)" a conference organized by **Sara S. Poor** and **Nigel Smith**, Princeton University, Location TBA

2/26/08 "Crazy for God: How I Grew Up as One of the Elect, Helped Found the Religious Right, and Lived to Take All (or Almost All) of It Back," **Frank Schaeffer**, 4:30 PM, [Roberston Hall Bowl 016](#).

2/28/07 "Vatican II: A Sociological Analysis of Religious Change" a symposium with **Melissa J. Wilde**, University of Pennsylvania, 3:00 PM, Location TBA.

3/4/08 "Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite," **D. Michael Lindsay**, Rice University, 4:30 PM, [Roberston Hall Bowl 016](#).

**For more information contact:**

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