Second Annual Civic Festival

On September 15th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Center for the Study of Citizenship will hold its second annual Civic Festival in Gullen Mall and the Adamany Undergraduate Library. Join us as we celebrate Wayne State’s diverse student body and promote global citizenship. The theme for this year’s festival is **elections**. One of the highlights is a voting booth from the Florida presidential election of 2000, complete with hanging chads. We also will have a DJ playing music addressing citizenship and democracy, a project of ballot design, a campaign button-making project, and the design of campaign posters. We look forward to seeing you there!

Violence and Citizenship

Fourteenth Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies

Deliberate use of violence against vulnerable populations includes not only genocide, but also the recruiting of child soldiers, wars (civil and international) and the refugee crisis spawned by wars, terrorism and counter-terrorism, state sanctioned violence and violence by informal actors, the uses of violence to resist oppression, and non-violence to attain the same goal. Violence in all of these forms - the use of it, exposure to it, protection from it, and even the absence of protection from it - has direct influence on the access people do, or do not, have to the full rights and benefits of citizenship.

Among the many questions raised by the place of violence in our world: How are rights, obligations, and privileges shaped by uses of violence? In what ways does access to violence among citizens shape experiences of freedom and public power? How do uses of state sanctioned violence shape not only citizens’ relationship to public power, but also the way society constitutes and conceives of the state itself?

The Center for the Study of Citizenship invites proposals for its 14th Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies. The conference will be held March 30 to April 1, 2017 at Wayne State University. For more information on this year’s conference, as well as instructions for how to apply, please visit: [http://clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/2016/05/11/Call-for-Papers-Violence/News/9525](http://clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/2016/05/11/Call-for-Papers-Violence/News/9525).
Citizenship Focus: Election 2016

By Lauryn Boag, Intern, Center for the Study of Citizenship

As Election Day grows closer, our two main candidates find themselves taking stances on issues that were not salient in the party primaries or the early stages of their national campaigns. One of these hot-button issues is that of voter ID laws and other laws that restrict voters in certain states. As federal courts across the nation have recently decided, many of these laws disproportionately affect African-Americans, Latinos, low-income populations, the young, the elderly, and those with disabilities. In a country that values the chance for every citizen to exercise their vote, these new voter restrictions have made many citizens unable to do so, contradicting the very notion that voting is a right rather than a privilege.

In many states, voters are required to obtain and present a government-issued photo ID in order to cast a ballot, with specific requirements as to which forms of ID are valid. However, millions of Americans do not possess any of these accepted forms of ID. Many of those who are affected cannot afford the cost of these IDs, and/or lack the mobility to get out and obtain their ID even if they can afford it. In short, these laws obstruct access to voting for many citizens. Furthermore, many of these forms of ID require a permanent address, which may exclude those who are homeless or even university students. Due to limited hours and long wait times, even those who are willing and able to pay for one of these forms of ID have trouble obtaining them.

Donald Trump, following many fellow Republicans, believes these laws are important in order to protect the integrity of voting, and he fears that without strict voter ID laws fraud will be a large issue. He has specifically stated fears of people voting multiple times for one candidate. He also wants to prevent voting from illegal immigrants and non-citizens residing in the United States. His stance on these laws would also prohibit same-day voter registration as another safeguard against foul play. Some have argued that it is mostly minorities, and thus people who would be voting for his opposition, who will be affected by these laws and restrictions and therefore it is beneficial for Trump to take a hard stance and encourage these laws.

Following the Democratic Party Platform, Hillary Clinton has made it clear that she intends to repair the Voting Rights Act in order to help targeted citizens in states that have restrictions affecting certain groups. She has also made it clear that she wants early voting to be expanded, setting a national standard of 20 days. With early voting there will be shorter wait times, more availability for voting on weekends or during evenings, and issues may more easily be avoided for those who work long hours or hours outside of the usual work week. She continues to stress her belief that voting should be easier instead of harder, allowing everyone to partake in the fundamental right of citizenship. Along with this, she recommends an automatic voter registration that goes into effect when citizens turn 18, unless they decide to opt out.

In the Headlines

In a major victory for voting rights, the Supreme Court declined to reinstate one of the most controversial voter ID laws to date, that from the state of North Carolina.

The New York Times just released an in-depth look at Julian Assange and Wikileaks, analyzing how the agendas of Wikileaks and the Kremlin often dovetail.

Georgetown University continues to try and address the school’s history with slavery.
The Center for the Study of Citizenship is proud to introduce our fellows for the upcoming academic year.

Richard Marback
Senior Fellow

Richard Marback is a Professor of English whose research focuses on the language and rhetoric of civic engagement. He is the author of *Managing Vulnerability: South Africa's Struggle for a Democratic Rhetoric* (2012), and co-editor with Marc Kruman of *The Meaning of Citizenship* (2015). His current research explores the implications of language choices for transitional justice.

He is also Series co-editor for the Wayne State University Press Series in Citizenship Studies.

Saeed A. Khan
Senior Fellow

Saeed A. Khan is a lecturer in the Department of Near East and Asian Studies at Wayne State University. With areas of focus including US policy, globalization, Middle East and Islamic Studies, as well as genomics and bioethics, Mr. Khan has been a contributor to several media agencies, as well as newspapers and other outlets. In addition, he has served as consultant to the US-Arab Economic Forum.

Lai Sze Tso
Research Fellow
Citizenship for Health Initiative

As part of her work for CSC’s Citizenship for Health initiative, Dr. Tso is currently reviewing collaborative community-based models for improving citizen-focused care. Her work supports CSC efforts to identify synergies between civic engagement programs and resources at WSU, the city of Detroit, healthcare systems, and hospital facilities toward implementing integrated community care in Detroit and Southeast Michigan.

The Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University offers its book prize for the best book on citizenship published in the previous two years. The Center welcomes nominations that consider citizenship, broadly defined as membership in communities, in the context of any geographic area or time period and from any disciplinary perspective, including but not limited to sociology, economics, politics, history, literature, communications, education, media studies, legal studies, environmental studies, public health, or the arts.

The winner will be announced at the 14th annual Conference in Citizenship Studies at Wayne State University. The winner will be invited to speak at the conference and monies to help defray travel expenses will be provided. For more information on book submissions, please visit [http://clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/2017-Book-Prize](http://clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/2017-Book-Prize).
The Center for the Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University is dedicated to the idea that vital communities require knowledgeable, active citizens. Chartered in 2002, the Center today is the global leader in the study of, and education about, citizenship. So I am pleased to invite you to read the inaugural issue of The Informed Citizen in order to learn about the Center and its work and to participate in its valuable programs.

The Center’s reputation is built upon numerous research achievements:

- It hosts the world’s leading conference in the study of citizenship. In 2016, nearly half of the conference participants came from outside of the United States and one-third from outside of North America. In 2016, the conference, focused on gender and sexuality, the March 30-April 1, 2017 conference will examine “Violence and Citizenship.” The conference will commemorate the Detroit insurgency of 1967, but will explore more broadly how violence in myriad forms has direct influence on the access people do, or do not have to the full rights and benefits of citizenship.

- The Center also sponsors a discussion network about citizenship (H-Citizenship), which includes more than 2100 scholars from over 30 countries.

- Further, it collaborates with the Institute of Religion and Politics at the Australian Catholic University and the Centre for Citizenship, Social Pluralism and Religious Diversity at the University of Potsdam to study the recent urban reinvention of Detroit, Melbourne and Berlin.

- Finally, the Center publishes a book series on citizenship studies with the Wayne State University Press, and authored the Michigan Civic Health Index in partnership with the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the National Conference on Citizenship.

In education, the Center also is a leader. Every fall the Center holds a campus-wide civic festival in September to celebrate and promote civic engagement and community-engaged learning at Wayne State University. Please join us on September 15th between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the Gullen Mall and in the Adamany Undergraduate Library, where the Henry Ford Museum will bring a voting booth from Florida in 2000 (complete with hanging chads), great music with DJ Peter Croce, student projects on election posters, ballot design and “weaving words” about our civic future.

Also, save the date for the Center’s inaugural citizen debate, to be held on October 17th at 7 p.m. at the Student Center Building’s Hilberry room. The topic? The Second Amendment, the rights of gun owners, and public safety. The Center has long provided a forum for discussing difficult and controversial issues related to citizenship. The new dialogue series builds upon that tradition.

Finally, the Center is making significant strides in its projects on corporate citizenship with the Mike Ilitch School of Business, and on citizenship and health in collaboration with health care professionals and researchers across the Wayne State campus. I’ll be describing those exciting projects in future issues.

In closing, I invite you to follow the Center on both Twitter and Facebook below. You can reach me directly by email at m.kruman@wayne.edu.

Welcome to The Informed Citizen.

Marc Kruma
Professor of History
Director
Center for the Study of Citizenship
m.kruman@wayne.edu

Support the Center
Support for the Center for the Study of Citizenship will enable it to fulfill its crucial missions of fostering citizenship studies and the promotion of an engaged citizenry, and to realize its goal of becoming the premier global institution for the study of citizenship.

To make a gift to the Center for the Study of Citizenship, please visit http://clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/Support-Us.

Thank you.