

THE EARLY OBAMA PRESIDENCY

FRIDAY 14 MAY 2010, 10AM – 4.15PM

THE BOARDROOM, 309 REGENT STREET, LONDON W1B 2UW
(NEAREST TUBE OXFORD CIRCUS)

Conference sponsored by the **Centre for the Study of Democracy** in the **Department of Politics and International Relations** at the University of Westminster, the **Cultural Office of the United States Embassy** in London, and the **Eccles Centre** at the British Library

9.30am	Registration
10am	Welcome
10.05 – 11.15am	Keynote Address: George C Edwards, Texas A&M University Strategic Assessments in the Early Obama Presidency
11.15 – 11.30am	Coffee
11.30am – 12.45pm	Stephen J Wayne, Georgetown University Presidential Character and Judgement: Obama's Afghanistan and Health Care Decisions James P Pfiffner, George Mason University Organizing the Obama Presidency Chair: Nigel Bowles, St Anne's, Oxford and Rothermere Institute
12.45 – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30 – 2.45pm	Gary C Jacobson, University of California, San Diego Obama's Evolving Public Support John E Owens, University of Westminster Obama and the Democratic Congress Chair: Phil Davies, British Library, Eccles Centre
2.45 – 3pm	Coffee
3 – 4.15pm	Richard M Pious, Columbia University Prerogative Power in the Obama Administration James A Thurber, American University Changing the Way Washington Works? Obama, Congress and Lobbyists Chair: John Dumbrell, University of Durham
4.30pm	Vice Chancellor's Reception – Fyvie Hall

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THE SPEAKERS

George C Edwards III is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and George and Julia Blucher Jordan Chair in Presidential Studies at Texas A&M University. He has previously served as Olin Professor of American Government at Oxford University and been John Adams Fellow at the University of London. A leading scholar of the US presidency, he has authored dozens of articles and written or edited 23 books on American politics and public policy making. He is also editor of *Presidential Studies Quarterly* and general editor of the *Oxford Handbooks of American Politics*. His most recent books are *The Strategic President: Persuasion and Opportunity in Presidential Leadership*, *On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit*, *Governing by Campaigning*, and *Why the Electoral College Is Bad for America*.

Stephen J Wayne is Professor of American Government at Georgetown University and author of several books and numerous articles on the United States presidency. His major works include *The Road to the White House*, now in its eighth edition; *The Legislative Presidency*; *Presidential Leadership* (eight editions with George C Edwards), and two co-authored introductory texts on United States government. Other authored or edited works include: *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Election?*; *The Election of the Century*; and *Is This Any Way to Run a Democratic Government?* His latest book, *Personality and Politics: Obama's Presidency* will be published later this year.

James P Pfiffner is University Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University and the author or editor of several books and numerous articles on the US presidency and US national government. His books include *The Strategic Presidency: Hitting the Ground Running*; *Power Play: The Bush Presidency and the Constitution*; and *Torture as Public Policy: Restoring US Credibility on the World Stage*. He is also co-author of *Understanding the Presidency*; *Organizing the Presidency*; and co-editor of *Intelligence and National Security Policymaking On Iraq: British and American Perspectives*. Professor Pfiffner has also been Lee Professorial Fellow at the University of London.

Gary C Jacobson is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego and is an authority on US elections, public opinion, and party politics. He is the author of *The Politics of Congressional Elections* (eight editions); *The Electoral Origins of Divided Government*; and *Money in Congressional Elections*; co-author of *Strategy and Choice in Congressional Elections*; *American Parties in Decline*; and *The Logic of American Politics*. His most recent book is *A Divider, Not a Uniter: George W. Bush and the American People*. He is also the author of numerous articles on electoral outcomes, patterns of campaign contributions, political action committees, and congressional ethics.

John E Owens is professor of United States Government and Politics in the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the University of Westminster, Faculty Fellow in the Centre for Congressional and Presidential Studies at the American University, and Associate Fellow in the Institute for the Study of the Americas. He is author of numerous articles on congressional-presidential relations, and the US Congress; co-author of *Congress and the Presidency: Institutional Politics in a Separated System*; and co-editor of *The "War on Terror" and the Growth of Executive Power? A Comparative Analysis*; *America's "War" on Terrorism: New Dimensions in US Government and Foreign Policy*; *Leadership in Context*; and *The Republican Takeover of Congress*.

Richard M Pious is the Adolf S and Effie E Ochs Professor of American Studies at Columbia University. He is author of *Why Presidents Fail: White House Decision Making from Eisenhower to Bush II*; *The War on Terrorism and Rule of Law*; *The American Presidency*; and numerous articles on US presidential politics and government; coauthor of *The President, Congress and the Constitution: Power and Legitimacy in American Politics*; and editor of *Presidents, Elections and Democracy*; and *The Power to Govern*.

James A Thurber is University Distinguished Professor of Government and founder and director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at the American University. He has worked on four congressional reorganization efforts since 1976, was legislative assistant to four US senators and a US Representative, and most recently worked with Senator Barack Obama on ethics and lobbying reforms. He is editor of *Rivals for Power: Presidential-Congressional Relations* (four editions) and *The Battle for Congress: Candidates, Consultants and Voters*; co-editor of *Campaign Warriors: Political Consultants in Elections and Congress and the Internet*.

