RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE: THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS AND THE MEDIA

A public forum organized by American University’s Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) and co-sponsored by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation
September 28, 2015

WORKSHOP AGENDA

8:30-9:00am  Arrival and coffee

Abramson Family Founder’s Room, School of International Service Building, AU

9:00-9:15am  Welcomes

Jeff Rutenbeck, Dean of AU’s School of Communication
Eric Hershberg, Director of CLALS
Jon Sawyer, Director of the Pulitzer Center

9:15am-10:45pm  Panel I: Impact of Papal Encyclical on Catholics

What sort of impact has the papal encyclical had in predominantly Catholic nations, among prominent Catholic political leaders, and in terms of influencing social conservative positions on climate change? How have journalists chosen to talk about this and to what extent have already existing and/or emergent narratives about the Church in public life informed this reportage?

Panelists:

Justin Catanoso, Associate Professor and Program Director, Journalism, Wake Forest
Evan Berry, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, AU
Jason Berry, Journalist, National Catholic Reporter and Ground Truth Project
Kevin J. O’Brien, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Pacific Lutheran

Evan Berry, Moderator

10:45-11:00am  Break

11:00-12:30pm  Panel II: Impact of Encyclical on Other Religious Approaches to Environment

How does Laudato Si compare to diverse other religious engagements with the environment? How might the encyclical inform public understandings of the influence of religion and the environment beyond the confines of the "Catholic world"? Does the Pope's authority signal anything new among religious traditions in other regions, as part of public conversations around climate change?
Panelists:

Jon Sawyer, Director, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting
Heather Eaton, Professor, Conflict Studies, Saint Paul
Dan Grossman, Freelance Environmental Reporter and Documentarian
Rob Albro, Associate Research Professor, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, AU

Jon Sawyer, Moderator

12:30-2:00pm  Catered Lunch

2:00-3:30pm  Panel III:  Impact of Encyclical on Climate Change Discourse beyond Religion

How has the papal encyclical publicly influenced other kinds of discourses and approaches to the climate challenge, including secular movements and media approaches to environmental justice issues not explicitly informed by religious concerns? What kinds of new alignments and ruptures has *Laudato Si* generated within an already plural national or global public sphere?

Panelists:

Chris Mooney, Science and Environment Reporter, Washington Post
Randolph Haluza-Delay, Associate Professor, Sociology, The King’s University
Candis Callison, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Journalism, U of British Columbia
Paul Wapner, Professor, School of International Service, AU

Rob Albro, Moderator

6:00pm  Dinner: restaurant La Chaumière

2813 M. St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

Participants:

Robert Albro (American U)
Evan Berry (American U)
Jason Berry (National Catholic Reporter)
Candis Callison (U of British Columbia)
Justin Catanoso (Wake Forest)
Heather Eaton (Saint Paul U)
Dan Grossman (Freelance Reporter)
Randolph Haluza-Delay (The King’s U)
Eric Hershberg (American U)
Chris Mooney (Washington Post)
Kevin J. O’Brien (Pacific Lutheran U)
Jeff Rutenbeck (American U)
Jon Sawyer (Pulitzer Center)
Paul Wapner (American U)