

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Attachment to Place
in a World of Nations

Though some have claimed that globalization would spell the death of the prevailing international order, the nation-state remains the basic territorial unit of governance, law, economy, and culture in today's world. Yet it has never been the only way to organize political geography. For much of global history, other modes of structuring political space were dominant — from empires and independent cities to religious communities. Even today, many people continue to define their identities in relation to other forms of “attachment to place.” Alternative ways of tracing the boundaries that unite us, and divide us— from the natural environment and cultural spheres to local communities, indigenous lands and religious sites— all vie with the modern nation-state system.

What roles do these diverse forms of “attachment to place” play in the life of contemporary democracies that are built upon the nation-state system? Which kinds of attachment to place are most significant, most constructive, or most destabilizing for democratic societies? And what legitimate claims might “place” make upon such societies? Not infrequently, for example, locally rooted indigenous populations and religious institutions have found themselves at odds with the agenda of modernizing states, which have challenged their autonomy — and, at times, threatened their very survival. The same may be said of trans-national movements, institutions, and legal regimes around the world today.

How can contending forms of sovereignty, and political space, coexist with the modern democratic nation-state? How do sacred places — civic, religious or other — both reinforce and challenge the claim of nation-states to define, and to rule, the territories in which we live?



To reflect on these questions, the Clough Center dedicates its 2023-2024 year of programming to the theme of “Attachment to Place in a World of Nations.” The Center’s calendar offers the Boston College community the opportunity to engage in conversation with renowned scholars, civic leaders and public intellectuals, all with distinctive viewpoints on our theme. We will consider this topic from a variety of angles, through our fellowship program, publications, and public events.

The class of 2023-24 Clough Fellows — drawn from fields as diverse as English and Neuroscience, Political Science and Theology — will study these themes in regular seminars and will contribute research articles to the second edition of the *Clough Journal*, which will appear in March 2024.



The Center is pleased to welcome Nicholas Hayes-Mota as its inaugural postdoctoral fellow, and Chandra Mallampalli as its first visiting faculty fellow. We are also delighted to be joined by a core of twelve professors from across the University, who share an interest in our annual theme and who have distinguished records in related fields. All of these developments, and more, are previewed in this newsletter.

Our events are open to the wider BC community and the general public, and many will be streamed online. Please join our year-long exploration of “Attachment to Place in a World of Nations,” and add your voice to the conversation.



JONATHAN LAURENCE, DIRECTOR
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

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At-A-Glance: Upcoming Events

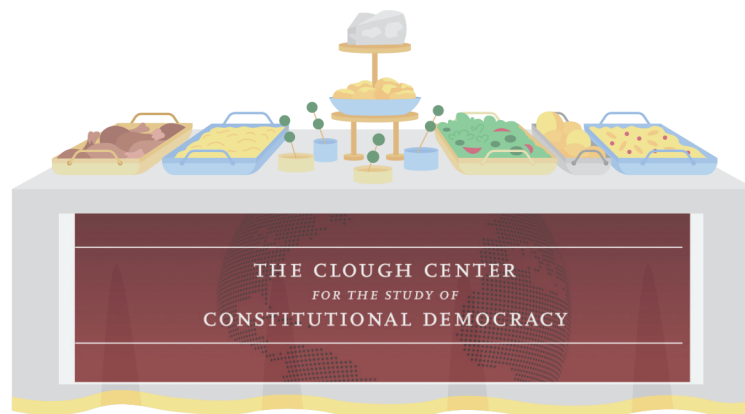
In September, the academic year kicks off with the Clough Center's second annual **What the Constitution Means to Us** [Thursday, **September 14 at 5PM** in Gasson 100]. A collaboration with the Schiller Institute, the event will feature an all star BC lineup, as students and professors from across the University join in a public reflection on the founding document that has inspired hope and provoked despair across generations.

The following month, the Clough Center launches its year of thematic programming with a star-studded event on **Attachment to Place**, with keynote addresses by **Karen Barkey**, a pioneer of the field, and **Danielle Allen**, bestselling author, Harvard professor and recent gubernatorial candidate. Also presenting are renowned historian **Charles Maier**, **Mohammed Hashas**, a Moroccan-European theorist, and Nobel Prize laureate and university professor **Paul Romer** [Thursday, **October 5 at 4PM** in Gasson 100].

One week later, the veteran Washington Post journalist and New York Review of Books contributor **Vincent Bevins** will speak on the topic of his new book, offering an in-depth examination of mass protest and the state of democratic politics around the world [Thursday, **October 12 at 5pm** in Stokes S195].

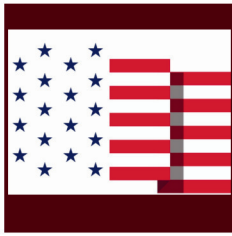
On November 8th, a related event will take place on campus, when the Lowell Humanities Series hosts **Joy Harjo**. While the Clough Center is not a formal co-sponsor, the themes raised in the poetry of the first Native American US poet laureate are a perfect match with this year's focus on attachment to place [Wednesday, **November 8 at 7PM** in Gasson 100].

Continuing with the theme, two distinguished Lectures close out our Fall calendar: first, anthropologist **Arjun Appadurai**, of Humboldt University in Berlin, who will speak on **"Making the National Geographic"** [Thursday, **November 16 at 5PM** in the Yawkey Athletic Center's Murray Room] and rounding off 2023, we are delighted to welcome **Karen Cox** of the University of North Carolina, who will speak on **"The South of Our Imagination"** in December [Thursday, **December 7 at 5PM** in Devlin Hall 101].



All events will be followed by a reception

FALL 2023 CALENDAR



The 2nd Annual **What the Constitution Means to Us**

Special Guest: **Sarah Lunnie** ('08)
of *What the Constitution Means to Me*

Thursday, September 14th | 5:00PM
Gasson Hall 100

Aziz Rana (Law)
Daniel Kanstroom (Law)
Thibaud Marcesse (Politics)
Kay Schlozman (Politics)
Natana Delong-Bas (Theology)
Paolo Barrozo (Law)
María de los Ángeles Picone (History)
& Student Speakers



Colloquium on the Clough Center's Annual Theme



Thursday, October 5th | 4:00PM
Gasson Hall 100

Keynote Speakers:
Karen Barkey (Bard)
Danielle Allen (Harvard)

Featuring:
Charles Maier (Harvard))
Paul Romer (BC CSOM)
Mohammed Hashas (LUISS Rome)



The Unfinished Decade: Protest Tactics, Revolutionary Situations

Vincent Bevins
Journalist and Author, *If We Burn*

Thursday, October 12th | 5:00PM
Stokes Hall S195

Discussants:
Fernando Bizzarro (BC Politics):
Mohammed Ali Kadivar (BC Sociology)

A Clough Distinguished Lecture

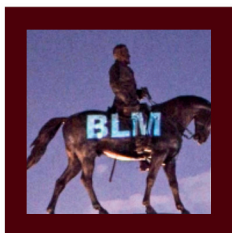


Making the National Geographic

Arjun Appadurai
Humboldt University Berlin

Thursday, November 16th | 5:00PM
Yawkey Center - Murray Room

A Clough Distinguished Lecture



The South of Our Imagination

Karen Cox
University of North Carolina

Thursday, December 7th | 5:00PM
Devlin Hall 101

Save the Date • Spring Symposium • March 14-15, 2024

 **Focus on the Constitution**

Since the founding era of the United States, the American Constitution has been central to our public life. It has inspired hope, and it has provoked despair. It has remained in place, as few other national constitutions have. Yet it has also repeatedly been changed, and some today think it needs to change again. At a moment when its basic meaning seems more contested than ever, how should we look at the Constitution today?

This is the question at the center of “What the Constitution Means to Us,” the Clough Center’s second annual celebration of Constitution and Citizenship day. Loosely inspired by Heidi Schreck’s award-winning play, this event will feature an all-star panel of cross-disciplinary scholars from the Boston College faculty. It will also showcase the work of select undergraduate and graduate students from across the University.



This year, we are thrilled that Sarah Lunnie — one of the co-creators of *What the Constitution Means to Me*, of Broadway and Netflix fame — and a Boston College alumna (Class of ‘08) will participate as part of her visit to the Clough Center. Lunnie is Senior Dramaturg at The Public Theatre.

Please join us for a rich evening of conversation, debate, and reflection on America’s founding document, followed by a lively reception.

A campus-wide critical reflection featuring premier Boston College faculty



María de los Angeles Picone



Thibaud Marcesse



Kay Schlozman



Daniel Kanstroom



Natana Delong-Bas



Paulo Barrozo



Aziz Rana

with
special
guest



Sarah Lunnie

and student speakers, to be announced

Co-Sponsored by the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society

A celebration of Constitution & Citizenship Day



**WHAT THE
CONSTITUTION
MEANS TO US**

Thursday, September 14, 2023

5PM, Gasson 100



Focus on Place

Clough Fall Colloquium

Attachment to Place in a World of Nations

Thursday, October 5th | 4:00PM- 7:00PM

Gasson Hall 100

Over the last two centuries, the nation-state has risen to become the dominant territorial unit of governance, law, economy, and culture. So it remains even in today's globalized order. Yet for much of world history, other modes of structuring political space prevailed, from great dynastic and religious empires to independent cities, tribal confederations, and local communities. Even today, many people across the globe continue to define their identities in relation to other forms of "attachment to place." How have diverse forms of place-based identity shaped the political world we live in today? And how do they enrich, complicate, or challenge contemporary democratic societies that are built upon the nation-state system?

On October 5th, the Clough Center launches our year-long exploration of "**Attachment to Place in a World of Nations**" with a two-part colloquium, featuring an exceptional cast of contributors from a diverse array of disciplines. The colloquium begins with an opening keynote address by renowned sociologist of religion Karen Barkey (Bard), who will speak on "The Vicissitudes of 'Attachment to Place.'" It continues with a panel discussion between Charles Maier (Harvard), an international political historian, and Mohammed Hashas, a historian of Islamic thought, who will offer insight into the past and present role of "place" in the politics of Europe and the Middle East. A dialogue with Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Romer (Boston College) follows, on the nature of citizenship and its connection to place. Finally, the colloquium concludes with a keynote address by the eminent political theorist Danielle Allen (Harvard), on democratic citizenship in the contemporary United States. Clough Center Faculty Affiliates will preside during each session as discussants and moderators.

Please **join us** for the major event of the Clough Center's fall program, and a worthwhile kickoff to our annual theme.

Part 1: Competing Attachments to Place: Religion, Nation, & Empire

Opening Keynote: **Karen Barkey** (Bard College)

Featured Speakers: **Mohammed Hashas** (LUISS Guido Carli University - Rome)
Charles Maier (Harvard University)

Part 2: The Place of Citizenship

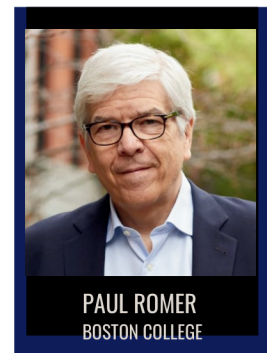
Featured Speaker: **Paul Romer** (Boston College)

Concluding Keynote: **Danielle Allen** (Harvard University)

Keynote Speakers



Featured Speakers



Co-Sponsored with the Lowell Humanities Series

Adaptation: A Lifetime of Building Bridges

Spring 2024 | Wed., April 3, 2024 | 7:00PM
Gasson Hall 100

Bill Rauch

Inaugural Artistic Director
Perelman Center for the Performing Arts
(PAC NYC) at the World Trade Center



The Lowell Humanities Series presents:

Indigenous Poetry and Native Literature

Wednesday, November 8 | 7:00PM
Gasson Hall 100

Joy Harjo

23rd United States Poet Laureate
Author, Poet, Musician



Attachment to Place in a World of Nations



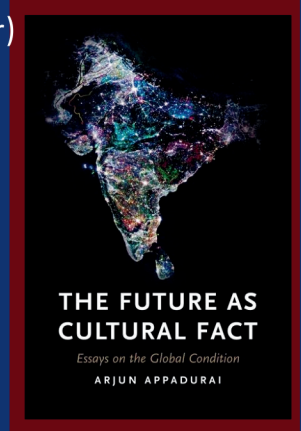
Clough Distinguished Lectures

Arjun Appadurai: Making the National Geographic

Thursday, November 16th | 5:00PM | Murray Room (Yawkey Athletic Center)

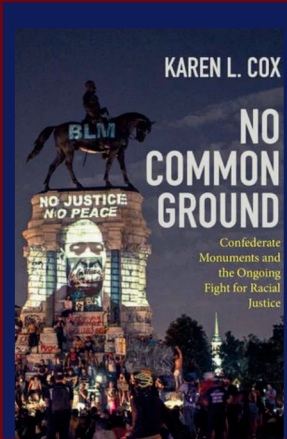
A world-renowned anthropologist, Arjun Appadurai has been recognized for decades as one of the most important theorists of modernity, globalization, and the nation-state writing today. Now Professor Emeritus of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University’s Steinhardt School, Appadurai is the author of many influential books, including *Worship and Conflict under Colonial Rule* (1981), *Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy* (1990), and *Fear of Small Numbers* (2006). While his scholarship ranges widely across many topics, from global cultural flows to urban design, the structure of political space — and the role of human imagination in creating it — is a theme that cuts across his impressive body of work.

The Clough Center is delighted to welcome Prof. Appadurai as a Clough Distinguished Lecturer of the 2023-24 academic year. Serving as his respondent is Chandra Mallampalli, an accomplished scholar of religion, law, and society in South Asia and the Clough Center’s inaugural Visiting Fellow. Prof. Appadurai’s lecture is entitled “Making the National Geographic: The Infrastructure of an Intimate Abstraction.” Please join us for what promises to be an exceptionally rich exploration of the nature of “place” in today’s globalized world.



Karen Cox: The South of Our Imagination

Thursday, December 7th | 5:00PM | Devlin Hall 101



A Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Karen Cox has risen to prominence as one of the most authoritative commentators on the American South today. In particular, Cox’s incisive treatments of the history of Confederate monuments — the subject of her most recent book, *No Common Ground* (2021) — have made her a widely-sought expert in national and international discussions of this contentious issue. Well beyond this topic, however, Cox’s award-winning scholarship has explored the broader role of “the South” in the American popular imagination, through books such as *Dixie’s Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture* (2003) and *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture* (2013).



To shed more light on a region and the places that continue to define our nation today, the Clough Center enthusiastically welcomes Prof. Karen Cox as a Distinguished Lecturer for the 2023-24 academic year. Her lecture is entitled “The South of Our Imagination.” Please join us for this stimulating conclusion to our fall program, on a topic that remains central to our public conversation.

Attachment to Place
in a World of Nations



Clough Center in the World

International Working Group on Democracy and Education



Center Director **Jonathan Laurence** was named Chair of the working group on **Democracy, Governance & Education** in the newly-created **Program on Global Ethics and Social Trust**. Over the course of two years, the working group will explore effective educational and formative experiences for maintaining resilient democratic systems. The international group -- including scholars from BC, **Trinity College Dublin, Hekima College, Javeriana University and Católica University Lisbon** -- will share insights and resources about the state of affairs around the world, and collaborate on a vision for the path forward as teachers, scholars, and engaged citizens.

This multi-university initiative, based at Boston College under the leadership of **James F. Keenan, SJ** (Principal Investigator) and **Erik Owens** (Director), brings faculty together across disciplinary and institutional boundaries to address the ethical dimensions of urgent global issues and the implications for academic, political, and religious communities. BC Law Professor **Katharine Young** will serve as Chair of a separate working group on Climate Change and Migration. In December 2023, the Long Room Hub at Trinity College Dublin will host a panel entitled "The Role of Education in the Face of Threats to Democracy and the Rule of Law." Visit bc.edu/global-ethics to read more about this exciting initiative.



Clough Conferences in Sarajevo and Dublin

The **Clough Center** collaborated with French and Italian partners to convene two international seminars: at **BC Ireland** in May 2023 and at the **University of Sarajevo (Bosnia)** in September 2022. Cosponsored with the **Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (FMSH)** and the Italian nonprofit **Reset Dialogues on Civilizations**, the Sarajevo meeting on "Getting to Reconciliation: A Comparative Perspective" examined the role of religion in reconciliation processes; speakers included BC professors **Ernesto Valiente** (School of Theology and Ministry) and **Stephen Pope** (Theology).

The Dublin conference on "Nationalism, Nation-Building and the End of Empires," also in collaboration with FMSH and Reset, focused on the aftermath of the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and Russian Empires in the context of the contemporary Ukraine war; Clough Research Fellow and doctoral student **Akash Chopra** (Political Science) took part.

Mexico Site Visit in 2024



In January 2024, the **Clough Center's Doctoral Fellows** will travel to Mexico, to spend a week exploring how different forms of "Attachment to Place" have shaped the nation's past and present. Dividing their time between Mexico City and the nearby city of Cuernavaca, Fellows will visit indigenous and colonial sites of historic significance, contemporary seats of political authority, religious and secular sacred places, and local communities that continue to hold distinctive identities today. Along the way, a variety of speakers—from academic experts and policymakers to community leaders and migrant travelers—will offer diverse perspectives on the places we explore, complemented by academic readings specifically chosen to provide further background. The Clough Center has partnered with **Augsburg University's Center for Global Education** and Experience to organize the trip, with the support of the **Office of the Provost**.



UNIVERSITÄT BERN

New Collaboration with the University of Bern

A two-year joint postdoctoral research project is being undertaken between the **Clough Center** and the Initiative on Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies at the **University of Bern (Switzerland)**. We are delighted to partner with Professor **Martino Mona**, an accomplished legal theorist, and Dr. **Anina Schwarzenbach**, sociologist and postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Criminal Law. Anina's work focuses on social threats and governmental responses, social networks, media narratives, polarization, and state legitimacy. The Bern-BC project supports a collaborative research agenda between the two centers and the postdoctoral position at the Clough Center held by **Nicholas Hayes-Mota**, whose focus on religion and democracy is featured on the next page.



NEW HORIZONS AT THE CLOUGH CENTER

Postdoctoral Fellow



Nicholas Hayes-Mota is a social ethicist, public theologian and former Clough Graduate Fellow who now joins the Clough Center as its Assistant Director and first Postdoctoral Research Fellow. As Assistant Director, Nicholas works closely with the Director to help manage the Center's events,

fellowship programs, and day-to-day operations. As a Clough Postdoctoral Fellow, he will prepare his dissertation for publication while contributing to a variety of research projects at the Center, in collaboration with the University of Bern. Nicholas's dissertation draws on faith-based community organizing and Catholic social thought to propose a constructive new approach to the "politics of the common good," one better suited to today's contentious and pluralistic democracies than available alternatives. More broadly, his scholarship explores the connection between moral and political agency, the history of the Catholic social tradition and democratic community organizing, and the public role of religion in contemporary liberal democracies. Nicholas's work has been published in the *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics*, *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*, the *T&T Clark Handbook of Public Theology*, *Ecumenical Trends*, and *Syndicate*. Prior to receiving his Ph.D. from Boston College in Theological Ethics, he received an A.B. in Social Studies, *summa cum laude*, from Harvard University, and an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School.

This Postdoctoral Fellowship receives support from the Initiative on Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies (University of Bern, Switzerland).

The Center is pleased to welcome its inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow and its first Visiting Fellow.

Clough Visiting Fellow



Chandra Mallampalli is a historian of modern South Asia with interests in religious pluralism, nationalism, and the secular state. He comes to the Clough Center with an interest in examining challenges facing India's multi-religious democracy,

especially in light of the surging Hindu nationalism and violence against religious minorities. This fall, he is researching the unfolding conflict in Manipur (northwest India), where conflict over the rights and privileges of tribal communities has assumed religious overtones, resulting in the destruction of churches and other religious structures.

Chandra is the author of four books and many articles, which examine the intersection of religion, law, and society in colonial India. His scholarship and teaching span the fields of modern India, British Empire, World History, and Global Christianity. His recent book with Oxford University Press (New York), *South Asia's Christians: Between Hindu and Muslim*, describes how the lives of Roman Catholics, Syrian Christians, and Protestants have been shaped by centuries of interactions with Hindus and Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

This Visiting Fellowship has been made possible with support from the Office of the Provost.

2023-2024 Faculty Affiliates

We are delighted to be joined this year by twelve Boston College professors who share an interest in our annual theme and who have established distinguished records in related fields. Faculty Affiliates will contribute to the center's seminars and to our rich lineup of public events on "Attachment to Place," playing a key role in our fall colloquium and spring symposium.

 **Mattia Acetoso**, *Romance Lang/Lit*

 **Paulo Barrozo**, *Law*

 **Erick Berrelleza**, *Messina College*

 **André Brouillette**, *Theology & Ministry*

 **Natana Delong-Bas**, *Theology*

 **Daniel Kanstroom**, *Law*

 **Thibaud Marcesse**, *Political Science*

 **María de los Ángeles Picone**, *History*

 **Aziz Rana**, *Law*

 **Ginny Reinburg**, *History*

 **Lacee Satcher**, *Sociology*

 **Laura Steinberg**, *Schiller Institute*



INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S CLOUGH FELLOWS

DOCTORAL FELLOWS



JUSTIN BROWN
RAMSEY
English



ALEXA
DAMASKA
Sociology



STEPHEN
DE RIEL
History



EMILY
DUPUIS
History



JUNWOO
KIM
Political Science



BARBARA ANNE
KOZEE
Theology



KELVIN
LEE
Philosophy



TRYSTAN
LOUSTAU
Psychology



MEGHAN
MCCOY
History



ELIJAH
ROCKHOLD
Law



CASEY
PUERZER
Political Science



SHAUN
SLUSARSKI
Theology



MARCUS
TRENFIELD
Psychology



OPHELIA FANGFEI
WANG
English



YINAN
XU
Sociology

PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS



KATIE
BROWN
Theology



MEGHAN
HECKELMAN
Psychology
Political Science



ALI
SHAFI
Law



TRACY
WERICK
Law

RESEARCH FELLOWS



JAJDA
CHARLES
Political Science
Communication



AKASH
CHOPRA
Political Science



KELLY
GRAY
English



WILLIAM
LOMBARDO
Political Science



JACOB
SALIBA
History



FINNEGAN
SCHICK
Law



EMILY
TURNER
Theology

CLOUGH CORRESPONDENTS



DENIZ
AYAYDIN
Sociology



MADLINE CARR
Political Science
History



BOYU
JIN
International Studies



SAMUEL PETERSON
History
Hispanic Studies



JUSTINE
ROZENICH
International Studies



OLIVIA
STRONG
History



SONIA TOLOCZKO
Political Science
Slavic Studies

Fellows' Corner

Evita !

**American Repertory Theatre
Cambridge, MA**

Directed by Sammi Cannold
May/June 2023

In May 2023, a delegation from the Clough Center traveled to Cambridge to attend the revival of *Evita!* at the American Repertory Theater. Now headed to Broadway, the musical presents the life of former Argentine first lady Eva Duarte – better known as Eva Perón or simply Evita – and her ascent from poverty to the summit of Argentine politics.

The musical leaves audiences with a more nuanced view of Eva Duarte and her long-lasting but controversial legacy. The breathtaking performance was aesthetically stunning, but it also prompted critical reflection on the choices and perspectives adopted and embodied by this remarkable production.

Takeaways



A Feminist Savior?

Going to see *Evita!* is like going to see *Titanic*: You know how the story ends, but you are still curious because, maybe, there is something you don't know. Eva Duarte de Perón, First Lady of Argentina between 1945 and 1952, certainly had a force of her own, like the *Titanic*. But also like the legendary vessel, her memory was amplified in the decades after her death -- not least by Andrew Lloyd Weber's famous musical.

Evita! weaves together several threads of Eva Perón's life. Her humble upbringing fueled her desire to escape a tiny town in rural Buenos Aires as a teenager. An apt actress, she slowly created a stable life for herself. Over the years, her self-made status prompted invitations to mingle with well-connected crowds in the national capital. At one of these parties in 1944, she met her future husband, then Secretary of Labor, Juan Domingo Perón. The play, I think, does a good job of demonstrating how Eva's dynamic energy was harnessed by the similar force that was Juan. At the end of the day, they became the definition of a power couple.

Some people best remember Eva Perón for her role in the Argentine feminist movement. Particularly, they like to point out that "because of her," Argentine women got the right to vote in 1947. Both the feminist movement and the cause of women's suffrage had already been around for fifty years prior in Argentina. But while earlier feminism failed to garner support from working-class women, Peronism excelled at politically mobilizing these groups. The play illustrates Eva's role in activating the support of marginalized people through her foundation. Indeed, after the play, an Argentine friend who accompanied us shared how her grandmother, a single mother trying to make ends meet, had received a sewing machine from Eva which allowed her to start a small business while she cared for her children. To this, my friend added something to the effect of, "it was not a handout if people were willing to work."

Perhaps this can be a great takeaway. The play presents audiences with an Eva that goes from man to man until she lands one of the most powerful political figures of the time. And while we see her upset that the

British did not roll out the red carpet for her during her European tour, we also see her hard at work. Eva campaigns with and for Perón. She opens her foundation when the traditional Charitable Society of Argentina blocks her off (there is more to this than what transpired in the play, but it's certainly a colorful episode). Perhaps, we see a woman lifting herself up with the hand she was dealt, putting in the work to make a dent in the world, only to be cut off by cervical cancer at the young age of thirty-three.

**María de los Ángeles Picone
Clough Center Faculty Affiliate**



Decoupling Juan and Evita

Knowing part of Eva Perón's history in advance, there was one question that I was curious for the musical to answer: How will an Anglo-American production tell the story of a figure from another culture, who embodied ideals the show's audience might find suspect, or even detestable? The answer, I found, is the creation of a binary between Evita and her husband Juan Perón, decoupling their personalities, ideals, and political practices to praise one while blaming the other.

Throughout the musical, Evita is portrayed as courageous and ambitious while Juan Perón often exhibits cowardice. During the song "A New Argentina," Perón's first instinct when facing prosecution is to flee to Paraguay whereas Evita stops him from doing so. In the same song, Evita uses her influence to call for mass protest and demonstration to rescue her husband from imprisonment.



Fellows' Corner

In contrast, a few acts earlier, dark red lighting, a symbolically staged game of musical chairs, and heavy background music hint that Perón's rise to power was expedited by eliminating his political opponents. The musical presents Evita as one always concerned for the liberty and equality of her people (as shown in "A New Argentina," "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," "Eva's Final Broadcast," etc.). Conversely, crowds constantly repeat President Perón's name throughout the musical to telegraph his status as a dictator to the audience.

It is also worth noting the musical's intentional diminution of Evita and Perón's relationship. In the song "I'd Be Surprisingly Good For You," Evita suggests to Perón that they should be a couple because it would be advantageous for both of them. Despite the romantic setting, the song's lyrics frame this relationship as based not on love, but rather on shared interests. I see this as another form of decoupling Evita from her husband's negative associations. Similarly, at the end of the musical, in "Eva's Final Broadcast," the song only features one line supporting this stance: "let me simply go on as the woman who brings her people to the heart of Peron." However, in the actual 'final' speech she delivered on October 17, 1951, Evita mentioned "Perón" twenty-one times in nine minutes and used extreme phrases such as "vow," "oath," and "until death" to rally public support for Peron.

A handful of other historical inaccuracies made their way into this musical. For example, most historians disagree that Evita deserves the credit for organizing the rally of thousands that freed Perón from imprisonment. They also contest whether or not Evita travelled to Buenos Aires thanks to the entertainer Agustín Magaldi, as the show depicts. These small quibbles aside, I absolutely loved and enjoyed watching this artistic production. This musical should be approached critically because artworks have the power to shape impressions and imaginations. Just as Evita wore expensive clothing to "properly" represent Argentina abroad, this musical also glamorously adorns and frames her story.

Boyu Jin
Clough Correspondent

Eva the Populist

Aware of the historical subject matter in broad strokes, but unfamiliar with the particulars of Andrew Lloyd Webber's presentation, I was thrilled to experience *Evita!* at the ART.

A particularly fascinating element of the show was its omnipresent narrator "Che" (perhaps, the musical implies, Che Guevarra?), who sees through the Peróns' ecstatic charade. Although Che spends most of his time patrolling the perimeter of the stage, "outside" each scene, his skeptical presence takes on a different feel when, in the second act, he roams among the actors in one number and sings:

*Eva and her blessed fund can make
your dreams come true /
Here's all you have to do my friends /
Write your name and your dream on
a card or a pad or a ticket /
Throw it high in the air and should
our lady pick it /
She will change your way of life for a
week or even two /*

The scene is striking for at least two reasons. First, it highlights the contrast between Perón and Guevarra's visions of how the government should intervene to combat systemic poverty. Che acknowledges that the Peronist movement—and the person of Evita herself—offered hope to the working people of Argentina that their situation might improve. But what they did not offer, he points out, were the structural reforms needed to make this dream a reality. The specific policies promoted by populist leaders or movements may vary significantly, but the rhetorical mode of appeal remains the same.

Artistically, a dissonant but helpful element of the show was the contrast between Evita's white costuming and the grey colors worn by other characters. Superficially, the contrast emphasizes Evita's purity and brilliance, as compared with the economic and political predicament of her mid-20th century Argentinian supporters. Left at this level, however, Evita's white costuming (amplifying the Marian associations already potent in songs like "Santa Evita") clashes with the obvious complexity of her characterization, given the biographical and historical ground the show plows. To my eyes, Evita is a riveting character not because she is "pure," but because she is a multi-faceted personality who took a

stand and evoked a societal response notwithstanding the ways in which she was compromised. This difference—between what I find interesting and what Evita's supporters found hopeful and inspiring—is a direct result of these artistic choices.

Emily Turner
Clough Research Fellow



A Woman Politician

As a white dress slowly descended to the stage, the musical *Evita!* began. The show's narrative traces the trajectory of Eva Perón, starting with her humble origins, then following her ascent to political power, her philanthropic work, and ultimately, her untimely death. The musical recognizes Evita's role as a trailblazer who defied societal expectations and fought for the rights of the working class. In the show, she is not afraid to challenge the established order and uses her sexuality to her advantage. Her intelligence, charisma, and determination all contribute to her rise to power. These qualities are associated with strong and capable leaders, regardless of gender.

However, the musical also reinforces certain gender stereotypes and limitations, portraying Evita as a woman defined by her relationships with men and emphasizing her vanity for fashion and thirst for fame. She is first introduced as the mistress of a tango singer, and her success is largely attributed to her marriage to Juan Perón, a powerful politician. Furthermore, a large portion of the show is dedicated to depicting this vanity. Evita is portrayed as eager to impress with her looks and obsessed with her material possessions. Her sympathy for the working class is also presented as only a strategic choice, meant to amass more power, which was her primary concern. *Evita!* offers a complex and nuanced portrayal of Eva Perón, but ultimately an ambiguous one. Was she a politician who was a woman, or was she a woman who became a politician? The musical seems to have assumed an answer.

Ophelia Wang
Clough Doctoral Fellow

Correspondents' Corner

Conference Review:

Frontiers of Democracy

Tufts University

July 13-15, 2023



There is no such thing as democracy without civic engagement. Identifying a public issue and enacting change is one of the most important duties that a citizen can perform within their community. Despite this, the United States suffers from a lack of civic engagement that worsens with each passing year. At the 2023 Frontiers of Democracy conference at Tufts University, civic life and engagement rose to the forefront of the discussion, with a special focus on how democracy can thrive in a multiracial and religious society.

In the event's opening panel, Eric Liu, Andrew Hanauer, Christina Moon, and Aminta Kilawan-Narine addressed the theme for the weekend, "Religious Pluralism and Robust Democracy in Multiracial Societies," and went to the root of why civic engagement is important. It is through a lack of engagement that issues such as institutional racism, toxic division, and "othering" remain. Dayna Cunningham, Dean of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts, said in her opening remarks that the recent Supreme Court decision regarding affirmative action is a direct result of a lack of civic engagement. By engaging in your community, she posited, you are tending to a garden that you will never see. If you can accept this fact, then you will be able to hold yourself accountable to those who come after you to continue your work and reap the rewards. This opening panel opened my eyes to the fact that civics is not merely a subject taught in schools, but can be a form of engagement that keeps our democracy intact.

The first session, entitled "Teaching Civic Engagement and Religious Pluralism in High Needs Schools," reinforced this impression. Civic studies can be a highly complex and polarizing topic, and teachers often shy away from teaching it in schools. This exacerbates a problem with civic literacy amongst American youth. Similarly, teachers are tasked with addressing religions and educating their students on different faiths without showing any biases or providing religious instruction.

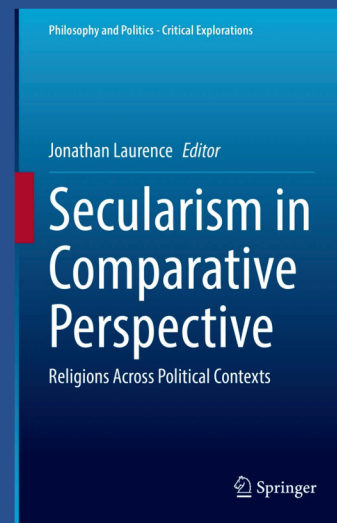
In most curricula and teacher development programs across the US, civics and religious studies are missing. If the goal is to build an interreligious society without division, then teachers are on the forefront of enacting change. Programs such as the CREATE initiative work to give teachers K-12 development opportunities in civics to help them and embolden their students. By increasing civic literacy, students can then become more engaged in their communities, sparking positive change. The Initiative focuses on offering immersive civic engagement activities such as planting trees and visiting government buildings, showing students ways they can get involved in their communities. While CREATE focuses on civic engagement, this idea of offering teacher development and engagement opportunities can be expanded to the study of religion to help build a dialogue in schools.

Currently, religion is often viewed as the problem, not a solution, and teachers may inadvertently denigrate the positive roles of religion. Speakers at the conference agreed that teachers should engage in these topics to spark a discussion in the classroom that allows students to share their beliefs and opinions without dismissing anyone else's.

Another conference session taught a new method of discourse that would be beneficial in engaging with these kinds of difficult topics. "The Lewis Method of Deep Democracy" offers a new way of debating that promotes acceptance and new ways of understanding issues. Within this model, participants stand in two groups, representing each side of a public argument. They then share all of the points that support their side, and can move freely between the groups as they agree or disagree with individual points. This allows people to feel comfortable sharing their viewpoints and encourages a safe discourse. If we can bring this method to schools, it will help students and teachers tackle difficult topics and learn more about other ideas. The United States is in a civic crisis, and desperately needs its rising generations of leaders to take a stand and get involved in order to hold our democracy together.

Olivia Strong
Clough Correspondent

New Book



The Clough Center is pleased to announce the publication of Secularism in Comparative Perspective: Religions Across Political Contexts (Springer 2023), edited by Jonathan Laurence. The volume features a foreword by Michael Walzer alongside captivating chapters from top scholars such as Asma Afsaruddin, Carol Ferrara, Ahmet Kuru, Jose Casanova and Sudipta Kaviraj.

LAST YEAR IN RETROSPECT

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO US: A CELEBRATION OF CONSTITUTION DAY

On September 12, 2022, the Clough Center held its first annual “**What the Constitution Means to Us**” event to celebrate Constitution Day. Selected student speakers and invited faculty guests from across the university reflected on the Constitution from a diverse array of perspectives. The event was co-sponsored with the **Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society**.



RENEWING JOURNALISM, RESTORING DEMOCRACY: FRAMING THE CONVERSATION

On September 22, 2022, the Clough Center launched its year-long exploration of “Journalism and Democracy” with a multi-part colloquium, “**Renewing Journalism, Restoring Democracy: Framing the Conversation.**” Michael Schudson, of Columbia Journalism School, opened the event with a keynote on the values that should guide the practice of journalism in a democracy. Journalists **Piotr Smolar (Le Monde)**, **Renée Graham (Boston Globe)**, and **Tiziana Dearing (WBUR)** offered practitioners’ reflections on the challenges facing the field today. Finally, **Jim Acosta (CNN)** closed the event with a rousing keynote on the press’s role as defenders of democracy.



COPING WITH DEFEAT? A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON ISLAM AND CATHOLICISM IN MODERN STATES

On October 27, 2022, the Clough Center brought together a cross-disciplinary panel of eminent scholars to discuss Director **Jonathan Laurence’s** recently published book, *Coping with Defeat*. Participating scholars included **Carol Ferrara** (Emerson), an anthropologist who focuses on religion in France; **Michael Driessen** (John Cabot University), a political scientist specialized in the comparative study of Islam and Catholicism; **Massimo Faggioli** (Villanova), a Catholic ecclesiologist and church historian; and **Shadi Hamid** (Brookings Institution), a leading policy analyst and public intellectual with expertise on democracy in the Middle East. Each scholar offered a unique take on the central question of the book: how did Roman Catholicism reconcile itself to the modern state, and how might Sunni Islam do the same?



THE 2022 MIDTERMS: A CLOUGH CONVERSATION

On November 10, 2022, the Clough Center hosted a lunchtime conversation to debrief the 2022 U.S. Midterms. BC Professors **Kay Schlozman** and **David Hopkins**, both political scientists and resident experts on the U.S. electoral system, provided illuminating analyses of the recent elections.

LAST YEAR IN RETROSPECT

"DEGENERATIONS OF DEMOCRACY": A CLOUGH DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY CRAIG CALHOUN

On November 17, 2022, the Clough Center officially relaunched its "Clough Distinguished Lectures" series with an address from **Craig Calhoun**, Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. A world-renowned social scientist whose work spans many fields, Calhoun offered a wide-ranging diagnosis of the "Degenerations of Democracy" around the world today, summarizing the research of his recently published book of the same name. Calhoun's respondent was **Elizabeth McKenna** of the Harvard Kennedy School.



"THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE: EUROPE'S PAST AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S POLARIZATION": A CLOUGH DISTINGUISHED LECTURE BY SIDNEY TARROW

On December 8, 2022, **Sidney Tarrow**, Professor of Government at Cornell University, delivered the Clough Center's second Distinguished Lecture. A leading authority on social movements and political contention, Tarrow shared an incisive analysis of American polarization, and what lessons Europe's history could offer about how to address it. Tarrow's respondent was **Marshall Ganz** of the Harvard Kennedy School.



SPRING SYMPOSIUM ON JOURNALISM AND DEMOCRACY



The Clough Center's major event of the 2022-23 program year was a three-day **Symposium on "Journalism and Democracy,"** held from March 15-17, 2023. Bringing together 25 leading scholars and practitioners of journalism from across the United States and beyond, the symposium examined how the intertwined institutions of journalism and democracy are responding to various developments that threaten to drive both to the brink of collapse, such as the rise of social media, the explosion of misinformation, the hardening of polarization, and the loss of public faith in government and mainstream media. These and other topics were explored in five panels that considered contemporary journalism from a wide range of angles and disciplinary perspectives, and four keynote addresses from highly acclaimed journalists: **Jamelle Bouie**, a *New York Times* columnist and rising star in the field; Pulitzer Prize-winner and best-selling author **Ron Suskind**; fellow Pulitzer Prize-winner **María Hinojosa**, the founder of Futuro Media; and the legendary reporter, author, and civil rights activist, **Charlayne Hunter-Gault**.



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THE CLOUGH CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF
CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY



SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 14-15, 2024
CLOUGH SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Attachment to Place
in a World of Nations