



Identity & Conflict: A Collaborative Exploration

Fall 2013

Department of Social Sciences

During the 2013-14 academic year the Department of Social Sciences will be presenting a series of events aimed at increasing understanding of identity-based conflict. These conflicts occur when people who self-identify as part of a group feel threatened or that they are being denied opportunity or respect because of their membership in a group. Group identity can be based on any shared attribute, but we will focus on the identities of gender, ethnicity, religion, language, class, and nationality.

1. **Social Science Approach to Identity & Conflict** (Monday, September 9)
In this introductory event, faculty will offer different perspectives on group-identity, based on the discipline in which they teach. Presentations will be delivered from faculty in Psychology, Religious Studies, History, and Geography.
2. **Gender Identity** (Tuesday, October 8)
Faculty from the disciplines of History, Women's Studies, and Psychology will examine gender-based conflict in American society, the queer movement, and the politics of national coming-out day.
3. **The Rise of Political Islam** (Monday, November 4)
In this case-study of how identities can change over time, we will examine the shift from secular to religious identity in the Arab world. Special attention will be paid to the recent revolutions in the Arab world, and whether these constitute an "Arab Spring" or an "Islamist Winter".
4. **Student Presentations** (Thursday, November 21)
In the final event of the Fall semester, students will present their research on identity-based conflict. The author of the top paper will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

All events are in The Community Room, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm