Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Speaker Series

The Department of Political Science and International Relations are proud to present the 2020-2021 USD Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Speaker Series. This year marks the inaugural year of the series as it aims to examine the power of race and ethnicity to shape society and politics at the local level, at the international level, and comparatively.

Steadfast Democrats: How Social Forces Shape Black Political Behavior

Black Americans are by far the most unified racial group in American electoral politics, with 80 to 90% identifying as Democrats—a surprising figure given that nearly a third now also identify as ideologically conservative, up from less than 10 percent in the 1970s. Why has ideological change failed to push more Black Americans into the Republican Party? Dr. Laird's new book represents a groundbreaking look at how group expectations unify Black Americans in their support of the Democratic Party.

American While Black: African Americans, Immigration, and the Limits of Citizenship

Niambi Carter will discuss her award-winning book, which argues that immigration serves as a reminder of the limited inclusion of African Americans in the body politic. As Carter contends, Blacks use the issue of immigration as a way to understand the nature and meaning of their American citizenship—specifically the way that white supremacy structures and constrains not just their place in the American political landscape, but their political opinions as well. Dr. Carter draws on original interview material and empirical data on African American political opinion to offer the first theory of Black public opinion toward immigration.

Performance of Power: Putting the Black Lives Matter Movement in Context

Alvin B. Tillery, Jr. conducts research in the fields of American politics and political theory. His research in American politics focuses on American political development, racial and ethnic politics and media and politics. His research in political theory focuses on American political thought and critical race theory. Dr. Tillery's book "Between Homeland and Motherland: Africa, U.S. Foreign Policy and Black Leadership in America" won the W.E.B. Du Bois Distinguished Book Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists.

Register for each guest speaker at sandiego.edu/events/polisci
Please email polisci@sandiego.edu for more information