Snark, Soul, Political Economy: The Rise of Progressive American Counterpublics with Micaela di Leonardo

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 | 4:30-5:30 PM
Hallock Auditorium

Reception to follow in the Atrium

Micaela di Leonardo is professor emerita of anthropology, African American studies, and gender/sexuality studies at Northwestern University. She has published six books and more than four dozen articles and has received multiple awards and fellowships.

"Since the 2016 election, we have seen an acceleration of longstanding American political divisions," she writes. "There have been wildly different public takes on political-economic changes—rising inequalities, threats to democracy, and the climate crisis. The rise of an increasingly conspiracy-ridden extreme Right has led journalists and scholars quite reasonably to focus on this growing threat. But in so doing, they have tended to neglect the opposite phenomenon—the growing tendrils of a new progressive coalition politics that has animated multiple political movements and new policies. My latest research projects can help to illuminate the rise of these progressive American counterpublics organized around race, class, gender, and sexuality."

ABOUT JACK GLAZIER: Jack taught anthropology at Oberlin from 1971 until his retirement in 2013. His fieldwork included research in East Africa among subsistence farmers, Easter European immigrants and their descendants in the American Midwest, and African Americans in the upper South. He sees anthropology as a unique discipline, combining the explanatory and generalizing goals of the sciences with the interpretive and historical sensibilities of the humanities. In the classroom and in his books and articles, he sought an understanding of human experience in wide ranging comparative terms while never losing sight of the distinctiveness of that experience in particular times and places. The lectureship bearing Jack's name recognizes his contributions to an encompassing anthropology and to the liberal education of Oberlin students.

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