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Political scholars address 'Bridging the Political Divide' at SMC

Submitted by Mike McAlpin

Saint Mary's College will offer a timely forum, "Bridging the Political Divide," April 19 featuring two nationally recognized analysts of the country's fractured political landscape who will lead a free public conversation with audience members about their research and the prospects of finding common ground at a time when many in urban communities of color and rural white communities find themselves at opposite ends of the political divide. Colgate Political Science Professor Nina Moore has examined the root causes of the over incarceration of people of color, and UC Berkeley Sociology Professor Arlie Hochschild has explored the rise of the Tea Party and anger in conservative white rural America.

Hochschild is a professor emerita of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the recipient of many academic awards and has authored 11 books, including "Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right." A 2016 National Book Award finalist, the celebrated work features intensive interviews with Tea Party enthusiasts in rural Lake Charles, Louisiana. The National Book Foundation said of the celebrated work, "Hochschild draws on her expert knowledge of the sociology of emotion to help us understand what it feels like to live in 'red' America."

Moore is the author of "The Political Roots of Racial Tracking in American Criminal Justice" and a professor of political science at Colgate University. Her 2015 study explores how the unequal policing, prosecution, and over incarceration of black people has resulted from misrepresentations of criminality in the media, and misguided laws supported by the public, and both Democrats and Republicans. The Princeton Review recently named Moore among the top 300 professors in the U.S.

"Bridging the Political Divide" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 in the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Presented by the Roy E. and Patricia Disney Forum through Saint Mary's Department of Communication, "Bridging the Political Divide" is part of an ongoing series exploring contemporary politics and communications.

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