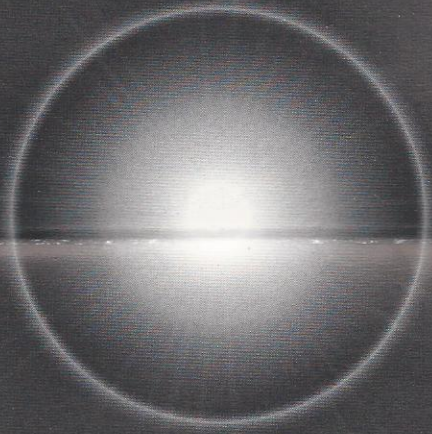


**THE NEW YORK OPEN CENTER'S
LAPIS INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY, ECOLOGY & CULTURE
AND CONTINUING EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS,
GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY**



**EXAMINING THE
REAL AGENDA
OF THE
RELIGIOUS
FAR RIGHT**

**APRIL 29 & 30
AT THE CUNY GRADUATE CENTER
34TH STREET & 5TH AVENUE**

EXAMINING THE REAL AGENDA OF THE RELIGIOUS FAR RIGHT

A CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORED BY THE NY OPEN CENTER AND CUNY GRADUATE CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WITH KAREN ARMSTRONG, CHIP BERLET, JOAN BOKAER, FREDERICK CLARKSON,
DR. ROBERT EDGAR, JOSEPH C. HOUGH, JR., SKIPP PORTEOUS, JEFFREY SHARLET,
CHARLES STROZIER, JOHN SUGG, HUGH URBAN & KATHERINE YURICA

"Until progressives come to understand what [fundamentalists] read, hear, are told and deeply believe, we cannot understand American politics, much less be effective."

— Joe Bageant

Most Americans outside the Bible Belt have little idea of the beliefs held by millions of fundamentalist churchgoers. We have an almost total lack of awareness of the rise of Dominionism and Christian Reconstructionism, forms of theology that advocate a biblical vision of God's kingdom on earth. Some fundamentalists also foresee events such as The Rapture, the Times of Tribulation, Armageddon, and the Second Coming of Christ as we enter The End Days.

This conference will give rigorous attention to the worldview of Dominionism, its influence in contemporary political culture and its agenda for America. While not all Christian fundamentalists are Dominionists, Dominionism's influence is powerful and growing. Its adherents play a significant role in secretive organizations such as The Council on National Policy, which exerts a strong influence on the strategy of the religious right.

The 2004 election tells us that socially conscious citizens need to awaken to the ambitions of this influential religious movement. What do fundamentalist theologies advocate regarding theocracy, abortion and homosexuality? What is the nature of the world order under God's law that they anticipate? How do many fundamentalists interpret the role of Israel? How does this affect U.S. policy? Why are so many fundamentalists opposed to environmentalism and the UN? Why are millions in America drawn to this form of belief, and how can we come to understand them?

Join us for this important conference as America grapples with the growing influence of fundamentalist religion and its political goals. Clearly, something within this movement addresses the need for spirituality and community in an America submerged under materialism and consumerism. The time has arrived to take the ambitions and prophecies of extreme Christian fundamentalism seriously, and to examine the compatibility of these beliefs with democracy as we currently know it.

SCHEDULE *(subject to change)*

FRIDAY EVENING 7:30 PM

THE RISE OF DOMINIONISM IN US GOVERNMENT
Joan Bokaer

MILLENNIALIST AND APOLCALYPTIC INFLUENCES
ON DOMINIONISM
Chip Berlet

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO A RELIGIOUS
PROGRESSIVE
Robert W. Edgar

SATURDAY MORNING 10:00 AM

AMERICA LEFT BEHIND: BUSH, THE NEOCONSERVATIVES,
& CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL FICTION.
Hugh Urban

PSYCHOLOGY AND THEOCRACY OF GEORGE W. BUSH
Charles B. Strozier

IS AN UNHOLY AMERICAN THEOCRACY HERE OR HAS
JIM JONES GONE MAINSTREAM?
Katherine Yurica

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON
LUNCH**

FUNDAMENTALISM: THE FEAR AND THE RAGE

Karen Armstrong

**LEARNING ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT AND
WHAT IN THE WORLD TO DO**

Frederick Clarkson

INDIVIDUAL PRESENTER WORKSHOPS

**THE REAL HIDDEN RELIGIOUS AGENDA: THE
THEOCRATIC STATES OF AMERICA**

John Sugg

**DOMINIONISM, "THE FAMILY" AND AMERICAN
POLITICS**

Jeff Sharlet

CHRISTIAN JIHAD

Skipp Porteous

FAITH, ETHICS & POLITICS

Joseph C. Hough, Jr

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Concluding Panel

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

(confirmed at press time)

Karen Armstrong is the best-selling author of *A History of God*, *The Battle for God*, her autobiography, *The Spiral Staircase* and her upcoming book on *The Beginning Of Religion As We Know It*. She was honored at the New York Open Center's 20th Anniversary for Profound Understanding of Religious Traditions and their Relation to the Devine.

Chip Berlet senior analyst at Political Research Associates, he is co-author of *Right-Wing Populism in America: Too Close for Comfort* and editor of *Eye's Right! Challenging the Right Wing Backlash*.

Joan Bokaer is the founder of TheocracyWatch.org, an online project of the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy (CRESP) at Cornell University.

Frederick Clarkson is an independent journalist who is best known for his undercover investigations of the Christian Coalition. He is the author of *Eternal Hostility: The Struggle Between Theocracy and Democracy*.

Dr. Robert Edgar is general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Dr. Edgar is well known for his service as a six-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Edgar serves on several boards.

Joseph C. Hough, Jr., former dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School, is currently President of the Faculty and William E. Dodge Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Dr. Hough is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, Congregational. His teaching and research interests are in social ethics, theological education, the Church and ministry.

Skipp Porteous a former Pentecostal minister, is the the author of *Jesus Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. He is also the past president of the Institute for First Amendment Studies. He owns Sherlock Investigations, Inc., in New York City.

Jeff Sharlet is a member of New York University's Center for Religion and the Media, at which he edits *The Revealer: A Daily Review of Religion and the Press* (www.the-revealer.org). He is co-founder of the online magazine *KillingTheBuddha.com*

Charles B. Strozier, PhD is Professor of History and Director, Center on Terrorism, John Jay College, CUNY. He is the author of *Apocalypse: On the Psychology of Fundamentalism in America* and *Lincoln's Quest for Union: A Psychological Study*, and many other publications.

John Sugg has held senior editing and writing positions at *The Miami Herald*, *The Tampa Tribune*, *The Atlanta Constitution* and *American Lawyer* Publications. Sugg has been reporting on the ultra-right religious movement in America for more than a decade.

Hugh Urban, PhD is associate professor of comparative studies at Ohio State University and the author of the acclaimed article on Straussians, Machiavelli and the religious right, "Religion and Secrecy in the Bush Administration: The Gentleman, the Prince and the Simulacrum."

Katherine Yurica was educated at USC and the USC School of Law. A former reporter for *Christianity Today*, she is an investigative journalist and the publisher of the *YuricaReport.com*. Her essay, "The Despoiling of America," is published in *Toward a New Political Humanism*.