

# RELIGION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE: THE ROLE OF JOURNALISTS AND THE MEDIA

A public forum organized by American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) and co-sponsored by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation  
September 28, 2015

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

**8:30-9:00am** Arrival and coffee

Abramson Family Founder's Room, School of International Service Building, AU

**9:00-9:15am** Welcomes

Jeff Rutenbeck, Dean of AU's School of Communication  
Eric Hershberg, Director of CLALS  
Jon Sawyer, Director of the Pulitzer Center

**9:15am-10:45pm** Panel I: Impact of Papal Encyclical on Catholics

What sort of impact has the papal encyclical had in predominantly Catholic nations, among prominent Catholic political leaders, and in terms of influencing social conservative positions on climate change? How have journalists chosen to talk about this and to what extent have already existing and/or emergent narratives about the Church in public life informed this reportage?

Panelists:

Justin Catanoso, Associate Professor and Program Director, Journalism, Wake Forest  
Evan Berry, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion, AU  
Jason Berry, Journalist, National Catholic Reporter and Ground Truth Project  
Kevin J. O'Brien, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Pacific Lutheran

Evan Berry, Moderator

**10:45-11:00am** Break

**11:00-12:30pm** Panel II: Impact of Encyclical on Other Religious Approaches to Environment

How does *Laudato Si* compare to diverse other religious engagements with the environment? How might the encyclical inform public understandings of the influence of religion and the environment beyond the confines of the "Catholic world"? Does the Pope's authority signal anything new among religious traditions in other regions, as part of public conversations around climate change?

Panelists:

Jon Sawyer, Director, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting  
 Heather Eaton, Professor, Conflict Studies, Saint Paul  
 Dan Grossman, Freelance Environmental Reporter and Documentarian  
 Rob Albro, Associate Research Professor, Center for Latin American & Latino Studies, AU

Jon Sawyer, Moderator

**12:30-2:00pm** Catered Lunch

**2:00-3:30pm** Panel III: Impact of Encyclical on Climate Change Discourse beyond Religion

How has the papal encyclical publicly influenced other kinds of discourses and approaches to the climate challenge, including secular movements and media approaches to environmental justice issues not explicitly informed by religious concerns? What kinds of new alignments and ruptures has *Laudato Si* generated within an already plural national or global public sphere?

Panelists:

Chris Mooney, Science and Environment Reporter, Washington Post  
 Randolph Haluza-Delay, Associate Professor, Sociology, The King's University  
 Candis Callison, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Journalism, U of British Columbia  
 Paul Wapner, Professor, School of International Service, AU

Rob Albro, Moderator

**6:00pm** Dinner: restaurant La Chaumière

2813 M. St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

Participants:

Robert Albro (American U)  
 Evan Berry (American U)  
 Jason Berry (National Catholic Reporter)  
 Candis Callison (U of British Columbia)  
 Justin Catanoso (Wake Forest)  
 Heather Eaton (Saint Paul U)  
 Dan Grossman (Freelance Reporter)  
 Randolph Haluza-Delay (The King's U)  
 Eric Hershberg (American U)  
 Chris Mooney (Washington Post)  
 Kevin J. O'Brien (Pacific Lutheran U)  
 Jeff Rutenbeck (American U)  
 Jon Sawyer (Pulitzer Center)  
 Paul Wapner (American U)