The Office of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (ORSCA) and UAS – Office of Research and Sponsored Programs invite you to join the ORSCA Café discussion

Understanding the Trump Phenomenon: The Man, the Movement, and the Future of the Presidency

On November 8, 2016, our political world was turned upside down. While President Trump’s supporters see a revolution in the making, his opponents are prepared to resist and defend the status quo. Trump now governs a nation divided, not on the basis of party loyalty, but by his own pronouncements, policy objectives, and personality.

Dr. Ramani Durvasula, Professor of Psychology, who is an expert on narcissistic personality disorders, will provide critical insight into Mr. Trump’s behavior drawing on her research, publications, and clinical experience. Narcissism does the most damage in relational contexts according to Dr. Durvasula who is speculating that America has just entered into a narcissistic "marriage" of sorts with Mr. Trump. She will lay out that territory and the reality of the expectations that accompany the narcissistic relational landscape.

Donald Trump’s strident nationalism is at the core of a populist ideological position that harkens back as it looks forward. In fact, his rhetoric, political style, and the social movement that he has built share many similarities with fascist movements in mid-twentieth century Europe according to Dr. Cheryl Koos, Professor of History. Dr. Koos will compare “Trumpism” to fascism drawing on her recently co-authored article, “Trumpism, Fascism, and the Lessons of History.”

Have we entered a new era in American politics? For the time being, Trump would seem to have hijacked the Republican Party. But how successful will he be in implementing his campaign promises in a Republican-controlled Congress whose leaders do not agree with many of his radical proposals? How might his presidency shape or change the direction of national and global politics? Dr. Taylor Dark, Associate Professor of Political Science, will discuss these and other issues while putting Trump’s election in historical perspective.

Refreshments will be served

3:00 – 4:30, Thursday, March 9, 2017

Golden Eagle Ballroom 3

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(This is a campus-wide email. Please do not reply to all.)