



RELIGIONS et ÉLECTIONS

présidentielles aux États-Unis

RELIGIONS and Presidential ELECTIONS in the USA

22
septembre
2016
14h00
Sciences Po Aix
Amphi Cassin
25 rue G. de Saporta

23
septembre
2016
9h15
Faculté de droit et
de science politique
Salle des Actes
3 av Robert Schuman



Entrée libre

Free entrance



september
22

Institut d'Etudes
Politiques
d'Aix-en-Provence,

**Amphithéâtre
Cassin,**

25 rue Gaston de Saporta

14:00 _____ **Opening Remarks**

Rostane Mehdi, Director, Sciences Po-Aix

Hervé Isar, Vice-President, Aix-Marseille Université, Director, LID2MS,
Aix-en-Provence School of Law and Political Sciences (FDSP)

Gilles Leydier, Deputy-Director, BABEL, Université de Toulon

14:15 ____ **Keynote Speeches**

Vincent Michelot, Sciences Po-Lyon, Triangle

"The Religious Vote in the Age of Micro Targeting: Obsolete or Strategic?"

Gerald Fogarty, University of Virginia

"Can the Holy See Influence the Outcome of American Presidential Elections?"

15:15 _____ **Break**

15:45 _____ **Panel I: The Catholic Vote**

Chairman:

Florian Michel, Université Panthéon-Sorbonne, Institut Pierre Renouvin et SIRICE

Moderator:

Guy Scoffoni, Sciences Po-Aix, CHERPA

Douglas W. Kmiec, U.S. Ambassador (ret.), Pepperdine University

"Who Am I to Judge?" Francis trumps the Bishops and Simultaneously Makes

"The Catholic Vote" Disappear and More Important.

Mark J. Rozell, Dean, Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University

"The Catholic Vote as an Obvious Key Vote"

16:45 _____ **Break**

17:00 - 18:30 _ **Debate on Some Other Denominations and Ethnic Communities**

Moderators:

Jean-Marc Chouraqui, Aix-Marseille Université, Director, IECJ and

Laurent Sermet, Sciences-Po Aix, CHERPA

Olivier Richomme, Université Lyon2, Triangle : Hispanic Vote

Dominique Cadinot, Aix-Marseille Université, LERMA : Muslim Vote

Mokhtar Ben Barka, Université de Valenciennes, CALHISTE : Evangelical Vote

Laura Hobson-Faure, Université Paris 3, CREW : Jewish Vote



september
23
Faculté de Droit
d'Aix-en-Provence
Salle des Actes
3 avenue
Robert Schuman

8:45 _____ Welcoming Coffee

9:15 _____ Opening Remarks

Jean-Philippe Agresti, Vice-Dean for General Affairs,

Faculté de Droit et de Science Politique (FDSP), Aix-en-Provence School of Law and Political Sciences

Hervé Isar, Vice-President, Aix-Marseille Université, Director, LID2MS, (FDSP)

Gilles Leydier, Deputy-Director, BABEL, Université de Toulon

9:30 _____ Panel II: The Catholic Influence on the Political Debate

Chairman: **Dominique Avon**, Université du Maine, CERHIO

Moderator: **Bernadette Rigal-Cellard**, Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, CLIMAS

Amandine Barb, Humboldt University Berlin

"Catholic Patterns in the American Left"

Blandine Chelini-Pont, Aix-Marseille Université, LID2MS

"Catholic Colonization of the Republican Elites"

Marie Gayte, Université de Toulon, BABEL

"From Strict Separatism to Public Interventionism: The Other Catholic Shift"

10:45 _____ Break

11:00 - 12:30 ___ Debate on Interreligious Political Strategies

Moderator: **Gregory Mose**, Sciences-Po Aix, CHERPA

Carter Charles, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, CLIMAS

Jeremy Gunn, Université internationale de Rabat

Neil J. Young, Independent Scholar

12:30 - 13:00 ___ Conclusion

Nathalie Caron, Université Paris-Sorbonne, HDEA

13:00 _____ Buffet lunch

Religions and Presidential Elections in the USA

Are the Catholics a Specific Game Changer Compared to the Other Denominations?

Steering Committee :

Marie Gayte (Université de Toulon, Babel),
Blandine Chelini-Pont (Aix-Marseille Université, LID2MS),
Florian Michel (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, SIRICE et Institut Pierre Renouvin),
Bernadette Rigal-Cellard (Université Bordeaux Montaigne, CLIMAS),
Dominique Avon (Université du Maine, CERHIO), Nathalie Caron (Université Paris-Sorbonne, HDEA)

Catholics have long been an important force in American electoral politics even if they make up 21% of the American population. Could they be, compared to the other religious denominations, the game changer of the next elections? Once a vital and loyal component of the New Deal Democratic coalition, Catholics in recent decades have shifted their political loyalties away from the Democratic Party to more of a partisan equilibrium. Anglo-Catholics were strongly Democratic in the 1940s, with that partisanship reaching a peak in the Kennedy election of 1960, before receding significantly thereafter. By 2012, they were almost evenly distributed on the political spectrum; the historical Democratic advantage had disappeared. In comparison, their Latino brethren have exhibited strong Democratic tendencies over the past three decades, and their growing numbers suggest rising political importance. At the same time, by 2012, the White Catholic vote had become predominantly Republican, even in a year in which a Democrat was re-elected to the White House, and on balance party identification among these voters showed a slight Republican edge. Only the growing contingent of Latino Catholics kept the national vote of the entire religious community closely balanced. Latino Protestants, a growing segment of the Latino community, are more likely to vote Republican than their Catholic compatriots, giving George W. Bush over 60% of their vote in 2004, before reverting to majorities for Obama in 2008 and 2012, perhaps in response to GOP policy on immigration.

Despite widespread agreement among scholars that the partisan behavior of Catholics has changed, there is much less consensus on the nature of that change, its permanence, and its causes. Of course, Catholic transformations must be put in the larger context of the changing partisanship of other religious groups. The partisan equilibrium among White Catholics has now been matched by mainline Protestants, as the latter have abandoned their ancient Republican preferences. At the same time, evangelical Protestants have shifted from Democratic to overwhelmingly Republican attachments, while Black Protestants became almost monolithically Democratic. In addition, the unaffiliated or secular population has recently become more important because of its increased size and Democratic propensities. Smaller ethnoreligious groups exhibit varied patterns: Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) are strongly Republican, Latino Protestants are notably less Democratic than Latino Catholics, while Jews and "other" religions (Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus, for example) still align with the Democrats.

This symposium will review the historical patterns of Catholic partisanship and voting behavior, as well as those of the other denominations, discuss major perspectives on electoral change (Republican shift, Hispanic and Asian vote, interreligious alliances) and test these perspectives with the latest survey data. Of course, the unexpected choice of Donald Trump as the Republican Party candidate will be a key issue of the debate.

