ATTENTION DEFICITS: WHY POPULISM SHOULD NOT BE A SURPRISE

Mabel Berezin, Cornell University

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3:30 – 5:00 pm | Memorial Hall 108

Since the millennium, populist parties and voices have slowly expanded their constituencies across Europe. Brexit followed by the election of Donald Trump fueled a new found interest in populism. The election of Macron in France and the final defeat of Hofer in Austria generated a “populism has been defeated” narrative that quickly followed these electoral events. Both the concepts that populism is “new” and that it is defeated are flawed and represent a failure of collective attention to the impact of the triple crises of 2015—austerity, terror and migration—upon well entrenched right nationalist forms of political opposition.

Mabel Berezin is Professor of Sociology at Cornell. She writes on challenges to democratic cohesion and solidarity in Europe and the United States and has lectured widely in Europe and the US. Her current book project The End of Security and the Discovery of Global Populism deals with the resurgence of extreme nationalism in contemporary Europe and beyond.