



US-Generalkonsulat
Düsseldorf



North American Studies Program
Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies



Prof. Joyce Mushaben

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"It's the Women, Stupid: Female Voters and Gender Policies in the 2012 Elections"

Tuesday • 22 May 2012 • 6:00-8:00 pm
Festsaal • Regina-Pacis-Weg 3 • 53113 Bonn

“Discovered” in the early 1980s, the so-called gender gap characterizing male and female electoral preferences has remained fairly stable, favoring the Democratic Party. Despite the dearth of female candidates, U.S. women – a demographic majority – have likewise consistently voted in higher numbers, dating back to 1964. Throughout the Republican primary season, however, male candidates have either blatantly ignored female policy preferences or, even worse, proposed policies that threaten to substantially undermine women’s socio-economic and political progress since the 1970s. Briefly addressing systemic factors that work against women’s agenda-setting participation in U.S. electoral processes, Prof. Mushaben will explore direct and indirect gender consequences of issues likely to dominate the 2012 presidential campaign, highlighting alternative policies that might both secure the women’s vote – and make for a “better America.”



Joyce Marie Mushaben is a Professor of Comparative Politics, a Research Fellow in the Center for International Studies, and former Director of the Institute for Women’s & Gender Studies (2002-2005). Fluent in German, her teaching centers on comparative public policy, European politics, women’s leadership, citizenship, immigration and globalization. Her research covers new social movements, youth protest, German unification and identities, gender, ethnicity and welfare policies, and the European Union.