

UCSD to present new policy forum with "Politics of Abortion" panel

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UCSD TO KICK OFF NEW POLICY FORUM WITH "POLITICS OF ABORTION" PANEL

"The New Politics of Abortion: Electoral Politics After Webster," will be the subject of the first in a series of public policy forums to be held at the University of California, San Diego this spring. This initial forum, which will feature a discussion panel of noted public opinion experts, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 2, at UCSD's Price Center Theatre.

The panel discussion will include Kathleen Francovic, a nationally recognized pollster and media commentator who serves as director of public opinion surveys and producer for CBS News, and William Schneider, a respected author and political columnist as well as a Resident Fellow with the American Enterprise Institute of Washington, D.C. Schneider, whose syndicated columns appear in the National Journal and the Los Angeles Times, has been called "the nation's hot new political pundit" by Newsweek magazine, as well as the "Aristotle of American Politics" by the Boston Globe.

"This forum will not address the rights or wrongs of abortion," said Michael Rothschild, dean of UCSD's Division of Social Sciences. "Our panel will examine how the abortion question has become an issue that is rapidly transforming electoral and party politics throughout the United States."

The panel discussion, which will be moderated by UCSD political science professor and polling expert Samuel Popkin, will explore the political implications of congressional and legislative involvement in abortion policy, as well as the current state of public opinion about these issues and how the Republican and Democratic parties are likely to grapple with it.

"The purpose of the UCSD Policy Forum is to provide the San Diego community with opportunities to explore important public policy issues, drawing on the expertise of UCSD faculty and distinguished off-campus experts," said Rothschild. "We expect this first forum to provide an outlet for rational discussion on how one of the most divisive social issues of our time is changing politics as we know it."

The UCSD Policy Forum is a public service activity sponsored by the Division of Social Sciences with assistance from University Extension. In addition to serving as panelists in the public forum, Francovic and Schneider will meet with students and faculty during their stay on campus.

The April 2 forum will be followed by similar programs in May on the economic consequences of the Cold War in California, and in June on the collapse of the Soviet Empire. All forums will be free to the public.

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