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[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Areas of Expertise](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Grants](#) [People](#) [Publications](#) [Contact Us](#)

[home](#) > [events](#) > [october 2009](#) > transformative election of 2008

[September](#)

Conference

[October](#)

The Transformative Election of 2008

[November](#)

[December](#)

[January](#)

[February](#)

[March](#)

[April](#)

[May](#)

[Events Archive](#)



Herb Weisberg
Professor of Political Science
The Ohio State University

Friday-Saturday, October 2-3, 2009
Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201

Organizers

Herb Weisberg, Department of Political Science

For additional information, please visit the [conference website](#).

See a streaming video of this event. This streaming video requires RealPlayer. If you do not have RealPlayer, you can [download it free](#).

10.02.09 [Session I: Election Administration, Papers](#)

10.02.09 [Session I: Election Administration, Discussion](#)

10.02.09 [Session II: Race and Voting in 2008, Papers](#)

10.02.09 [Session II: Race and Voting in 2008, Discussion](#)

10.03.09: [Session III: Foreign Policy in the Election](#)

10.03.09: [Session IV: Religion in the Election](#)

10.03.09: [Session V: Policy Issues and the Vote](#)

10.03.09: [Session VI: 2008 as a Transformative Election](#)

Overview

This conference will examine the 2008 presidential campaign and election, analyzing the foreign and military policy debates as well as

the voting trends that remade the image of the U.S. abroad.

The 2008 U.S. presidential election took place against the backdrop of the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as a domestic financial crisis. The two major-party candidates secured their nominations in large part because of their stances on the wars. Discussion of foreign and military policies became paramount throughout the campaign.

Few disputed that America's popularity abroad had declined during the George W. Bush years. This conference will examine how the change in the party controlling the White House, the accession of an opponent of the Iraq War, and the election of the first African-American President of the United States changed perceptions of the United States around the world.

Topics raised by the 2008 campaign and election are crucial for academic understanding of elections. The role of issues versus candidate characteristics remains a topic of interest, especially in relation to race in the 2008 election. There is also reason to be concerned about voting turnout levels in the United States, particularly since they continue to be lower than in most other democracies. Such discussions will be explored in depth throughout this conference.

Participants

[Alan Abramowitz](#), Emory University

[Herb Asher](#), The Ohio State University

[Matt Barreto](#), University of Washington

[Paul Beck](#), The Ohio State University

[Janet Box-Steffensmeier](#), The Ohio State University

[Barry Burden](#), University of Wisconsin

[Dino Christenson](#), The Ohio State University

[Harold Clarke](#), University of Texas-Dallas

Chris Devine, The Ohio State University

[Edward Foley](#), Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

[Richard Herrmann](#), Mershon Center for International Security Studies

[Sunshine Hillygus](#), Duke University

[Gary Jacobson](#), University of California-San Diego

[Bill Jacoby](#), Michigan State University

[Michael Lewis-Beck](#), University of Iowa

[Steve Mockabee](#), University of Cincinnati

[Quin Monson](#), Brigham Young University

[John Mueller](#), The Ohio State University

[Richard Niemi](#), University of Rochester

[Helmut Norpoth](#), State University of New York-Stony Brook

[Gary Segura](#), Stanford University

Michael Tesler, University of California-Los Angeles

[Daniel Tokaji](#), Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

[Herbert Weisberg](#), The Ohio State University

Schedule

Friday, October 2, 2009

9-9:30 a.m. - Welcome

Richard Herrmann and Herb Weisberg

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. -- Election Administration (coffee break at about 10:45-11 a.m.)

Chair/Discussant: Herb Asher (Ohio State)

"The Turnout Effects of Early Voting, Election Day Registration, and Same Day Registration in the 2008 Election," Barry Burden (Wisconsin) with David Canon, Kenneth Mayer, Donald Moynihan (Wisconsin)

"Expectations and Satisfaction with the Voting Process in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election," Richard Niemi (Rochester), with Paul Herrnsen (Maryland) and Kelly Patterson (Brigham Young)

"A Hypothetical *McCain v. Obama* Dispute, Its Relation to Real Disputes in Other 2008 Elections, and Preparations for the Future," Edward Foley (Ohio State)

"The Future of Election Reform: From Rules to Institutions," Daniel Tokaji (Ohio State)

12:30-1:30 p.m. -- Lunch

1:30-4:30 p.m. -- Race and Voting in 2008 (coffee break at about 2:45-3 p.m.)

Chair/Discussant: Paul Beck (Ohio State)

"Yes We Can! Valence Politics and Electoral Choice in America, 2008," Harold Clarke (Texas-Dallas), with Allan Kornberg (Duke), Thomas Scotto (Essex), Jason Reifler (Georgia State), David Sanders (Essex), Marianne Stewart (Texas-Dallas), and Paul Whiteley (Essex)

"The Two Sides of Symbolic Racism: Explaining the Effects of Racial Resentment in the Primaries and General Election," Michael Tesler (UCLA), with David Sears (UCLA)

"Racial Attitude Effects on Voting in the 2008 Presidential Election," Herb Weisberg and Chris Devine (Ohio State)

"Estimating the Effects of Traditional Predictors, Group Specific Forces, and Anti- Black Affect on 2008 Presidential Vote among Latinos and Non-Hispanic Whites," Matt Barreto (Washington) and Gary Segura (Stanford)

Saturday, October 3, 2009

9-10:45 a.m. -- Foreign Policy in the Election

Chair/Discussant: John Mueller (Ohio State)

"George W. Bush, the Iraq War, and the Election of Barack Obama," Gary Jacobson (UC-San Diego)

"Wartime Elections: The 2008 Primary Battle," Helmut Norpoth (SUNY-

Stony Brook), with David Perkins (SUNY-Stony Brook)

10:45-11 a.m. -- Coffee break

11-12:30 a.m. -- Religion in the Election

Chair/Discussant: John Mueller (Ohio State)

"Social Equality Norms for Race, Gender and Religion in the American Public During the 2008 Presidential Primaries," Quin Monson (Brigham Young)

"Is There a Religious Left?: Evidence from the 2006 and 2008 American National Election Studies," Stephen Mockabee (Cincinnati), with Kenneth Wald (Florida) and David Leege (Notre Dame)

12:30-1:30 p.m. -- Lunch

1:30-3:15 p.m. -- Policy Issues and the Vote

Chair/Discussant: Jan Box-Steffensmeier (Ohio State)

"'Sour Grapes' or Rational Voting? Voter Decision Making Among Thwarted Primary Voters in 2008," Sunshine Hillygus (Duke), with Michael Henderson (Harvard) and Trevor Tompson (Associated Press)

"Policy Attitudes, Ideology, and Voting Behavior in the 2008 Election," William Jacoby (Michigan State)

"Economic Voting Theory: Testing New Dimensions," Michael Lewis-Beck (Iowa), with Richard Nadeau (Montreal)

3:15-3:30 p.m. - Coffee break

3:30-4:30 p.m. -- 2008 as a Transformative Election

Chair/Discussant: Herb Weisberg (Ohio State)

"Transformation and Polarization: The 2008 Presidential Election and the New American Electorate," Alan Abramowitz (Emory)

Sponsors

The Transformative Election of 2008 is co-sponsored by the [Mershon Center for International Security Studies](#), [College of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) and [Department of Political Science](#).

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1501 Neil Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614.292.1681

Fax: 614.292.2407

Email: mershoncenter@osu.edu