

**THE POLITICS OF HANDSOME**  
October 25, 2012



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LISTEN. LEARN. ENGAGE.**

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**Ford Hall Forum**  
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**FORD HALL FORUM  
LECTURE  
LOCATIONS**

**C. Walsh Theatre**  
Suffolk University  
55 Temple Street

**Main Function Room**  
Suffolk University Law School  
120 Tremont Street, 1st floor

**Moot Court Room**  
Suffolk University Law School  
120 Tremont Street, 4th floor



**GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, THE MEDIA KILLS PEOPLE**

John Rosenthal and Charlton McIlwain  
Moderated by Edward Powell  
**Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**WHOSE CHOICE IS DEATH?**

Guy Maytal, M.D. and Marcia Angell, M.D.  
Moderated by Jack Wrobel  
**Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**HELL IN A HANDBASKET: THE DECLINE OF TABOOS**

Melissa Mohr, Margot Mifflin and Bill Downing  
Moderated by Robin Abrahams  
**Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**HOPE ARAB SPRINGS ETERNAL**

*A Frederic G. Corneel Memorial Forum*  
Elizabeth F. Thompson  
Moderated by Robert Laffey  
**Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**THE CHINESE-AMERICAN DREAM**

*Co-presented with Suffolk University's Rosenberg Institute of East Asian Studies*  
Anchee Min  
Moderated by Elif Armbruster  
**Thursday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**RISE OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

Nicco Mele and Kevin Bankston  
Moderated by Dharmishta Rood  
**Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**



**Ford Hall Forum**  
at Suffolk University  
41 Temple Street  
Boston, MA 02114

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**GUNS DON'T KILL PEOPLE, THE MEDIA KILLS PEOPLE**

**John Rosenthal** (gun owner and Founder/Chairman, Stop Handgun Violence) and **Charlton McIlwain** (Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU Steinhardt) Moderated by **Edward Powell** (Executive Director, The Boston Foundation's StreetSafe Boston)

**Thursday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Moot Court Room, Suffolk Law School

The media shapes how we see things, even when we know the truth is otherwise. After all, why is the national conversation on guns framed as "pro-gun vs. anti-gun" despite most of our perspectives being much more nuanced? Moderator **Edward Powell** (Executive Director, The Boston Foundation's StreetSafe Boston) shines a spotlight on how the media's distortion of reality exacerbates gun violence. He speaks with **John Rosenthal** (gun owner and Founder/Chairman, Stop Handgun Violence) and **Charlton McIlwain** (Associate Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, NYU Steinhardt) to identify how TV, internet, and newspaper reporting paints an inaccurate picture of guns' effects on communities of color and engages in fear-mongering that fails to prevent further tragedies.

**WHOSE CHOICE IS DEATH?**

**Guy Maytal, M.D.** (Associate Director of Ambulatory Psychiatry, MGH) and **Marcia Angell, M.D.** (Senior Lecturer in Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School) Moderated by **Jack Wrobel** (Vice President, Ford Hall Forum)

**Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Main Function Room, Suffolk Law School

With the vote on the physician-assisted suicide initiative coming down to a slim margin this past November, voters of Massachusetts appear torn. Is this dignity or playing God? Mercy or giving up too soon? Does it give people who are suffering a

way to control their own destinies, or people with hidden agendas a way to do away with the vulnerable? And how soon will this issue arise again in our state? **Jack Wrobel**, Ford Hall Forum Vice President, moderates a debate that elucidates the issue from each side. **Marcia Angell, M.D.** (supporter for Prescribing Medication to End Life initiative) and **Guy Maytal, M.D.** (opponent to Prescribing Medication to End Life initiative) discuss facts, feelings, and unintended effects while the audience decides for themselves whether physician-assisted suicide should ever be Massachusetts law.

**HELL IN A HANDBASKET: THE DECLINE OF TABOOS**

**Melissa Mohr** (author, *Holy Sh\*t: A Brief History of Swearing*), **Margot Mifflin** (author, *Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo*), and **Bill Downing** (former President, MassCANN/NORML)

Moderated by **Robin Abrahams** (author, "Miss Conduct" etiquette columnist)

**Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University

Not long ago, we lived in a world where cursing was verboten, only sailors had tattoos, and smoking marijuana was confined to college experimentation. Are these things really more prevalent today or were they acceptable long before they reached the puritanical eyes of American society? And if they are met with less disdain these days, is it because we're a more accepting society or because this is the beginning of a backslide into a social world rife with slovenly self-conduct? Moderator **Robin Abrahams** (author, "Miss Conduct" etiquette columnist) talks with **Melissa Mohr** (author, *Holy Sh\*t: A Brief History of Swearing*), **Margot Mifflin** (author, *Bodies of Subversion: A Secret History of Women and Tattoo*), and **Bill Downing** (former President, MassCANN/NORML) to determine whether we can let it all hang out or if crossing the line is a harbinger of societal disaster.

**HOPE ARAB SPRINGS ETERNAL**

**Elizabeth F. Thompson** (author, *Justice Interrupted*) Moderated by **Robert Laffey** (Assistant Professor of Government, Suffolk University)

*A Frederic G. Corneel Memorial Forum*

**Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University

How much closer are Middle Eastern countries to having functioning constitutional governments than they were in the spring of 2011? How will such governments impact their economies? What unique challenges and opportunities has each country faced in building new government? How has the culture played into the emerging politics? **Elizabeth F. Thompson** (author, *Justice Interrupted*) joins us to provide an update on happenings in the Middle East, particularly in terms of consequences we did not foresee two years ago. **Robert Laffey** (Assistant Professor of Government, Suffolk University) moderates this discussion on post-Arab Spring sociopolitical changes and mines Thompson's book for answers.

**THE CHINESE-AMERICAN DREAM**

**Anchee Min** (author, *The Cooked Seed*) Moderated by **Elif Armbruster** (Associate Professor of English, Suffolk University) *Co-presented with Suffolk University's Rosenberg Institute of East Asian Studies*

**Thursday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University

Twenty years after penning her first memoir on growing up in China during the Cultural Revolution, author **Anchee Min** now releases *The Cooked Seed*: the true story of her journey to, and within, America. Min draws us in to bear witness to her trek

from a land of deprivation to one of surrounding bounty that is just out of her reach. She works five jobs at once and suffers rape, exhaustion, and divorce. As these revolutionary personal events shape her world view, they culminate in the biggest shift of all: the birth of her daughter. Moderator **Elif Armbruster** (Associate Professor of English, Suffolk University) helps Min present her unique immigration narrative within the universal struggle of building a life despite precious few fundamental tools.

**RISE OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

**Nicco Mele** (Founder, EchoDitto and author, *The End of Big*) and **Kevin Bankston** (Director, Free Expression Project, Center for Democracy & Technology) **Dharmishta Rood** (Fellow, Harvard University Psychology Department)

**Thursday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

C. Walsh Theatre, Suffolk University

The invention of the internet has opened an entirely new world of communication and, therefore, organization. With so much power now in the hands of the individual, one questions whether we need institutions anymore. As this technology progresses, we face an inevitable need to restructure our government systems, safety measures, and concept of ownership, as well as their attached legal implications. While the world touts the internet as the prime conveyer of a bold, new democracy, we consider how it also ushers in sharper methods of surveillance and control. Moderator **Dharmishta Rood** (Fellow, Harvard University Psychology Department) leads **Nicco Mele** (Founder, EchoDitto and author, *The End of Big*) and **Kevin Bankston** (Director, Free Expression Project, Center for Democracy & Technology) in a bold discussion on how the internet is giving rise to the individual.



John Rosenthal, Charlton McIlwain, Edward Powell, Guy Maytal, M.D., Marcia Angell, M.D., Jack Wrobel, Melissa Mohr, Margot Mifflin, Robin Abrahams, Bill Downing, Elizabeth F. Thompson, Robert Laffey, Anchee Min, Elif Armbruster, Nicco Mele, Kevin Bankston, Dharmishta Rood

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