

Harrington Public Affairs Lecture Series, Spring 2023

Organizing as a Political Phenomenon



Dr. Deva Woodly is an Associate Professor of Politics at The New School for Social Research

TILTON HALL
UNIVERSITY CENTER
THURSDAY, 5PM
APRIL 27, 2023

Conventional approaches in American political science focus inquiry on institutions, choice, and decision-making. In contrast, this talk focuses on organizing as a political activity that fosters the capacity for political actors to recognize themselves as political subjects. Organizing is not simply about assembling a mass of people for a political cause (mobilization) or turning up to protest (activism), but instead, a process that allows people to be transformed in the service of the work. The talk prompts a new way to think about organizing in relation to the work of political subjectivity done in other political institutions.

Dr. Deva Woodly holds both a PhD in Political Science and an MA in Social Science from the University of Chicago, and a BA in Political and Social Thought from the University of Virginia. Her scholarship explores democratic politics in the contemporary context, focusing on the role of discourse, the construction of public meaning, and the role of civic and social movements in these processes. Her most recent books include *Reckoning: Black Lives Matter and the Democratic Necessity of Social Movements* (Oxford 2021) and *The Politics of Common Sense: How Social Movements Use Public Discourse to Change Politics and Win Acceptance* (Oxford 2015).

➤ **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

➤ **REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

Sponsored by the Political Science Department through
the Francis A. Harrington Public Affairs Fund

