Annual Thesis Conference
18 April 2009—9:00 am Jefferson Hall

Brief Welcome
Prof. Michael Smith, Program Director

Panel One—9:00 am

Bernice Denira Ramirez
Hope is Not Enough: the High Stakes of Immigration Reform and the Obama Administration

Marta P. Cook
Winning Back the ‘Values’ Voter: The Religious Progressive Movement and a Development of a Framework Connecting Liberals and Christian Communities

Jamelle Bouie
No Party but the Grand Old Party: Evangelicals, Civil Rights and why the Democratic Party Can’t Close the “God Gap”

Brief commentary and discussion

Panel Two—10:05 am

Allison Lorraine Scott
From Integration to Reconciliation: Christian Theology as a Resource for Racial Reconciliation

Laura Harris
“Seeing the Population Issue Whole:” Population Policies, Reproductive Rights, and Demographic Goals

Christian West
Branquemento: The Myth of Racial Democracy and Color-Blind Racism in Brazil

Brief commentary and discussion followed by a very short break

Panel Three—11:10 am

Matthew Trumbo-Tual
Education and the problem of assimilation: The subversive tradition of French literature

Kathleen Connelly
Class Values: The Relationship between Social Class and Morality in America

Quynh Vu
Neoliberalism and Education: How Americans Misappropriate the Free-Market Model

Brief commentary and discussion followed by a lunch recess. Please note the time to reconvene: 1:15 pm, sharp.
Panel Four — 1:15 pm

Jordan Rodakis
*Baby Did a Bad, Bad Thing: Fantasy and Power in Girls Gone Wild*

Hamza Shaban
*Closer to Conversation: Freedom, Objectivity, and the New Media Environment*

Jamin An
*Institutional Arrangements: The Politics of Art Museums*

Brief commentary and discussion

Panel Five — 2:20 pm

Patrick Casey
*A Question of ‘Resolve:’ The Potential for Institutionalist Theory to Improve IMF Assessment of Program-Country Reform Capacity*

Gautam Malhotra
*Neo-Liberal Capitalism & the Relative Perspectives of Globalization: The Cosmopolitan Elite and the Lower Socio-Economic Class*

Sidharth Sethi
*Seeing the State and Civil Society from the Mumbai Slum*

Brief commentary and discussion

Panel Six — 3:25 pm

William A. Callison IV
*From Radical Critique to Political Withdrawal: The Critical Theory of Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse and Habermas*

Jessica Haney
*Fragment and Fugue: Voices of the Postcolonial Self*

Jia Angeli Carla Tolentino
*Here Is Not Merely a Nation: Writing the New American Dream*

Brief commentary and discussion

Panel Seven — 4:30 pm

Manal Tellawi
*Roadblocks to Palestinian Statehood: An Examination of U.S. Attitudes Towards Palestinian Self-Determination*

Melissa Batchelor Warnke
*Deconstructing the Memorial Museum: A Critical Analysis of the Intersection of Global Conventions and Local Healing in Post-Genocide Rwanda*

James Thomas Anderson
*Between Principles and Pragmatism: Nongovernmental organizations and competing approaches to humanitarian relief aid*

Brief commentary and discussion

Thanks to Bailee Barfield and Brittany Reid for their work in arranging this conference.