

## 2025–2026 NEWSLETTER

At a moment when the world's democracies – including our own – are showing signs of fragility and strain, the Clough Center at Boston College is convening seminars, campus-wide events and hosting speakers and visiting scholars throughout the academic year to better understand what is happening around us.

This year's theme of democratic resilience sounds an optimistic note. Resilience has different meanings – social, psychological, ecological, institutional – but the concept shares two qualities across many contexts: elasticity and evolution. To be resilient is not just to survive in the same form as before, but to adapt and thrive in new circumstances, better able to respond to future shocks. As Harvard scholars Peter Hall and Michèle Lamont put it, social resilience is the “capacity to secure favorable outcomes under new circumstances and, if need be, by new means.”<sup>1</sup>

Is this a useful metaphor for politics? The world map bristles with resilient political units – many of the nation-states of the modern era have been around for centuries – but far fewer resilient political regimes. Democratization has never taken a linear path: as the great macro-historical sociologist Charles Tilly writes, it is precarious and reversible.<sup>2</sup> Around the globe, self-government has emerged fitfully over centuries and in waves. Three of the world's stable democracies – the UK, France and Germany – illustrate a typically volatile trajectory: from the English Civil Wars through the Glorious Revolution, from the 1848 Frankfurt Parliament through the Third Reich, or from the French Revolution through restoration and republicanism – as seen in Figure 1.

American Revolutionaries overlaid the Constitution on a former colonial holding and extended it to new territories, yet its application to all members of the national community has been on a longer trajectory. The expansion of full civil and political rights to women, Black Americans, LGBT people, the disabled, and others required centuries of sacrifice and struggle. What does it mean for these expansions to recede?

1. Peter Hall and Michèle Lamont, *Social Resilience in the Neoliberal Era* (2013), Cambridge University Press.
2. Charles Tilly, *Democracy* (2007), Cambridge University Press.
3. Global Democratic Index, Economist Intelligence Unit (2025).
4. Matteo Bianchi et al., “The Myth of Democratic Resilience,” *Journal of Democracy*, July 2025.
5. Michael Sandel, *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy* (1998), Harvard University Press.

### 2025–26 SERIES

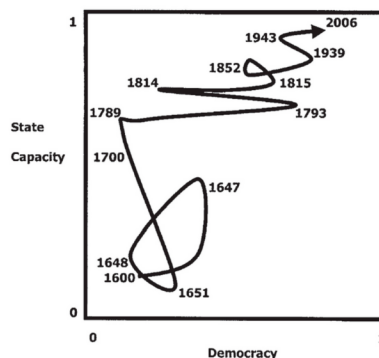
# DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE

The number of countries classified as democracies fell from 79 in 2006 to 71 today, and the number of “authoritarian regimes” and democratic-autocratic hybrids rose from 88 in 2006 to 96.<sup>3</sup> The downward trajectory of the quality of democracy spread to the more established democracies: Half of all countries registered a meaningful decline in their democratic index score, far more than the small number showing improvement.

What determines a nation's ability to rebound from challenges like the loss of civil and political rights, the erosion of separation of powers or the weakening of checks and balances? Progress in democratization has always depended on surviving inevitable reversals. Tilly calls attention to the “crucial importance of shock and struggle for both democracy and its reversals.” A study in the *Journal of Democracy* this summer warned that an “optimistic emphasis on democratic U-turns obscures an uncomfortable truth: since 1994, many of the political systems that supposedly returned to democracy after an authoritarian episode did not manage to reverse the damage.” Nine out of ten “failed to sustain the turnaround and future-proof democracy,” the authors conclude.<sup>4</sup> Lately, there are far more cases like Hungary and Turkey, with unusually expansive executive authority, than there are like Colombia, Poland and Senegal, where initial retrenchment was beaten back.

On the one hand, it is disquieting to know that these recoveries are short-lived. Yet history teaches another brutal lesson, of cold comfort: thirty years may be too soon to tell. This does not require a cosmological faith that the universe of democracy is expanding, not shrinking, just that we as scholars and citizens acknowledge that cyclical worry about democracy's future is built in to our deliberations.

FIGURE 1: Trajectory of French National Regimes (Tilly 2007)



The only brief respite from the past half-century of warnings came during the heady post-Cold War years of the 1990s. One of the most perspicacious studies, *Democracy's Discontent* (1998) by Michael Sandel, appeared when liberal democracies were not in a self-questioning mood – yet it anticipated many of today's challenges.<sup>5</sup> For Sandel, democratic resilience will always be a function of how attentive we are to what he calls the “civic effects of economic policy.”

How have democracies persisted despite the lingering, divisive issues of economic redistribution – including the underlying “Social Question” from the Industrial Era? They have done so by incremental improvement, frequently after marked regression. More recently, they have also survived by preserving an independent judiciary and a vibrant civil society. Over the long run, Tilly writes, they have done so through “shock and struggle.” Having begun to feel the shocks, our democratic resilience will depend on the improvements we can collectively uncover.

We have an exciting lineup of speakers and visitors to stimulate our discussions, including Nobel Laureate Daron Acemoglu, FOX News Host Shannon Bream, *New York Times* columnist Ross Douthat, Harvard scholar Steven Levitsky, *New Yorker* staff writer Jill Lepore, and many more. I am delighted to introduce this year's cohort of Clough Fellows and Faculty Affiliates in the pages of this Newsletter. They bring a diverse range of disciplinary expertise and backgrounds to the exploration of these issues in seminars and in the Spring 2026 issue of the *Clough Center Journal*.

I hope you will join us for a vibrant and critical year of programming on democratic resilience and the study of constitutional democracy.



**Jonathan Laurence**

Director, Clough Center  
Professor of Political Science

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## 2025-2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### *The 4th Annual*

### **What the Constitution Means to Us**

with Boston College Faculty & Student Speakers  
**Featuring Shannon Bream, Host of FOX News Sunday**

**Thursday, September 4th | 5:00PM**  
Murray Room | Yawkey Center



### *Fall Colloquium*

Featuring **Sheri Berman**, Barnard College & **Robert C. Bartlett**, Boston College, and more

**Thursday, October 9th | 5:00PM**  
McMullen Museum | 2101 Commonwealth Avenue

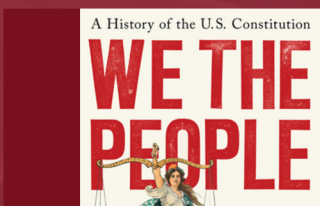


### **The Quest for Democracy in North Africa**

**Youssef Chahed**  
Former Prime Minister of Tunisia

**Mohammed Hashas**  
University of Rome

**Thursday, November 6th | 5:00PM**  
Fulton Honors Library | Fulton Hall



### *A Clough Distinguished Lecture*

### **We the People**

**Jill Lepore**, Harvard University & The New Yorker

**Wednesday, December 3rd | 5:00PM**  
Thompson Room | Burns Library



### *Spring Symposium*

Featuring **Daron Acemoglu**, Nobel Laureate & MIT; New York Times columnist **Ross Douthat**; former ACLU President **Nadine Strossen**, Harvard's **Steven Levitsky**, and more

**Thursday, March 19th - Friday, March 20th, 2026**  
McMullen Museum | 2101 Commonwealth Avenue



### *A Clough Distinguished Lecture*

co-sponsored with the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life

### **Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa**

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

**Tuesday, May 5th, 2026**  
McMullen Museum | 2101 Commonwealth Avenue





## Focus on the Constitution

Since the nation's founding, the United States Constitution has been central to our public life. It has inspired hope and despair alike, frustration as well as motivation. Even as it has remained in place as few other national constitutions have, the American people have repeatedly revised their national charter in response to a changing world. Today, some ask whether and in what ways it should be revised again. During a time when some say the Constitution is under particular strain, its basic meaning seems more contested than ever. How, then, should we look at our Constitution today?

To engage this urgent question, the Clough Center is delighted to sponsor its fourth annual event on the subject "What the Constitution Means to Us." Inspired by Heidi Schreck's award-winning play, this event provides the Boston College community with an opportunity to reflect on the past, present, and future of this enduring document.

This year's celebration will feature special guest Shannon Bream –journalist, attorney, and host of *Fox News Sunday* on FOX News. The event will also feature reflections from Clough Center Fellows and other guests. Please join us for a session rich with reflection, conversation, and debate, followed by a lively reception.

### A celebration of Constitution & Citizenship Day



## WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO US

**Thursday, September 4 | 5:00PM**  
**Murray Room, Yawkey Center**

### A campus-wide critical reflection with contributions from

**Marc Landy**

**Professor of  
Political Science**



**Youssef Chahed**

**Visiting Fellow and  
Former Prime  
Minister of Tunisia**



**and student  
speakers**



**Fazli Salim**



**Nina Hemsey**

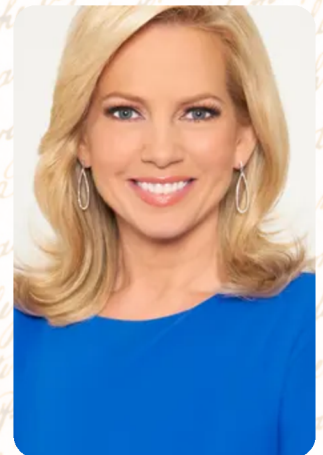


**Lukas Kucera**



**Haley Raffaele**

**with  
special  
guest**



**Shannon Bream**





## Fall Colloquium

Thursday, October 9 | 5:00-7:00 PM | 2101 Commonwealth Avenue

This year, the Clough Center, with its theme of “Democratic Resilience,” is exploring the economic, demographic, and political strains that challenge liberal democracy, as well as the ideas, values, and other forces that strengthen it.

The Fall Colloquium on October 9 launches our year-long investigation, with presentations from Sheri Berman (Barnard College) and Robert C. Bartlett, Gerald Easter and Ingu Hwang — all of Boston College. Professor Bartlett researches classical political philosophy and ancient Greek authors such as Aristotle, Xenophon, and Plato, and he has translated Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. Professor Berman’s research interests include populism, fascism, and the development of democracy in Europe. The Chair of Political Science, Professor Easter will focus on Russia and Eastern Europe, and International Studies Professor Hwang will speak about democratic resilience in South Korea. Our exciting collection of experts will offer a broad range of perspectives on the challenges facing democracy across time and space.

Please register and join us for the Clough Center’s major event of Fall 2025 and participate in this timely conversation.



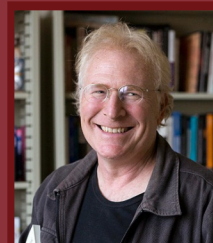
**SHERI BERMAN**  
BARNARD



**ROBERT BARTLETT**  
BOSTON COLLEGE



**INGU HWANG**  
BOSTON COLLEGE



**GERALD EASTER**  
BOSTON COLLEGE

## Clough Colloquium with Ambassador Nicholas Burns ‘78

Tuesday, September 23 | 4PM (Doors open at 3:30PM) | Gasson Hall 100

Burns served as the U.S. Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China from 2021-2025, leading public servants from forty-eight U.S. government agencies in overseeing one of America’s most important and challenging bilateral relationships. During his tenure, he helped to stabilize relations with Beijing while competing with China on military, technology, economic, and human rights issues. As a vital member of the State Department, he worked in the United States government for over three decades, serving six presidents and nine secretaries of state.

At Harvard, Burns is the Roy and Barbara Goodman Family Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations and the Founder and Faculty Chair of the Future of Diplomacy Project. Additionally, he is Vice Chairman of the Cohen Group and Co-Chair of the Aspen Strategy Group and Aspen Security Forum.

He has received several significant awards, such as the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award. Boston College recognized his exemplary career with the Alumni Achievement Award and the Ignatian Award (2017).



**Presented by the  
Winston Center for  
Leadership and Ethics,  
Carroll School of  
Management**



## A Focus on North Africa

### *The Quest for Democracy in North Africa*

Thursday, November 6, 2025 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Fulton Honors Library

The Clough Center is delighted to welcome two illustrious speakers—Youssef Chahed and Mohammed Hashas—to discuss democracy's prospects, and its philosophical and practical underpinnings, in the crucial North African nations of Morocco and Tunisia. A Clough Center Visiting Fellow this year, Youssef Chahed was Prime Minister of Tunisia from 2016 to 2020. As the longest-serving head of government after Tunisia's democratic transition, Dr. Chahed fought terrorism and corruption and worked for racial and gender equality.

Mohammed Hashas is a preeminent scholar of Moroccan intellectual history and religion and politics in the Arab-European Islamic world at large. Dr. Hashas is the author and editor of Contemporary Moroccan Thought (2025), a groundbreaking volume that reflects modern Morocco's intellectual history. He previously published The Idea of European Islam (2019) and Intercultural Geopoetics (2017), and he is an assistant professor at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.



## Clough Distinguished Lectures

### *Jill Lepore on the US Constitution*

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM | Thompson Room, Burns Library

Jill Lepore is Professor of American History at Harvard University and Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. She is a staff writer for the New Yorker and the author of the international bestseller These Truths: A History of the United States (2018), an overview of American history in relation to the values we consider fundamental to this country. She studies the history of evidence, and her work examines inconsistencies in the historical record. Her essays have been collected in the book The Deadline, which explores personal and political life in contemporary America. She has won the PEN Award for the Art of the Essay.

Professor Lepore's most recent book, We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution (2025), discusses successful and unsuccessful amendments to the constitution and argues that the Framers did not intend for the Constitution to remain stagnant, "like a butterfly under glass," but rather that it should be continuously amended and modified. The Clough Center is delighted to welcome Professor Lepore for the fall Distinguished Lecture.



### *Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 | McMullen Museum, 2101 Commonwealth Avenue

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, was born in Cologno al Serio, Bergamo, Italy and entered the order of Friars Minor in Ferrara (Santo Spirito) before his ordination as a priest in 1990. After a period in Rome, he moved to Jerusalem that same year, obtaining a licentiate in biblical theology from the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem. Pierbattista Pizzaballa served as Custos of the Holy Land since 2004, and in 2020 Pope Francis appointed him as the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, proclaiming him a Cardinal in 2023.

Cosponsored with the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life.





# CLOUGH CENTER CO-SPONSORSHIPS

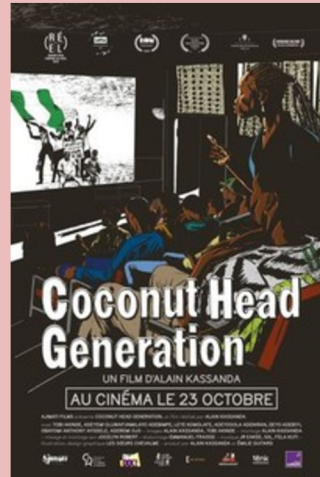
## TOP GIRLS

By Caryl Churchill, directed by **Patricia Riffin**: **October 2 - 5, 2025**, Robsham Main Stage. Caryl Churchill's *Top Girls* begins with a dazzling dinner party for an eclectic array of historical and mythical "top girls," including a Japanese courtesan turned Buddhist nun, Pope Joan, and Dull Gret, a 16th Century woman who battles the devil. After this brilliant opening, the play explores



the choices modern women face in the workforce, culminating in a blistering and timely argument between two sisters over the politics of the right vs. left. Written during England's Thatcher administration, *Top Girls* is consistently voted as one of the best plays of the 20th Century.

## FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL



The Clough Center is proud to cosponsor a French Film Festival with the Institute for Liberal Arts. Led by Professor **Tina Montenegro**, the Festival will explore how languages coexist, cohabit and even collaborate—though not always without tensions.

The division between languages, or indeed the confusion of languages has a long history, going back to the Bible and extending through colonialism. Languages can be—and have been—forces of oppression on peoples and individuals. However, languages can also be resistant to such forces and generative of new possibilities. The festival will showcase films in which more than one language is featured and in which conflict or collaboration between them can be fruitfully discussed, including:

**Coconut Head Generation**  
**Soundtrack to a Coup d'État**  
**Anatomie d'une chute**  
**L'armée des ombres**  
 [Dates to be announced]

## CONFERENCE ON KERSCH'S THOUGHT

On **February 20, 2026**, the Political Science Department and the Clough Center will host a conference in honor of Ken I. Kersch, who passed away last November. In addition to directing the Clough Center from 2008 to 2012, Kersch served as a professor in BC's Political Science Department, where he taught classes on American conservatism, political thought, constitutional development, and civil liberties. A revered teacher and author of five books, Kersch was the recipient of, among other honors, the American Political Science Association's 2020 C. Herman Pritchett Award for the best book on law and courts.

Journal of  
 American  
 Constitutional  
 History



Spearheaded by **Dennis J. Wieboldt** ('22), the event will coincide with the publication of a special issue of the *Journal of American Constitutional History* that engages with Kersch's work in political science, history, and law. Speakers include **Aziz Rana** (Boston College), **Sophia Lee** (Penn), **Mark Graber** (Maryland), **Justin Dyer** (UT Austin), **Mary Ziegler** (UC Davis), **Sanford Levinson** (UT Austin), **Julie Novkov** (SUNY Albany), **Jonathan Gienapp** (Stanford), **Rogers Smith** (Penn), **Linda McClain** (BU), **James Fleming** (BU), **George Thomas** (Claremont McKenna), **Logan Sawyer** (Georgia), **Michael Dichio** (Utah), **Paul Herron** (Providence), **Sean Beienburg** (Arizona State), **Clement Fatovic** (Florida International), **Austin Steelman** (Clemson), and **Calvin TerBeek** (Claremont McKenna).





# CLOUGH CENTER IN THE WORLD



## Task Force on Democracy at the IAJU Summit

Center Director Jonathan Laurence traveled to Bogotá, Colombia in June to participate in the pre-Assembly workshop on “Democracy in Crisis” at the International Association of Jesuit Universities. The goals of the IAJU Task Force on Democracy and Human Rights are “to leverage the academic and social value of IAJU to transform the world through knowledge, analysis, and to reverse the erosion of democracy and human rights in the world, through training.” This Task Force, along with the recently completed two-year Working Group on Democracy, Governance, and Education chaired by Laurence for BC’s Program on Global Ethics and Social Trust, pursue a pro-democracy agenda set by educational leaders at the previous IAJU summit held on the BC campus in 2022.

## Moroccan Connections



The Clough Center is seeking to engage in closer contact and exchange with Moroccan colleagues after a series of meetings held with universities, think tanks and NGOs, in Rabat, Fez, Meknes and Tangier in July.

Exploratory conversations were held with the Royal Foundation of Moroccan History and the American Legation in Tangiers (pictured), and a memorandum of understanding is in process with the Alliance of Civilizations chair at Euromed University, to promote opportunities for BC students and scholars

## 2025 Venice Seminars



The Clough Center spent a week in Venice, Italy in May as cosponsor of the ResetDOC Venice Seminars held at Venice International University on the Island of San Servolo. The week consisted of exciting conferences presented and attended by top scholars in the social sciences, as well as authors of some of the most compelling analyses on modern liberal democracy. The seminars also hosted students from Boston College and across the world who attended and participated in daily seminars that built on each day’s lectures and conferences. The overall theme of the Venice Seminars was **Democracy’s Discontent**, seeking to provide answers to the pressing questions of how and why this discontent has arisen, and to discuss solutions to improve our democracies.

Clough Center Director Jonathan Laurence introduced the conferences, and the Center’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow, **Isaiah Sterrett**, and Senior Research Fellow, **Chandra Mallampalli**, both gave lively lectures during the week. Several other friends of the Clough Center were active participants in the seminars, including **Elias Opongo**, SJ (Hekima College), whose work appeared in our 2025 journal, as well as former fall symposium speaker **Karen Barkey** (Bard College), and **Anina Schwarzenbach** (University of Bern), who collaborated with the Clough Center’s postdoctoral program from 2022-2024. Other highlights from the Venice Seminars include a keynote address from Harvard philosopher **Michael Sandel**, whose book **Democracy’s Discontent** inspired the topic of the seminars.

## 2026 Clough Center Delegation to Colombia



Pontificia Universidad  
**JAVERIANA**  
Colombia

In March 2026, a delegation from the Clough Center will visit Bogotá to examine this year’s annual theme of “democratic resilience” in the contemporary Colombian context. Hosted by the Javeriana Pontifical University, fellows will meet with leaders from civil society, politics and government. In 2024, a Clough Delegation visited Mexico City to study “attachment to place in a world of nation-states.”



## Clough Visiting Fellows



**Youssef Chahed** was the Republic of Tunisia's youngest-ever appointed head of government, holding the position from August 2016 to February 2020. He had previously served as the secretary of state for fisheries and the minister of local affairs. Since the Tunisian revolution in January 2011, Chahed has been a supporter of freedom of the press, expression, and

diversity. Throughout his term in office, he successfully fought against terrorist organizations like ISIS and Al Qaida. He was the first Arab leader to start a war against organized crime, smugglers, and corruption. He was successful in addressing Tunisia's public finance problems and lowering the public deficit as a result of a program negotiated between Tunisia and the IMF/WB despite a challenging economic environment.

After obtaining his Ph.D in agribusiness sciences from the National Institute of Agriculture in Paris (France) in 2003, Chahed worked as a professor and an international expert in agriculture. Currently, Dr. Chahed is a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of the Harvard Kennedy School and works with the Middle East Initiative (MEI). Chahed's research at the Clough Center focuses on the Middle East and North Africa's policy, economic, and security issues.

**Andrés B. Muñoz Mosquera** is an attorney-in-law, international relations scholar, and former judge specializing in international institutional and treaty law, as well as the relationship between international law and religion. He holds a Ph.D from Leiden University, an MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and JD/LLM degrees from Universidad



Complutense de Madrid and Universidad Europea. His doctoral dissertation, *North Atlantic Treaty Organization: An International Institutional Law Perspective*, examines the legal frameworks that govern the structure, authority, and operations of international organizations, with NATO as a case study. He served as Director of the NATO ACO Office of Legal Affairs for eleven years, following thirteen years as Deputy Director. In the 1990s, he supported the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and represented Spain at the International Telecommunications Union. He held fellowships at Marine Corps University and the Fletcher School and taught at Reichman University. He has lectured at Sorbonne, Roma-Tre, Sevilla, West Point, and the National Defense University. He teaches pro bono at Universidad Católica de Murcia and is a member of the Royal Academy of Diplomacy in Spain. He has published extensively, was knighted twice, and received multiple awards, and was honored with the livery collar of the Household of Feigenblatt for his contributions to higher education.

## Postdoctoral Fellow



**Isaiah Sterrett** is an historian of nineteenth-century America with particular interests in culture, politics, and the intersections of private and public life. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science and a Ph.D. in History (2023), all from Boston College. His current work, focused on the American North

between the 1830s and the 1860s, explores the connections that contemporaries drew between childrearing, the home, and the exercise and preservation of individual liberty in a rapidly changing United States. Isaiah has presented his work in several fora, including, most recently, Reset DOC's International Conference and Student Seminars at Venice International University in the summer of 2025. Isaiah is delighted to start his second year as the Clough Center's Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

## Senior Research Fellow

**Chandra Mallampalli** is an historian of modern South Asia with interests in religious pluralism, nationalism, and the secular state. At the Clough Center, his research examines challenges facing India's multi-religious democracy, especially in light of the surging Hindu nationalism and



violence against religious minorities. His scholarship and teaching span the fields of modern India, British Empire, World History, and Global Christianity. His recent book with Oxford University Press (New York), *South Asia's Christians: Between Hindu and Muslim* describes how the lives of Roman Catholics, Syrian Christians, and Protestants have been shaped by centuries of interactions with Hindus and Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.



## INTRODUCING THE 2025-2026 FACULTY AFFILIATES

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MARSIN ALSHAMARY  
Political Science



FERNANDO BIZZARRO  
Political Science



FRANK J. GARCIA  
Law



LAUREN HONIG  
Political Science



HANNES KERBER  
Political Science



FLORENCE MADENGA  
Communications, African and  
African Diaspora Studies



MARY MURPHY  
Director, Irish Institute



ZINE MAGUBANE  
Sociology



ROBERT SAVAGE  
History



MICHAEL SERAZIO  
Communications





## WELCOME TO THE NEW COHORT OF FELLOWS

### *Senior Fellows*



with Gloria and Chuck Clough

### *Faculty Affiliates*





## INTRODUCING THIS YEAR'S CLOUGH FELLOWS

### DOCTORAL FELLOWS



MARÍA ALEJANDRA  
GUTIÉRREZ TORRES  
Social Work



JERONIMO AYESTA  
Philosophy



BRANDON BIAGIOLI  
Theology



EMILY CHEN  
English



CHARLIE CHRIST  
History



CARINA D'URSO  
Education



MACKENZIE DALY  
English



MARIA GALLEGO-  
ORTIZ  
Philosophy



AUSTIN LAMB  
Political Science



INNOCENT MPOKI  
Political Science



ANDREW PALELLA  
History



SIRO PINA  
CARDONA  
Education



SINA REZAEI  
Philosophy



FAZLI SALIM  
Psychology and  
Neuroscience



CATE SCHULTZ  
Philosophy



AIDAN VICK  
English





# WELCOME TO THE NEW COHORT OF FELLOWS

## *Junior Fellows*



## *Doctoral Fellows*





JUNIOR FELLOWS



PETER COQUILLETTE  
Business & Philosophy



NICHOLAS CREMONA  
Business & Philosophy



ALLISON DEMMONS  
Political & Philosophy



ELYSE EVEREST  
Education & International Studies



ALISA FIXLER  
History & Public Health



EMILY FOOTE  
Political Science



SIMON HOEFTLING  
Political Science & Philosophy



NINA HEMSEY  
Political Science



JAMES PARLON  
Political Science



LUKAS KUCERA  
International Studies & Slavic Studies



RYAN MILLIGAN  
Political Science



GRIFFIN NOUMAIR  
Finance



CALLIE WALSH  
Political Science & Philosophy



STEPHEN SAMARTZIS  
Economics



CURRAN SCHESTAG  
History

CLOUGH CORRESPONDENTS



MADELINE CARR  
Political Science & History



MEHDI HOSEINI  
Sociology



JAMES PARLON  
Political Science



ISABELA DOSANJOS  
International Studies



ELI MARSALEK  
Political Science & Philosophy



CLARA TAFT  
Political Science & Classics



EMILY TURNER  
Theology



GRIFFIN WEISS  
History





# WELCOME TO THE NEW COHORT OF FELLOWS

## Clough Correspondents



## Welcome Reception





## Welcome Reception





# THE CLOUGH CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY

## PUBLICATIONS

"To Keep Me Steady": Northern Culture, Temptation, and the Talismanic Home in the Civil War Age" *American Nineteenth Century History*

"Jonathan Chapman: Boston's Forgotten Sage of Self-Government" *The New England Quarterly*

**Isaiah Sterrett,**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow

"The Confusion about Conversion: Competing Narratives and Nationalist Violence in India," *Philosophy and Social Criticism* (2025) Vol. 51(4) 609–623.

"Modi's India as a Foretaste of Trump 2.0," *Reset Dialogues on Civilizations*, January 16, 2025.

"Indian Americans, Christian Nationalists, and Post-Liberal America," *Reset Dialogues on Civilizations*, Feb. 12, 2025.

**Chandra Mallampalli,**  
Senior Research Fellow

### **Envisioning Democratic Futures** Clough Center Journal, Volume 4 184pp, March 2025

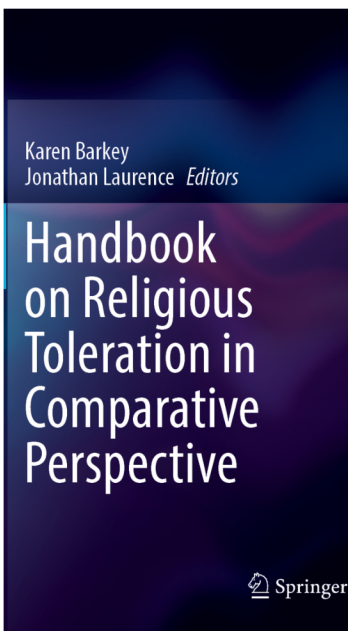


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and Jonathan Laurence  
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Clough Correspondents and Fellows have been hard at work reviewing the minutiae of 800 pages and 43 chapters of this long-awaited volume, which appears in Fall 2025. This Handbook challenges the view—widely held today—that religious toleration is a specifically modern, liberal, and Western concept. To the contrary, it shows that principles of religious coexistence have been articulated since recorded history. As many cultures have recognized across times and places, toleration in some form is a key virtue for enabling peaceful coexistence and human flourishing. Yet owing to its very cross-cultural prevalence, "toleration" has meant many different things in theory and practice. To properly understand and evaluate it, a historical and comparative perspective is necessary. This Handbook provides a foundation for the comparative and historical study of religious toleration. Gathering together primary sources and original analytic essays by leading scholars – including **Robert Alter** (UC Berkeley) on the Old Testament, **Alberto Melloni** (University of Bologna) on Canon Law, **Suleyman Bachir Diagne** (Columbia University) on Ubuntu and **Rajeev Barghava** on Ashoka – it offers the first comprehensive reference work on how toleration has been theorized and practiced across cultures, religions, and historical periods. The primary sources compiled span a rich array of genres, including literary works, religious texts, theological, poems and political edicts. Radically shifting the terms of contemporary debates about toleration, this sourcebook provides an indispensable resource to all scholars of religion, comparative politics, and globalization, and to students and teachers alike.

Former Clough postdoctoral fellow **Nicholas Hayes-Mota** (Santa Clara University) served as a section editor of the Handbook. He also edited a Syndicate Network forum with six scholars commenting (with response) on Laurence's **Coping with Defeat: Sunni Islam, Roman Catholicism and the Modern State** to appear in Fall 2025.



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