

2007

New Dimensions of Citizenship

Editors' Forward

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Editors' Forward, *New Dimensions of Citizenship*, 75 Fordham L. Rev. 2373 (2007).

Available at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol75/iss5/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fordham Law Review by an authorized editor of FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. For more information, please contact tmelnick@law.fordham.edu.

SYMPOSIUM

NEW DIMENSIONS OF CITIZENSHIP

Editors' Foreword

On September 29th and 30th, 2006, Fordham University School of Law concluded its year-long Centennial Celebration with a conference on the "New Dimensions of Citizenship." As the number of people living outside their country of origin reaches an all-time high, our conceptions of citizenship, our identities as citizens, and our ideas about how to best prepare citizens to negotiate an increasingly diverse society are all in flux. The Symposium brought together scholars across disciplines to explore recent shifts in the political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of citizenship, and to consider their implications for the future.

The Symposium opened with an exploration of the many meanings of citizenship. As leading scholars of law, history, political science, and anthropology pointed out, citizenship is an appealing but very broad concept, referring as it does to the act of political participation, the status of membership within a polity, the ability to claim benefits and rights, and the development of a cultural identity within larger society, among other meanings. Each of the panels in the Symposium explored one or more of citizenship's dimensions in greater depth, with particular attention to recent changes. Scholars debated the claim that citizenship has become increasingly transnational over the past several decades, discussed the emergence of new forms of collective identity within and across communities, deliberated the shifts in our understanding of the rights conferred by citizenship in the wake of 9/11, and assessed new approaches to the integration of newcomers within an ever-changing polity.

In her keynote performance, "Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change," playwright Anna Deavere Smith further illuminated the theme of evolving ideas of citizenship. Through her enactment of different characters drawn from her plays, she wonderfully illustrated the various and shifting facets of American identity. Philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah, in his closing keynote, which is included in this collection, called for a commitment to ethical obligations on a global scale, consistent with his cosmopolitan vision of citizenship. His talk was a historical tour-de-force and an intellectual meditation on what it means to be a citizen of an increasingly complex world.

The essays presented in this symposium issue represent the international scope and multidisciplinary reach of the papers presented at the conference. The Fordham Law Review is honored to publish these contributions. We

would like to thank the Fordham Law School Office of Academic Programs for its help in the planning and administering of this conference; and the Fordham Law School Library Administration and Staff, in particular Laurence Abraham, for assistance in the publication of the conference papers. A number of Fordham professors moderated panels and/or contributed papers: Gráinne De Búrca, Martin Flaherty, Sonia Katyal, and Robin A. Lenhardt. Our sincere gratitude to Professors Jennifer Gordon and Sheila Foster, who envisioned the conference, served as its organizers, and executed it with élan.

We would also like to thank Dean William Michael Treanor for his ongoing support of the Law Review and in particular for his leadership during the Fordham Law School's Centennial Celebration, which included a number of symposia sponsored by the Law Review. The theme of the New Dimensions of Citizenship Symposium is particularly meaningful on the one-hundredth anniversary of the Law School, as Fordham remembers the generations of immigrants and their children that have graduated from this School. The Law Review is proud to publish *New Dimensions of Citizenship* as part of its seventy-fifth volume.