

Conference on Polls, Policy, and the Future of American Democracy
Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
May 13, 2000

SCHEDULE

8:30 *Registration (Room 1E, Norris Center, Northwestern University, Evanston Campus)*

8:45 WELCOME: **Fay Lomax Cook**, Director, Institute for Policy Research,
Northwestern University

9:00 Panel I: What Do Polls Reveal about Public Opinion and What Can They Reveal?

Moderator: **Dennis Chong**, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University

Speakers: **Charles F. Manski**, Department of Economics, Northwestern University
"Probabilistic Polling"

Martin Gilens, Department of Political Science, Yale University
"Survey Experiments: Fun with a Random Number Generator"

Commentators:

Scott Althaus, Speech Communication and Political Science, University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Peter Miller, Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Panel II: Do Politicians Pander to the Public?

Moderator: **Jeff Manza**, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

Speakers: **Lawrence R. Jacobs**, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
*"It's True, Politicians Don't Pander: Crafted Talk and Declining Responsiveness to Public
Policy Preferences"* by Lawrence R. Jacobs, University of Minnesota, and Robert Y.
Shapiro, Columbia University

James A. Stimson, Department of Political Science, University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
"American Politics: The Model" by Robert S. Erikson, Columbia University, Michael
B. MacKuen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and James A. Stimson

Commentators:

G. William Domhoff, Department of Psychology, University of California,
Santa Cruz

Paul J. Quirk, Department of Political Science and Institute of Government and
Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

12:15 LUNCH

- 1:00 KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Introduction: **Susan Herbst** , Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
- Speaker: **William Schneider**, Senior Political Analyst, CNN
"Why Polls Matter"
- 1:45 Panel III: Public Opinion and American Foreign Policy
- Moderator: **Kenneth W. Abbott**, School of Law, Northwestern University
- Speakers: **Steven Kull** , Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland
"Elite Misperceptions of U.S. Public Opinion on Foreign Policy" by Steven Kull and Clay Ramsay, Program on International Policy Attitudes
- Lawrence Jacobs**, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
"Public Opinion, Foreign Policy, and Democracy" by Robert Y. Shapiro, Columbia University, and Lawrence Jacobs
- Commentators:
Richard C. Longworth, *Chicago Tribune*
Amy Searight, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Richard Sobel, Harvard University and the Roper Center
- 3:15 BREAK
- 3:30 Panel IV: Public Opinion and Social Welfare Policy
- Moderator: **Craig L. LaMay**, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
- Speakers: **Fay Lomax Cook** , School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University
"Invoking Public Opinion: Polls, Policy Debates, and the Future of Social Security" by Fay Lomax Cook, Jason Barabas, and Benjamin I. Page, Northwestern University
- Paul Burstein** , Department of Sociology, University of Washington
"Public Opinion and Congressional Action on Equal Employment Opportunity Since the 1970s"
- Commentators:
Jack C. Doppelt, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
David Axelrod, President, Axelrod and Associates
Robert Erikson, Department of Political Science, Columbia University
- 5:00 CLOSING SESSION
Introduction: **Jeff Manza** , Northwestern University
- Speaker: **Humphrey Taylor**, Chairman, The Harris Poll, Harris Interactive
"The Value of Polls in Promoting Good Government and Democracy"
- 5:30 Rapporteur: **Benjamin I. Page** , Northwestern University
- 6:00 RECEPTION Room 2G, Norris Center