

THE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES DR. ELEANOR FAPOHUNDA COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Neoliberalism and the Future of Democracy

Tuesday April 3, 2018 10:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. Knapp Hall University Club



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Political philosophers in Europe began warning in the late 1970s that a new and relatively obscure economic theory, "neoliberalism," would soon undermine representative government and the public's trust in it. Unlike

laissez-faire or liberal economic theory—a "leave us alone" strategy in which the state does not interfere with private enterprise—advocates of "neoliberalism" argue that governments should use the resources of



the state to assist the market directly and employ the market to direct or oversee the resources of the state. We now know that the global experiment in neoliberal government over the last forty years has been an utter political failure. Over the last thirty-five years, we have witnessed the worldwide erosion of public confidence in political representatives and institutions, high rates of demonstrations, rising inequalities, and even a resurgence of identitarian and nationalist movements that wield protectionist or antineoliberal rhetoric. In short, we not only face a crisis of political representation, but a potentially dangerous era of anything but.

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