

Biographies of the Principle Speakers

Defending the University: A “Teach-In” on the Current Crisis

**The University of California, Santa Barbara
Campbell Hall
October 14, 2009**

RUTH GILMORE is a professor of American Studies and Ethnicity, and Geography, at the University of Southern California. She is the author of *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* and numerous other essays and books that analyze causes and consequences of the rise of a prison complex in California and the rest of the United States. She is a founding member of the California Prison Moratorium Project and Critical Resistance, and past-president of the Central California Environmental Justice Network. She is president-elect of the American Studies Association.

STANTON GLANTZ is the world-famous UC San Francisco Professor of Medicine who has done more than any other single individual to uncover the nefarious role played by tobacco companies in marketing their carcinogenic products. His many publications, including *The Cigarette Papers*, have played a major role in curtailing smoking in the United States and in forcing the tobacco industry to pay billions of dollars in compensation to government and consumers. In more recent years Professor Glantz has turned his investigative skills to the administration and financing of the University of California. With UCSB's own Chris Newfield, he served as Co-Chair of the UC Budget and Planning Committee.

LENNY GOLDBERG is executive director of the non-profit California Tax Reform Association where he has been a leading critic of Proposition 13, the California tax reform which has severely constrained state and local revenues. He is the owner of Lenny Goldberg and Associates, a public interest consulting and lobbying firm.

(CANCELLED)

SENATOR LONI HANCOCK represents the East Bay in the California State Senate where she chairs the Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments. Before her election to the Senate last year she served for three terms in the Assembly where she was active in advancing a progressive environmental and educational agenda. She has been mayor of Berkeley and has served in both the Carter and Clinton Administrations.

GEORGE LAKOFF, UC Berkeley, is one of the world's best-known linguists. He is widely recognized for his research on metaphorical thought, the embodied mind, and the structure of language. In recent years, his application of cognitive science and linguistics to politics has brought him to national attention. His most famous book is *Don't Think of*

an Elephant! What Every American Should Know about Values and Framing Wars. This year he has been an outspoken critic of privatization at UC and the state's defunding of the University.

NELSON LICHTENSTEIN teaches history at UCSB where he directs the Center for the Study of Work, Labor, and Democracy. An organizer of this event, he has written extensively on labor, management, and public policy during the last several decades.

ROBERT MEISTER is Professor of Social and Political Thought at UC Santa Cruz and the director of the Bruce Center for Rethinking Capitalism. He is a political philosopher who has published widely on American constitutional development and on global human rights. For a decade Professor Meister has been an active critic of the privatization impulse at the University of California and a champion of the shared governance tradition. He has served on the UC Budget and Planning Committee and is currently the president of the Council of UC Faculty Associations.

CHRISTINE PETIT is a graduate student in Sociology at UC Riverside. She is president of UAW Local 2865, the state-wide union for teaching assistants, readers, and tutors.

ROBERT SAMUELS teaches writing at UCLA and publishes extensively on academic labor issues. His books include *Computers, Composition, and Academic Labor*, *Teaching the Rhetoric of Resistance*, as well as *New Media, Cultural Studies, and Critical Theory after Postmodernity*. He has been the President of the University Council for the American Federation of Teachers and the California Federation of Teachers for the last six years.

KENT WONG is director of the Center for Labor Research and Education at UCLA. He has served as president of the United Association for Labor Education and founding president of the Asian American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO. His most recent books are *Underground Undergrads* (on UCLA undocumented students), *Miguel Contreras: Legacy of a Labor Leader*, and *Women's Work* (on the Los Angeles home care worker organizing victory).