

During the 2008 election and afterward, many commentators speculated that Barack Obama moved America beyond its history of fractious racial battles, which Obama and his political advisers encouraged to broaden their political appeal. After two years in office, however, it is clear that the first black president has not introduced a new post-racial America. Instead, Obama's color-blind policies and political strategy of avoiding racial discussions has turned a blind eye to deepening racial disparities.

Desmond King is the Andrew Mellon Chair of American Government and a Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford. His talk drew on his forthcoming book with Rogers Smith, *Still a House Divided: Race and Politics in Obama's America* (Princeton University Press, August 2011). This event was moderated by **Professor Dara Strolovitch**.



DESMOND KING

Desmond King has taught at the University of Oxford since 1991 where he holds the Andrew W Mellon Chair of American Government and a Fellow of Nuffield College. He was previously faculty member of the London School of Economics. His research covers race and American politics, immigration, welfare and urban politics and US federal policy. His publications include *Actively Seeking Work: Workfare in the USA and UK* (1995), *Making Americans: Immigration, Race and the Origin of the Diverse*

Democracy (2000), *The Liberty of Strangers: Making the American Nation* (2005), *Separate and Unequal: African Americans and the US Federal Government* (2007), and *The Unsustainable American State*, with Lawrence Jacobs, (2009). He is a Fellow of the British Academy.



DARA STROLOVITCH

Dara Z. Strolovitch (Ph.D. Yale University, 2002) is associate professor of political science at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of *Affirmative Advocacy: Race, Class, and Gender in Interest Group Politics*, which won numerous awards, including the American Political Science Association's Gladys M. Kammerer Award. Her work has also appeared in the *Journal of*

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