

# Macalester Civic Forum

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Volume 4

Issue 1 *Civic Leadership in the Age of Obama*

Article 2

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## Program

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**Karin Aguilar-San Juan** is associate professor of American studies at Macalester College. An urban sociologist, she publishes and teaches about community and identity among Asian Americans, as well as courses on racial inequality and race-based social movements. She is a Next Generation Leadership Fellow (a program sponsored by New York University's Wagner School of Public Policy).



**Westenley Alcenat** is a senior with a double major in history and political science. His talk will explore the Obama presidency and Obama's effort to transform the nation's civic landscape through an ambitious social agenda.



**Callie Thuma** is a senior with an American studies major and a geography minor. She will present examples of local and national leaders using the arts and oral history to creatively and collectively address class and race-based inequities in the spirit of Obama's community organizing background.

### Iterations

*2007 Meditations on Global Citizenship*

*2008 The Environment, Citizenship, and the Public Good*

*2009 Religion in the Public Square*

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

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MACALESTER  
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# MACALESTER CIVIC FORUM



SPRING  
2010

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP IN THE AGE OF OBAMA

JOHN B. DAVIS LECTURE HALL  
RUTH STRICKER DAYTON CAMPUS CENTER



THURSDAY, APRIL 8

- 6:30–6:40 p.m.      **Welcome**  
Karin Trail-Johnson, Associate Dean  
Institute for Global Citizenship
- 6:40–7:00 p.m.      ***The Pursuit of Something New: Lessons from the Black  
Box Theater of Central High School***  
Callie Thuma '10
- 7:00–7:20 p.m.      ***Revamping the Welfare State? Obama  
and the Challenge of American Politics***  
Wes Alcenat '10
- 7:20–7:45 p.m.      **Questions and Comments**  
Facilitated by Julie Dolan, Associate Professor  
and Chair of the Political Science Department
- 7:45–8:00 p.m.      **Refreshment Break**
- 8:00–8:40 p.m.      **Keynote Address**  
***Post-Racial Leadership: Radicalized Mass Incarceration  
and President Obama***  
Ian Haney López, John H. Boalt Professor of Law  
University of California, Berkeley
- 8:40–8:55 p.m.      **Faculty Response**  
Karin Aguilar-San Juan, Associate Professor  
of American Studies
- 8:55–9:05 p.m.      **Response to Student and Faculty Presentations**  
Professor Haney
- 9:05–9:30 p.m.      **Questions and Comments**  
Facilitated by Professor Dolan
- 9:30–9:40 p.m.      **Closing Remarks**  
Ahmed I. Samatar, Dean  
Institute for Global Citizenship

The Annual Civic Forum puts a high priority on showcasing student scholarship offered through commissioned papers. Also central to the proceedings is a keynote address, delivered by a noted scholar or public intellectual, with response from a Macalester faculty member.

Leadership is among the oldest and most recurring features in the making of associational life. From learned, artistic, and scientific groups, to communal, religious, business, labor, and sports communities, to all forms of political organizations, leadership has always been one of the pivotal items in effective collective action. Perhaps this is more so in periods of societal turbulences. The United States of America finds itself in the thicket of major challenges that range from the environment, energy, and immigration to economic well-being and health-care for its citizens. The arrival of the first African American president opens up a new space for conversation about civic life, leadership, and change. This year's Macalester Civic Forum is an invitation to interrogate the nature and promise of this historic moment.



**Ian F. Haney López**  
John H. Boalt Professor of Law  
University of California, Berkeley

Haney López teaches and writes in the area of race and constitutional law. He has published groundbreaking books on the social and legal construction of race. His current research examines the emergence and operation of “colorblindness” in U.S. constitutional law as an indicator of a new racial ideology aimed at legitimating and preserving the racial status quo.