A Tale of Two Letters
Scholarship and Civic Responsibility in a Time of Retrenchment

Professor Nathan Connolly received two letters last semester. One was threatening, the other beseeching. They had in common an expectation about the civic responsibility of scholars. They defied, too, any notion that digital analytics or social media can capture the fullness of academics’ social impact in our current day and age. Informed by the civic and scholarly mission of Hopkins’s Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship, Connolly will discuss the expectations and responsibilities taken up by and placed upon scholars, both historically and in contemporary times. What utility does and has critical race studies served in debates over so-called “common sense” solutions and “real world” problems? Where do concerns over political polarization preempt fights against white supremacy and inequality? What is institutional anti-racism, and is such a thing even possible in American universities? After Connolly’s remarks on these and related questions, we will host a town-hall-style public discussion on the role universities and their researchers play in the furtherance of ethical policy and informed public debate. Reception to follow.

Nathan Connolly
Director, Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship

Wednesday, January 29th
5p.m.—6:30p.m.
Glass Pavilion

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Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact Rachel LaBozetta at rlaboze1@jhu.edu