

Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education: *Conversation Series*

Academic Freedom in an Age of Political Polarization

March 14, 2018 | Noon to 2 p.m.

Sigal Ben-Porah

Dr. Sigal Ben-Porah is a professor in the Literacy, Culture and International Education Division at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ben-Porath received her doctorate in political philosophy from Tel Aviv University in 2000. She was awarded two successive Tel Aviv University President's postdoctoral grants. In 2001-2004, she was a postdoctoral research associate at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton University. Dr. Ben-Porath has been teaching at Penn GSE since 2004. At Penn, she served as a special assistant to the university president. She is executive committee member of the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, and the chair of the faculty advisory board for Penn Press. From 2012-2013 she was affiliated with the Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University. She is currently an associate member of the political science department and the philosophy department at Penn. Dr. Ben-Porath's research focuses on citizenship education, normative aspects of educational and social policy, and the social and educational effects of war. Her areas of expertise include philosophy of education and political philosophy. Her books include *Free Speech on Campus* and *Varieties of Sovereignty and Citizenship*, as well as *Tough Choices: Structured Paternalism* and the *Landscape of Choice and Citizenship under Fire: Democratic Education in Times of Conflict*.

Henry Reichman

Dr. Henry Reichman is professor emeritus of history at California State University, East Bay. He has served since 2012 as First Vice-President of the AAUP and Chair of the AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Since 2013 he has also chaired the board of the AAUP Foundation. His writings on academic freedom and higher education appear regularly in the AAUP magazine, *Academe*, and in the AAUP's online *Journal of Academic Freedom*. He posts frequently on the AAUP's *Academe blog*. At CSUEB Dr. Reichman served three terms as chair of the Academic Senate and three terms as chair of the Department of History. He also served for nine years on the CSU system Academic Senate. He is a member of the California Faculty Association, which represents 27,000 faculty members in the CSU system, and served on its collective bargaining team during three contract cycles. At CSUEB he won both the Outstanding Professor and Faculty Service Awards. Dr. Reichman also served in the early 1980s as assistant director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom and from 1982 to 2015 edited ALA's *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* (now the *Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy*). He is the author of *Censorship and Selection: Issues and Answers for Schools*, published in three English and one Japanese editions. An historian of Russia and the Soviet Union, he is the author of *Railwaymen and Revolution: Russia, 1905* (University of California Press, 1987) and numerous articles and reviews in Russian and European history. A book collecting and expanding on several of his articles and blog posts on academic freedom and free speech will be published next year.

Next Conversation: "Charter School Expansion and the Viability of Public Education"
Wednesday, May 9 | noon to 2:00 p.m. | 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. | Washington, D.C.
Registration: shankerinstitute.org/event/charter-school-expansion |

Catherine J. Ross

Catherine J. Ross is the Fred C. Stevenson Research Professor at the George Washington University Law School. She specializes in constitutional law (with particular emphasis on the First Amendment), family law, and legal and policy issues concerning children. Her book, *Lessons in Censorship: How Schools and Courts Subvert Students' First Amendment Rights* (Harvard University Press, 2015) was named the Best Book on the First Amendment by Concurring Opinions' First Amendment News, and won the Critics' Choice Book Award from the American Education Studies Association. Professor Ross has been a co-author of *Contemporary Family Law* (Thomson/West) since the First Edition; the Fourth Edition was published in 2015. In 2015-2016, Professor Ross was a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard School of Education. She was a Member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton from 2008-2009. Professor Ross has taught as a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Boston College (where she held joint appointments in the School of Education and the History Department) and St. John's School of Law in New York.

An elected Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, Professor Ross is former chair of the ABA's Steering Committee on the Unmet Legal Needs of Children, former chair of the Section on Law and Communitarianism of the Association of American Law Schools, and has served on a wide variety of ABA committees. She has served on the editorial boards of the *Family Courts Review* and the *Family Law Quarterly*. Prior to entering legal academia, Professor Ross was a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York, where she won major impact litigation on behalf of the city's homeless population. Before attending Yale Law School, Professor Ross was on the faculty of the Yale Child Study Center, and the Bush Center on Child Development and Social Policy at Yale.

Moderator: Alyssa Picard

Alyssa Picard is the director of the AFT Higher Education department, which is the home of AFT's 230,000 members who are college and university faculty and professional staff, and steers the union's advocacy for affordable, accessible, high-quality public higher education, including the AFT Student Debt Clinic program. Alyssa was trained as a historian of the 20th century US at the University of Michigan, where she was also a leader of the Graduate Employees' Organization, AFT Local 3550.

Sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute and the American Federation of Teachers, this conversation series is designed to engender lively and informative discussions on important educational issues. We deliberately invite speakers with diverse perspectives, including views other than those of the Albert Shanker Institute and the AFT. What is important is that these participants are committed to genuine engagement with each other.