



Plenary Speaker  
Kimberlé Crenshaw

# PLENARY

## KIMBERLÉ CRENSHAW

Tuesday 10 April, 13:30 - 15:00  
CITY CAMPUS EAST, ROOM 001

### **From Shattered Ceilings to a Broken Democracy: The Post-Racial Condition of Trump's America**

In recent years, American democracy has produced two highly improbable presidencies. Both have, in their own way, been framed as reflecting the essence of the American project. The breakthrough achievement of Barack Obama was celebrated as the realization of US exceptionalism with its deep commitment to egalitarianism, while the ascendancy of Trump has been framed as the reemergence of the country's primitive foundations in white supremacy. Many on both sides of the political spectrum have sought to paint the rise of Trumpism as a result of an undue focus on identity politics, often presented in opposition to white working class concerns, in effect blaming those who are already the most marginalized for their continued oppression. Professor Crenshaw will counter this narrative through an intersectional lens, exploring erasures and forgotten histories within American law and political culture that contributed to the condition of Trump's possibility.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law School, is a leading authority on Civil Rights, Black feminist legal theory, and race, racism and the law. She is the founding coordinator of the Critical Race Theory Workshop, and co-editor of the volume, *Critical Race Theory: Key Documents That Shaped the Movement*. Crenshaw's groundbreaking work on "Intersectionality" has traveled globally and was influential in the drafting of the equality clause in the South African Constitution.

Crenshaw is the co-founder and Executive Director of the African American Policy Forum, a gender and racial justice legal think tank, and the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies at Columbia Law School. She is a leading voice in calling for a gender-inclusive approach to racial justice interventions, having spearheaded the Why We Can't Wait Campaign and co-authored *Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced and Underprotected*, and *Say Her Name: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women*.

