The Woman Who Fell in Love with the Man Who Thought the World Was Flat

Public policy, identity, and the challenge of reconceptualizing domestic violence in the Latino community

Domestic violence is often wrongly characterized as a problem affecting women rather than a community. And in the United States, a well intentioned yet monolithic and culturally insensitive approach to public policy concerning domestic violence often causes more harm than it eradicates, especially in the Latino community. This article examines the ways in which immigration policy and cultural/economic forces play a role in increasing domestic violence in Latino communities and ultimately suggests the need to reconceptualize fundamentally that violence itself, looking to “abusers” as partners with a stake in achieving a lasting solution based on identifying the strengths of Latino culture.

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Are Negatives Positive?

While the public detests political attack ads, political consultants frequently defend them as valuable to the electoral process. So does one academic, John Geer, whose book, In Defense of Negativity: Attack Ads in Presidential Campaigns, undertakes a thorough and scholarly assessment of negative ads. He concludes they are indeed an asset to democracy, and that electioneering without them would impoverish the “information environment” of voters. To put Geer’s analysis to the test, several typical attack ads are put under the microscope.

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Religion and the Public University

This article is about religious life and its relationship to public higher education in America. As a way of addressing the fraught relations among religion, the state, moral values, and the university, the article takes a reading of Immanuel Kant’s The Conflict of the Faculties and the writings of contemporary social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. It uses the synthesis of Kant’s and Haidt’s ideas as the foundation for a partial historical reassessment, the ultimate goal of which is the re-enfranchisement of religious Americans into the nation’s public higher education system.

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An Equity Hurdle in International Climate Negotiations

Parties to the U.N. climate negotiations are now engaged in a three-year process to produce a new comprehensive global climate agreement. This agreement should attempt to satisfy competing demands from developed and developing countries for an equitable assignment of responsibilities for mitigating greenhouse gases. It should also be sensitive to national regulatory and legal circumstances. Unfortunately, the current basis for U.S. regulation of greenhouse gases is at odds with some approaches other nations take to the equitable reduction of emissions. This difference may make it difficult for the U.S. both to embrace a global treaty and to preserve its ability to cut its own emissions.

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