

PRESENT

DR. HEIDI SWARTS

Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 5:00 PM

Hardy Library, Kravis Center 437

(DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED)



Dr. Heidi Swarts will be discussing the challenges involved in researching social phenomenon on the local level, and how she found useful insights from both sociology and political science.

Dr. Heidi Swarts received her B.A. from Oberlin College, a Master of Divinity from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University. Currently an independent scholar and consultant, Dr. Swarts has taught at Syracuse University and at Rutgers University – Newark campus. Her academic scholarship and teaching and “real-world” experience mutually inform each other. She is a lifelong Unitarian-Universalist (and since 1999, an ordained minister) whose exposure to religiously-rooted activism inspired her scholarship on religion in American social movements. Her experience as a community organizer in San Francisco’s skid row, the Tenderloin, gave rise to questions about different community organizing models addressed in her research.

Publications of interest include the book *Organizing Urban America: Secular and Faith-based Progressive Movements* (Social Movements, Protest and Contention Series, University of Minnesota Press, 2008); “Drawing New Symbolic Boundaries over Old Social Boundaries: Forging Social Movement Unity in Congregation-Based Community Organizing” (*Sociological Perspectives* 54(3), 2011), and, with Bogdan Vasi, “Which U.S. Cities Adopt Living Wage Ordinances? Predictors of Adoption of a New Labor Tactic, 1994-2006.” *Urban Affairs Review* 47:6, 2011). She is currently researching community organizing groups as sites of democratic deliberation, and a new project on the contrasting cultures and strategies that condition success in left- and right-wing movement coalitions, under conditions of tight, polarized electoral competition.