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N E W S R E L E A S E

Melissa Harris-Perry

Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America

Tuesday, October 4 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
UCSB Corwin Pavillion

S U M M A R Y F A C T S

- Melissa Harris-Perry, Contributor to MSNBC, Columnist for *The Nation*, Best-Selling Author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*
- Tuesday, October 4 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
- UCSB Corwin Pavilion
- Courtesy of The Book Den, copies of *Sister Citizen* will be available for purchase and signing at this event
- Information: Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB (805) 893-2317
- Digital copies of press materials available at <http://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/news/press-releases/>

Description:

Jezebel's sexual lasciviousness, Mammy's devotion, and Sapphire's outspoken anger—these are among the most persistent stereotypes that black women encounter in contemporary American life. In *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*, Melissa V. Harris-Perry examines black women's political and emotional responses to pervasive negative race and gender images. Not a traditional political science work concerned with office-seeking, voting, or ideology, *Sister Citizen* instead explores how African American women understand themselves as citizens and what they expect from political organizing. Harris-Perry shows that the shared struggle to preserve an authentic self and secure recognition as a citizen links together black women in America, from the anonymous survivors of Hurricane Katrina to the current First Lady of the United States.

Speaker Profile:

Melissa V. Harris-Perry is professor of political science at Tulane University, where she is founding director of the project on gender, race, and politics in the South. She previously served on the faculty of the University of Chicago and Princeton University. She is author of the award winning book, *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* and the soon-to-be-released book *Sister Citizen: Shame, Stereotypes, and Black Women in America*. She is a columnist for *The Nation* magazine. Harris-Perry is a contributor to MSNBC, appearing as a bi-weekly guest on the Thomas Roberts Show and a frequent guest on the Rachel Maddow Show and *The Last Word*. She is a regular commentator for many print and radio sources in the U.S. and abroad. She lives with her family in New Orleans.

Reviews of *Sister Citizen*

"Melissa Harris-Perry is one of our most trenchant readers of modern black life. In *Sister Citizen*, she gives new life to the idea that 'the personal is political.' This book will change the conversation about the rights, responsibilities, and burdens of citizenship."—Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University

"This is a broad, ambitious and important book that centers black women at the heart of American politics. Harris-Perry broadens our ideas of what counts as political, disrupts our ideas about what the study of American politics should look like, and restores our belief that resistance and struggle can change lives, communities and nations."—Cathy J. Cohen, author of *Boundaries of Blackness and Democracy Remixed*

"In this compelling book, dazzling in its breadth and depth, Melissa Harris-Perry deploys the quantitative tools of the political scientist as expertly as she displays the qualitative methods of the literary and cultural critic. *Sister Citizen* challenges readers to rethink the meaning of politics when it comes to the complex lives of African American women."—Beverly Guy-Sheftall, founding director, Spelman College Women's Research and Resource Center

"*Sister Citizen* carefully documents the complex challenges and hurdles Black women face in the 21st century. Harris-Perry's book is both insightful and provocative. A must read for those interested in learning more about American politics."—Donna Brazile, Political Commentator for CNN and ABC News and former Interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee

"*Sister Citizen* lends empirical heft to the adage the 'personal is political'. Melissa Harris-Perry does an excellent job of weaving literature, social science, and personal accounts to produce a powerful work on black women's politics. Brilliant."—Lester K. Spence, author of *Stare in the Darkness: The Limits of Hip-hop and Black Politics*

"[Melissa Harris-Perry's] academic research is inspired by a desire to investigate the challenges facing contemporary black Americans and the creative ways that African Americans respond to these challenges."—*Great Neck Record*

Sponsors:

This free, public event is presented by Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB and cosponsored by UCSB Center for Black Studies, Center for New Racial Studies, Department of Black Studies, Department of Feminist Studies, Department of Political Science, and MultiCultural Center.

**For more information, call
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