

Department of  
Politics

Engaging  
Democracy  
Seminar Series

The Department of Politics  
invites you to

## The Origins of Today's Billionaire-Funded Radical Right and the Crisis of American Democracy

A plenary talk by

Professor Nancy MacLean  
Duke University

Monday 8 January 2018

York University (room locations below)

**Plenary Talk 2:30 - 4:30 pm, North 940 Ross Bldg**

**Workshop 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, South 802 Ross Bldg**



**The talk:** Professor MacLean traces the history of the capitalist radical right's thought in the United States, outlining how it informed campaigns to privatize everything from public education to Social Security. She begins her story in the 1950s, as the civil rights movement is fighting to desegregate the public schools, and follows the career of the Nobel Prize-winning political economist, James McGill Buchanan, as he connects with various wealthy libertarians, most particularly Charles Koch. It was Buchanan who taught Koch that for capitalism to thrive, democracy must be enchained. And it is the Koch network's strategic application of Buchanan's thinking that has produced today's relentless efforts to eliminate unions, suppress voting, stop action on climate change, and alter the Constitution.

**The workshop:** Engaging with the writings of James Buchanan and the Virginia School of political economy that has so shaped the operational strategy and endgame of Charles Koch and his allies, MacLean shows us how these intellectual trajectories inform and shape the present intellectual and political moment.

**Nancy MacLean** is author of the National Book Award Finalist, *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*, and award-winning author of *Behind the Mask of Chivalry: The Making of the Second Ku Klux Klan*, and *Freedom is Not Enough: The Opening of the American Workplace*.

**Tuesday 27 February** ... "Dilemmas of Democracy"  
with Professor Mel Cappe, University of Toronto  
The failings of referenda, the inadequacies of direct  
democracy and the pitfalls of majority rule. Brexit,  
Trump and the tyranny of the majority.