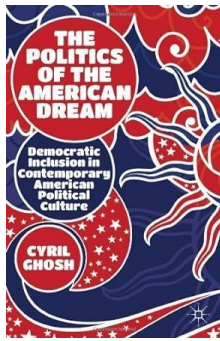


# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

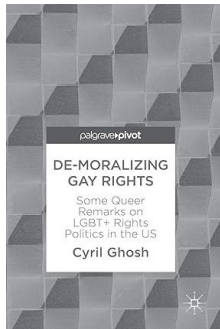
Distinguished Teaching Humanist Summer Workshop  
May 29-31, 2024

## The Politics of Language: Meaning, Interpretation and the Law

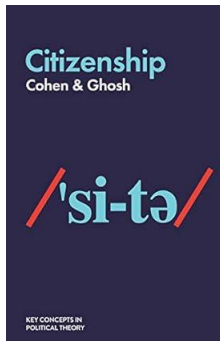
I am happy to announce the next Distinguished Teaching Humanist Summer Workshop, May 29-31 of 2024, with Cyril Ghosh, the Lloyd B. Politsch Associate Professor of Political Science at Clark University. The workshop is open to all full- and part-time professors at the University of Hartford. Professor Ghosh will lead this three-day in-person discussion (three hours per day, plus a break for lunch) on the ways in which language and its interpretation, and the problems of such interpretation, inform court decisions related to issues of identity, civil rights and justice.



For instance, the 2020 Supreme Court case *Bostock v. Clayton County* involved the legality of employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars discrimination “because of [an] individual’s sex,” became central to the case as the justices grappled with one question: what does “sex” mean? Should it be interpreted in its “literal meaning” (as a more inclusive term) or its “ordinary meaning” (as simply male/female)? Does the majority’s decision to go with a “literal meaning” put language and its interpretation in jeopardy (as one dissenting justice argued), or does it allow for a more just way of considering people’s identities? A discussion of court decisions such as this therefore offers unique opportunities to examine how the ability to exercise our rights often comes down to a very *literary* understanding of language: that it contains meanings caught between the “ordinary” and the “literal,” the grammatical and the rhetorical, which many times render unified readings of the law difficult, if not impossible.



Cyril Ghosh is the author of three books: *The Politics of the American Dream: Democratic Inclusion in Contemporary American Political Culture* (Palgrave, 2013), *De-Moralizing Gay Rights: Some Queer Remarks on LGBT+ Rights Politics in the US* (Palgrave, 2018) and *Key Concepts in Political Theory: Citizenship* (with Elizabeth F. Cohen, Polity, 2019). He has his PhD in Political Science, which an emphasis in political theory, from Syracuse University and an MPA in Public Service from New York University.



Please send a short statement outlining how you could benefit from and/or contribute to this workshop to Nicholas Ealy, Distinguished Teaching Humanist (ealy@hartford.edu). Be sure to include your academic department at the university. Applications will be due April 15, 2024.

Accepted participants will receive some materials to read in advance of the workshop and \$500 upon its completion.

We will meet at 10:00 each day and, with the break for lunch, finish at 2:00.