

How can diversity of thought coincide with diversity of cultures in the classroom?

A Panel Discussion presented by the
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Open to the Mercy Community

Wednesday, December 9
12 - 1:30 p.m.

Moderated by: Dr. Eduardo Albrecht, Associate Dean,
School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Speakers introduced by: Dr. Sara Martucci and Dr. Jack
Simons, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Concluding remarks by: Dr. Sarah Hahn, School of
Social and Behavioral Sciences

Q&A moderated by: Dr. Cynthia Walley, School of Social
and Behavioral Sciences

We face a tension that is both psychological and political the more our societies diversify naturally and culturally. We often end up in echo chambers and political silos that act as a haven and give us a sense of refuge. As these divisions increase and society becomes more and more splintered, so does animosity between groups. This animosity can quickly become expressed as violence. The state and public institutions must act to responsibly protect and monitor discourse to prevent harm, such as with speech comprised of criminal intent, termed "hate speech." However, identifying this intent is difficult, as is keeping the "responsibility to protect" from being used as a tool of power. While we cannot expect to dissolve these tensions totally, we hope that we may help mitigate their effects through careful and open examination and allow the diversity of thought and culture to exist in tandem more peacefully.

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S. Kent Butler, Ph.D.
Professor of Counselor Education,
University of Central Florida



Rebecca Mattis-Pinard, M.Ed.
Chief Equity, Diversity, and
Inclusion Officer, Marymount
Manhattan College



Albena Azmanova, Ph.D.
Political theorist, author, and
Associate Professor of Political
and Social Theory, University
of Kent's Brussels School of
International Studies