Conference on Polls, Policy, and the Future of American Democracy
Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
May 13, 2000

SCHEDULE

8:30 Registration (Room 1E, Norris Center, Northwestern University, Evanston Campus)

8:45 WELCOME: Fay Lomax Cook, Director, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University

9:00 Panel I: What Do Polls Reveal about Public Opinion and What Can They Reveal?

Moderator: Dennis Chong, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University

Speakers: Charles F. Manski, Department of Economics, Northwestern University
"Probabilistic Polling"

Martin Gilens, Department of Political Science, Yale University
"Survey Experiments: Fun with a Random Number Generator"

Commentators:
Scott Althaus, Speech Communication and Political Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Peter Miller, Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Panel II: Do Politicians Pander to the Public?

Moderator: Jeff Manza, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

Speakers: Lawrence R. Jacobs, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
"It's True, Politicians Don't Pander: Crafted Talk and Declining Responsiveness to Public Policy Preferences" by Lawrence R. Jacobs, University of Minnesota, and Robert Y. Shapiro, Columbia University

James A. Stimson, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
"American Politics: The Model" by Robert S. Erikson, Columbia University, Michael B. MacKuen, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and James A. Stimson

Commentators:
G. William Domhoff, Department of Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz
Paul J. Quirk, Department of Political Science and Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

12:15 LUNCH
1:00  KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Introduction:  Susan Herbst, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Speaker:  William Schneider, Senior Political Analyst, CNN
"Why Polls Matter"

1:45  Panel III:  Public Opinion and American Foreign Policy
Moderator:  Kenneth W. Abbott, School of Law, Northwestern University
Speakers:  Steven Kull, Program on International Policy Attitudes, University of Maryland
"Elite Misperceptions of U.S. Public Opinion on Foreign Policy" by Steven Kull and Clay Ramsay, Program on International Policy Attitudes
Lawrence Jacobs, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota
"Public Opinion, Foreign Policy, and Democracy" by Robert Y. Shapiro, Columbia University, and Lawrence Jacobs
Commentators:
Richard C. Longworth, Chicago Tribune
Amy Searight, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Richard Sobel, Harvard University and the Roper Center

3:15  BREAK

3:30  Panel IV:  Public Opinion and Social Welfare Policy
Moderator:  Craig L. LaMay, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
Speakers:  Fay Lomax Cook, School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University
"Invoking Public Opinion: Polls, Policy Debates, and the Future of Social Security" by Fay Lomax Cook, Jason Barabas, and Benjamin I. Page, Northwestern University
Paul Burstein, Department of Sociology, University of Washington
"Public Opinion and Congressional Action on Equal Employment Opportunity Since the 1970s"
Commentators:
Jack C. Doppelt, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University
David Axelrod, President, Axelrod and Associates
Robert Erikson, Department of Political Science, Columbia University

5:00  CLOSING SESSION
Introduction:  Jeff Manza, Northwestern University
Speaker:  Humphrey Taylor, Chairman, The Harris Poll, Harris Interactive
"The Value of Polls in Promoting Good Government and Democracy"

5:30  Rapporteur:  Benjamin I. Page, Northwestern University

6:00  RECEPTION  Room 2G, Norris Center