

The Department of Sociology

Brooklyn College of the City University of New York

in cooperation with The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, presents
The Thirteenth Charles R. Lawrence II Memorial Lecture

Popular Power in a Globalizing World



Frances Fox Piven is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. Her book *Regulating the Poor* (1972), co-authored with Richard Cloward, is a landmark historical and theoretical analysis of the role of welfare policy in the economic and political control of the poor and working class. She also co-authored *Poor Peoples' Movements* (1977) which analyzes the political dynamics through which insurgent social movements sometimes compel significant policy reforms. Piven and Cloward's *The New Class War* (1982), *The Mean Season* (1987), and *The Breaking of the American Social Compact* (1997) traced the historical and political underpinnings of the contemporary attack on social and regulatory policy. In *Why Americans Don't Vote* (1988; updated as *Why Americans Still Don't Vote* in 2000) they analyzed the role of electoral laws and practices in disenfranchising large numbers of working class and poor citizens, and the impact of disenfranchisement on party development. In 1992, Piven edited *Labor Parties in Postindustrial Societies*; in 2004, she published *The War at Home*; and she has recently completed *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary Americans Change America*. Piven's accomplishments as a scholar are intertwined with her political reform efforts. She collaborated with the late George A. Wiley, the leader of the 1960s welfare rights movement in the United States, and developed the strategy that led to a liberalization of welfare in the 1960s. These reforms resulted in a major reduction in extreme poverty, and also precipitated the current furor in the U.S. over "welfare reform." She was a founder in 1983 of Human SERVE, an organization that promoted the idea that if citizens were allowed to register to vote when they apply for aid from government programs or for drivers licenses, historic administrative encumbrances on the right to vote could be overcome. Human SERVE's approach was incorporated in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, popularly known as the "motor voter bill." As the current President of the American Sociological Association, she chose the theme "Is Another World Possible? Sociological Perspectives on Contemporary Politics" for the 2007 annual meetings.

Wednesday, November 7, 2007
4:15 to 6 p.m.

Occidental Lounge, Student Center
Campus and East 27 Street

For information: (718) 951-5314

<http://depthome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/sociology/lawrence.html>