Priests of Our Democracy: 
The Supreme Court, Academic Freedom, and the Anti-Communist Purge

In the early 1950s, New York City’s teachers and professors were the targets of intensive investigations into their political beliefs and associations. Brooklyn College was a particular hotbed of controversy. Frederic Ewen was one of the professors who resigned rather than cooperate.

Marjorie Heins, author of Priests of Our Democracy, will discuss New York’s heresy hunt and the battles over academic freedom on the campuses and in the courts. Heins is a constitutional scholar, lawyer, teacher, and founding director of the Free Expression Policy Project. From 1991-98, she directed the Arts Censorship Project at the ACLU, where she was counsel in several Supreme Court First Amendment cases. In 2004-07, she was a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. Her book Not in Front of the Children: Indecency, Censorship, and the Innocence of Youth (Rutgers University Press, 2007) won the American Library Association’s 2002 Eli Oboler Award for best published work in the field of intellectual freedom.

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
3:40 to 4:55 p.m.
Jefferson-Williams Lounge
Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street

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