

Bernardin Annual Lecture 2017



Guest Speaker: Kristin Heyer Professor of Theological Ethics, Boston College

Kristin Heyer received her B.A. from Brown University and her Ph.D. in theological ethics from Boston College in 2003. Her research focuses on the ethics of immigration, Catholic political engagement, moral agency and Christian social ethics. She also serves as an editor for Georgetown University Press' Moral Traditions Series and on the board of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church. She worked at Loyola Marymount University from 2003-2009 and at Santa Clara University from 2009-2015.

She is the author of "Kinship Across Borders: A Christian Ethic of Immigration" (Georgetown University Press, 2012), "Prophetic and Public: The Social Witness of U.S. Catholicism" (Georgetown University Press, 2006) and is co-editor of "Conscience and Catholicism: Rights, Responsibilities and Institutional Responses," "Catholics and Politics: The Dynamic Tension between Faith and Power," and "Public Theology and the Global Common Good."

Thursday, November 2
Lecture 6:00 PM, Capstone Campus Room

Topic "Immigration Ethics in a New Era: Embracing Cardinal Bernardin's challenge to be both 'prophetic and public' amid the contemporary political climate with respect to migration"



About her talk, Dr. Heyer said:

"Immigration has increasingly been framed in terms of crisis management, rather than by addressing underlying economic, political and cultural contributing factors. In the contemporary US context, political rhetoric has often masked complicity, abetted human rights violations and betrayed the nation's founding principles. The lenses that shape the (quickly shifting) immigration debate in the United States can distort the realities that migrants face and become surrogates for other

cultural and political concerns. Focusing solely on economics or fear-based approaches too often de-humanizes newcomers. In my Bernardin lecture I will explore contributions that Scripture and the Catholic social tradition offer the immigration dialogue in light of these realities. Resources from Christian ethics challenge the dominant, instrumentalist frameworks and offer a counternarrative of civic kinship with moral, spiritual and policy implications--and with implications for both "prophetic" and "public" responses, in the spirit of Cardinal Bernardin."



Dr. Stephanie Mitchem, Chair of the Bernardin Lecture Committee opened the evening. She was followed by Cheryl L. Addy, Ph.D., Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, who gave a welcome from the University. Lacy Ford, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences acknowledged the donors and benefactors for the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Endowed Chair in Moral, Ethical, and Religious Studies. And then Steve Millies with the Bernardin Lecture Committee introduced the speaker.

