

The Glass Ceiling Was Cracked—What’s Our Plan to Break It?

Led by Amy K. Dacey, former CEO of the Democratic National Committee and Executive Director of EMILY’s List

Mondays | 4:30 - 5:45 PM | Harvard IOP

In two months, more women will be elected to office during the 2018 midterms than ever before in our history- this group will discuss how we got there, what is happening this cycle and what comes next.

Women still don’t have parity in elected office in the United States. Yes, we have come a long way, but what are the barriers that remain and how do we break through? We will talk about the progress made and the obstacles that remain. Looking at the parity issue from many different angles: money, media, technology, organizational decision makers, outreach to voters, and the policies we create, are we advancing women? Are we creating an environment where gender won’t matter anymore in elections and voters perceive the female candidates are the most qualified?

This study group promises to look at these questions with a new perspective, ensure inclusiveness and encourage men to come as part of the conversation.

Myself, and prominent guest speakers will delve deeper and identify issues that affect women and elections. As a former campaign manager, Executive Director of EMILY’s List and CEO of the Democratic Party, I have seen firsthand when women aren’t seated at the table or in a decision-making role how it affects us all. Is the strong women’s movement we are experiencing now making our voices stronger? More respected? Is the glass half full or half empty?

We will also have a case study of one of the 2018 races. We will review the current status of the race and include updates from the field.

Join me in taking-a-look at all the factors that contribute to the current percentages of women serving in our federal, state and local government, and even around the world. **Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of one of the most important elections in our history!**

Week 1 — September 17 — Let’s Get This Started! Who We Are & How We Got Here.

This session will cover a history of women in politics and a review of where we are today in federal, state, local and even international arenas. We will discuss how the current environment in DC is affecting elections in the states and challenging for women candidates. We will examine some case studies of the highest profile women running in 2018.

Week 2— September 24 —What is Everyone Talking About? EVERY Issue Is a Women’s Issue.

Taking a deep dive approach, we will evaluate the issues that are driving the conversation in 2018: immigration, economic crisis, health care, the opioid epidemic, the Women’s March, #MeToo, the March for our Lives, and other events and issues of the day- From the marches in the streets to the voices sharing their stories, will the outrage and call for a change directly play out at the voting booth?

Confirmed Speaker: Anna Greenberg has over 15 years of experience polling in the political, non-profit and academic sectors. She joined GQRR in 2001, after teaching public opinion and survey research methodology at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. She was the lead pollster in many successful campaigns including for Mayor Bill de Blasio, Governor Tom Wolf, Governor Mark Dayton, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Congressman Ron Barber and Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham. In 2014, Greenberg won the “Pollster of the Year” award from the AAPC for her work with Mayor Bill de Blasio’s campaign for mayor of New York City.

Week 3 — October 1 — Women in the Digital Age

Social media and the use of the Internet influence everything in our life. How has the rise of technology and new forms of communication directly impacted women in campaigns, from many perspectives: candidate, operative and voter. Also, how does the culture in Silicon Valley influence this in practice?

Speaker: Aisha Moodie Mills is a seasoned political strategist and social impact advisor with twenty-years of experience working to ensure that our democracy is responsive to, reflective of, and led by the diverse communities that are the fabric of our nation. A nationally respected voice on Democratic politics and diversity, she appears regularly as a commentator on MSNBC, and is the author of dozens of policy reports, and political and cultural analyses published in a range of media outlets. She has been recognized as one of “The Out 100”; The Root 100” top African American influencers; and a top “40 Under Forty” LGBT leader by The Advocate Magazine.

Aisha has lead and won major victories as a campaign operative and political consultant. Most recently, she was a driving force behind 2017's historic "Year of the Trans Candidate", leading the effort that elected more transgender officials across the country than ever before. In 2016 she worked tirelessly to elect an unprecedented class of LGBTQ state lawmakers of color in traditionally conservative states.

A trailblazer in her own right, Aisha was the first African American woman to lead a national LGBTQ movement organization in her role as President & CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Fund and Institute. She also helped to win marriage equality in Washington, DC where she and her wife Danielle were among the first same-sex couples to receive a marriage license. Their wedding was the first lesbian wedding ever to be featured by

Essence.

Prior to her work with Victory, Aisha served as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress where she launched a policy initiative focusing on the intersections of race and sexuality. Throughout her career she has raised millions of dollars for candidates and advocacy orgs as a consultant, and in her roles as Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, and regional finance director at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Week 4 — October 11 (Thursday)— Nothing to See Here? Women and the Media

How is the media influencing how we perceive women candidates and their campaigns? Does fake news disproportionately affect women running for office? As the role of media is changing and coming under fire, traditional means of communication are being scrutinized. We will discuss the role of media in communicating messages.

Confirmed Speaker: Stephanie Cutter is the founding partner of Precision Strategies, a leading communications, digital, and data targeting consulting firm in Washington D.C. and New York City. Called “one of the most prominent voices in the [Democratic] party, and one of its top strategists and crisis managers” by Politico, Stephanie has crafted high-level communications, reputation and crisis-management strategies for two U.S. Presidents, U.S. Senate leaders, and the nation’s highest profile political campaigns and Fortune 500 corporations. The New York Times called her “the polished, sometimes scarily organized strategist who gets things done” who “has a long and favorable reputation with some of the most influential journalists and opinion makers in Washington.” GQ named her one of “the 50 most powerful people in Washington.”

Stephanie served as Deputy Campaign Manager for President Barack Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign, where she played a pivotal role in designing and executing a game-changing campaign that broke barriers in understanding, reaching, and connecting with more Americans than any election in history. Previously, Stephanie served in various senior positions within the Obama administration and campaign, from managing the President’s message strategy and issue development in the White House, to serving as First Lady Michelle Obama’s Chief of Staff, to counselor to Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner.

Before the Obama administration, Stephanie served as a senior advisor to Minority Leader Harry Reid and Democratic Senator Edward M. Kennedy. In 2004, she served as Communications Director for the John Kerry for President Campaign. She also held various positions within the Clinton Administration, including President Clinton’s White House Deputy Communications Director.

Week 5 — October 15 — The Buck Stops Here: Women and Fundraising

Is it really the dollars that are keeping women from running competitive campaigns, and is the rise of the small dollar donor breaking that cycle? What about the role of women

as donors? We follow the money to see where, when, and how money in politics determines the gender of our candidates and the makeup of our electoral chambers.

Confirmed Speaker: Katie E. Walsh is an American Republican political operative who briefly served as White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation in the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. She is currently working with the Trump-aligned 501(c)(4) America First Policies. Walsh previously served as the Chief of Staff for the Republican National Committee. She joined the Republican National Committee as deputy Finance Director in January 2013 and became Finance Director in June of that year. In her previous role as Deputy Finance Director for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, she worked with United States Senate campaigns across the country to implement comprehensive fundraising and campaign strategies. Her past experience also includes serving as Midwest Regional Finance Director for the McCain–Palin campaign in 2008 and working for Friends of Fred Thompson, at the Ashcroft Group, and as a field representative for Missourians for Matt Blunt.

Week 6 — October 22 — What in the World? Women’s Representation around the Globe

As we become more and more intertwined globally, it matters so much who is in elected office in every country. Why do some countries have high rates of representation; why are others so low? Taking a global perspective we are able to ask the questions we need answered most – are there lessons to be learned here in the States from far-away lands? Which country inspires the most?

Speaker: TBD

Week 7 — October 29 — Is It STILL the Economy Stupid? Women and the Workforce

As the workforce changes (AI, new technologies, automation), what impact does this have on women in office and deciding public policy? From the Boardroom to the shop floor to the tech startup to the halls of Congress – all the economic factors that make women’s representation matter.

Speaker: Alyssa Mastromonaco As the youngest woman ever to be Deputy Chief of Operations at the White House, Alyssa Mastromonaco kept our country running through a government shutdown, natural disasters, national tragedies and history-making events. A key figure in the “Sisterhood of the Administration 44,” she made the presence of women felt and their voices heard – redefining the traditional White House boy’s club culture. Mastromonaco chronicled her time in Obama’s inner circle in her acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? And Other Questions You Should Have Answers to When You Work in the White House*. The memoir has been optioned by producer/star Mindy Kaling as a TV series to follow in the footsteps of White House classics *The West Wing* and *Veep*. Now speaking, writing and commenting on subjects ranging from our current political landscape to how to lead teams and handle crises, Mastromonaco combines an unfiltered style and irreverent

humor (Secret Service code name: "Popsicle") with wisdom and stories gained doing one of the most important and exciting jobs in the world.

Following the White House, Mastromonaco served as COO of Vice Media and President of Global Communications and Strategy at A&E Networks. She is currently working on her next book, *Gut Feelings: A Young Woman's Guide to the World* (Spring 2019 release) and co-host of *HYSTERIA!*, Crooked Media's all-woman produced podcast. She also contributes to Crooked Media's *Pod Save America*, is a contributing editor to *Marie-Claire* and serves as Senior Advisor and spokesperson for NARAL Pro-Choice America. Before her position as a White House Deputy, she spent a decade working for Barack Obama in various roles, beginning as Director of Scheduling for his 2004 U.S. Senate Campaign. In 2011, she was named President Obama's Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations, responsible for running and managing the entire 18-acre White House compound and the 1,700+ employees in the executive branch. She was the youngest woman ever to hold this position and was included on the *New Republic's* list of "Washington's Most Powerful, Least Famous People." Mastromonaco's career in politics began as an intern for Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and Director of Scheduling for John Kerry's presidential campaign.

Week 8 — November 5 — Tomorrow is ELECTION DAY. What is going to happen and what's next?

In this final session, we will look ahead to discuss how we will break the glass ceiling. What role will the 2018 election play in reaching that goal? What do we need to do, create, and implement to see the change? We will take the time to talk through the races- hear from operatives in the field and breakdown what will happen election night.