



Chester Ronning Centre
for the Study of Religion and Public Life

Submission and the American Presidency

Tracing the Prehistory of Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin



Emily Johnson

A Ronning Centre Lecture

The public political careers of women like Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin have raised important questions about the role of women in a conservative Christian movement premised on “traditional gender roles.” This talk will trace the history of women’s leadership in the modern Christian Right, from its rise to national prominence across the United States in the 1970s, when women such as Anita Bryant, Beverly LaHaye, and Marabel Morgan were as important as men like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson in shaping the conservative evangelical agenda on the national and grassroots levels. While the movement’s insistence on male headship and female submission made women's leadership seem paradoxical, this language also politicized women's roles as wives and mothers and thus made room for their political involvement and influence. These and similar issues hold continued relevance today, and exploring this history illuminates the significance of gender and religious conservatism in current U.S. national politics.

Emily Johnson is a graduate student at Yale University, where she studies the religious and cultural history of the United States. Her dissertation will focus on women’s leadership in the New Christian Right during its emergence in the 1970s. Emily graduated from the University of Alberta in 2007 with a B.A. in History and Women’s Studies.

Monday, 12 March, 7:00 p.m.
C014, Classroom Building
Augustana Campus, Camrose

www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA
AUGUSTANA CAMPUS