Noémi Ban Memorial Lecture Series Presents

Our Walled World:

Identity and Separation in Deeply Divided Societies

NOÉMI BAN
Memorial Lecture Series

With Dr. James Waller



Dr. James Waller is the Gladstein Family Distinguished Chair in Human Rights at the University of Connecticut. At UConn, he also serves as the Director for the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute and is a Professor of Literatures, Cultures, Languages, and Human Rights. In addition, he is a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Dr. Waller.

Tuesday, November 17, 2026
12:00-1:15 PM
On Zoom

A central defining feature of deeply divided societies is binary division – "us" and "them." These binary fault lines can arise from class, caste, religion, language, race, ethnicity, clan, or political identity. These divisions breed walled communities of fear and isolation, not only dividing populations but also uniting them in their fear of the "other." Grounded in a global comparative analysis of the literal and figurative notion of "walls" in deeply divided societies, this presentation will analyze physical walls of social separation, symbolic walls of identity separation, and hidden or invisible walls of geographical separation. The presentation will conclude by emphasizing the need for more integration in deeply divided societies and suggesting specific strategies to address the physical, symbolic, and hidden or invisible walls that separate and wound the lives of people in such societies.

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