

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:30pm
Zellerbach Hall

Heather Cox Richardson

In Conversation with Dylan Penningroth

Forging a New Political System, 2024 and Beyond

This event is part of the Charles M. and Martha Hitchcock Lectures



Heather Cox Richardson is Professor of History at Boston College. She has written about the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, and the American

West in award-winning books whose subjects stretch from the European settlement of the North American continent to the history of the Republican Party through the Trump administration. She is the author, most recently, of the best-selling *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America*. Jane Mayer has called the book “a vibrant, and essential history of America’s unending, enraging and utterly compelling struggle since its founding to live up to its own best ideals.” Richardson’s work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Guardian*, among other outlets. Her nightly newsletter, *Letters from an American*, reaches over three million readers.



Dylan C. Penningroth is Professor of Law and Morrison Professor of History at UC Berkeley. He specializes in African American history and legal history. His first

book, *The Claims of Kinfolk: African American Property and Community in the Nineteenth-Century South*, published by the University of North Carolina Press, won the 2004 Civil War and Reconstruction Book Award from the Organization of American Historians. His second book, *Before the Movement: The Hidden History of Black Civil Rights* was published by Liveright in 2023. Penningroth’s articles have appeared in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Journal of American History*, the *American Historical Review*, and *TIME*. He has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the MacArthur Foundation, and currently serves as Associate Dean of the Program in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at Berkeley Law School.

The **Hitchcock Endowment Fund** was established in 1885 from a bequest made by Dr. Charles M. Hitchcock to institute a professorship at the University of California for free lectures upon scientific and practical subjects. Dr. Hitchcock, whose longstanding interest in education inspired his contribution, was a physician and served as medical director of the Pacific Coast in the United States Army Medical Corps. The Hitchcock Foundation Lectures began in 1909 and were later expanded and retitled the Charles M. and Martha Hitchcock Lectures in 1932, thanks to a generous bequest from Dr. Hitchcock’s daughter, Lillie Hitchcock Coit.

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