



Photograph: Paula Lutinger

# on torture

A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY  
THE HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION AND  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, November 18th, 2008  
9:00am – 6:30pm

The George Washington University  
Jack Morton Auditorium, Media & Public Affairs Building  
805 21st Street NW, Washington, DC

The "torture debate" since the Abu Ghraib photographs has involved talk of legal permissibility, costs and benefits, policies, ticking time bombs and moral absolutes. Yet torture is much broader and deeper in its moral, political, legal, and social implications. This public symposium explores torture as a systematic means of exerting control and extracting information; it examines official depictions of torture; analyzes the history and institutionalization of torture; and raises the issue of accountability.

**9:00-9:30am**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SANTIAGO CANTON**

Executive Secretary of the *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights*

**9:30-11:30am**

**TORTURE AND LAW**

David Luban, *Georgetown University Law Center*

Michael Hatfield, *Texas Tech University Law School*

Dimon Liu, *Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow,  
Council of Independent Colleges*

**MODERATOR:** Andrew Zimmerman, *The George Washington University*

**11:30-1:00pm: Lunch Break**

**1:00-3:00pm**

**TORTURE AND CULTURE**

Stephanie Athey, *Lasell College*

Eduardo Subirats, *New York University*

Alphonso Lingis, *Penn State University, Emeritus*

**MODERATOR:** Silvio Waisbord, *The George Washington University*

**3:00-3:15pm: Coffee Break**

**3:15-5:15pm**

**POWER AND POLITICS**

Rebecca Wittmann, *University of Toronto*

Pilar Calveiro, *Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico*

Christopher Britt Arredondo, *The George Washington University*

Thomas C. Hilde, *University of Maryland*

**MODERATOR:** Sergio Waisman, *The George Washington University*

**5:30pm**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ARYEH NEIER**

President of the *Open Society Institute*

Sponsored by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences (George Washington University), RGSLL Department (George Washington University), Latin American and Latino Studies Group in CCAS (George Washington University)

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