

You are cordially invited to the
2018 NATALIE ZEMON DAVIS ANNUAL LECTURES

JOAN W. SCOTT

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

Joan W. Scott is professor emerita in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Columbia University Press has just published the 30th anniversary edition of her classic *Gender and the Politics of History* [1988]. Among her other books are *The Glassworkers of Carmaux: French Craftsmen and Political Action in a Nineteenth Century City* (1974), *Women, Work and Family* (coauthored with Louise Tilly) (1978), *Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man* (1996), *The Politics of the Veil* (2007), *The Fantasy of Feminist History* (2011). Her most recent books are *Sex and Secularism* (2017) and *Knowledge, Power, and Academic Freedom* (2019).

ON THE JUDGMENT OF HISTORY



We often use the words “the judgment of history,” or we suggest that we need to be “on the right side of history.” The moral stance implied in those words draws enduring distinctions between good and evil, justice and injustice, equality and inequality, right and wrong—as if in her wisdom, Clio will rescue us mortals from the errors of our ways. In these lectures, I am interested in the paradoxical operations of the judgment of history, particularly as the imposition of that judgment was seen as a means of closing the future to the wrongs of the past and in this way establishing the singular linearity of history’s path. I take as my cases three examples of the way the realization of justice was defined in the discourse of the judgment of history. The Nuremberg trial in 1946; the South African *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* struggling to implement the judgment of history (the end of apartheid) as the future of the nation was being negotiated in 1996; the movement for reparations for slavery in the U.S., a demand from before the Civil War to the present for the recognition of an old judgment of history—about the immorality of human bondage—in the present. These lectures explore ideas of history, justice, and judgment, of the moral and the political, and of the nation-state as the embodiment of history itself.

**NUREMBERG:
THE FUTURE
OF THE
NATION-STATE**

**TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
IN SOUTH AFRICA:
NATIONAL POLITICS
IN THE PRESENT**

**REPARATIONS
FOR SLAVERY:
REDEEMING
PAST PROMISES**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

5.30 pm

CEU-Nador 15 Auditorium B

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

5.30 pm

CEU-Nador 15 Auditorium B

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5.30 pm

CEU-Nador 15 Auditorium B