The 2017 Otis Social Justice Award and Lecture

Honoring

Dr. Nancy Folbre

March 28, 2017
Hindle Auditorium
Science Center
7:30 p.m.
Program

Introduction to the Otis Social Justice Award
Renée White, Provost

Introduction of Dr. Nancy Folbre
Brenda Wyss, Associate Professor of Economics

Presentation of the 2017 Otis Social Justice Award
Dennis Hanno, President

Divided but Not Conquered: Intersectional Conflicts and Coalitions in the Age of Trump
Dr. Nancy Folbre

Interactive Discussion with Audience
Facilitated by Brenda Wyss
About the Otis Social Justice Award

As an academic institution dedicated to the values of community, integrity, diversity and service, Wheaton College inaugurated the Otis Social Justice Award in 1990.

This event unites the college community in the exploration of issues central to a just society: peace, world hunger, human rights, economic parity, and protection of children. It also honors the women and men who have enriched our understanding of these issues and brought us closer to compassionate action. In tribute to their insight and expertise, these individuals receive the Otis Social Justice Award, which includes an honorarium that recipients may donate to the cause of their choice.

The Otis Social Justice Award was born from the generosity of the late Henry Witte Otis, a longtime friend of the college and father of two Wheaton alumnae. The Otis Fund memorializes Mr. Otis’ first wife, Marjorie Maxfield Otis, and a daughter Marilla Claire Otis Hiltz ’50. For 30 years the fund supported an annual lecture series in religion; distinguished scholars, theologians and writers visited campus to address such topics as the Holocaust in historical context, and religion and politics. Today, though the scope of the fund has widened, its primary purpose is unchanged: to spark reflection and discourse within a community of learners.
Nancy Folbre is Professor Emerita of Economics and Director of the Program on Gender and Care Work at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Senior Fellow of the Levy Economics Institute at Bard College. Her research explores the interface between political economy and feminist theory, with a particular emphasis on the value of unpaid care work. In addition to numerous articles published in academic journals, she is the editor of For Love and Money: Care Work in the U.S. (Russell Sage, 2012), and the author of Greed, Lust, and Gender: A History of Economic Ideas (Oxford, 2009), Valuing Children: Rethinking the Economics of the Family (Harvard, 2008), and The Invisible Heart: Economics and Family Values (New Press, 2001). She has also written widely for a popular audience, including contributions to the New York Times Economix blog, The Nation, and the American Prospect. Folbre was a founding member and is a past President of the International Association for Feminist Economics and has been a staff economist with the Center for Popular Economics since 1979.

In addition to her career as a teacher and scholar, Folbre has also been a much-sought-after consultant. Folbre has consulted for the United Nations, the Population Council, the International Labour Office, the International Center for Research on Women, the Royal Swedish Academy of Science, and the Maine Commission for Women. Folbre was a member of the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress convened by Pres. Sarkozy of France and chaired by Joseph Stiglitz and Amartya Sen and was also a member of the National Advisory Commission on Child Care and Early Education of NOW’s Legal Defense and Education Fund. Folbre has received numerous awards for her work. These include a MacArthur Foundation Five-Year Fellowship (the “Genius Grant”), the Leontief Prize of the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University, and selection as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar.
Past Otis Social Justice Award Recipients include:

- C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General
- Jonathan Kozol, Public School Reform Advocate
- Marian Wright Edelman, Children’s Defense Fund Founder
- Bill Richardson, New Mexico Governor
- Gloria Steinem, Activist and author
- Howard Zinn, Activist, historian and playwright
- Barbara Ehrenreich, Author
- Molly Ivins, Political columnist
- Edward M. Kennedy, Senator (D-Mass)
- Sister Helen Prejean, Educator and Activist
- Kelly McLaughlin ’90, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Tufts
- Pedro Noguera, Ph. D., Professor of Education, New York University
- Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Director, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian
- Nontombi Naomi Tutu, Race & Gender Justice Activist
- Dr. Augustus A. White, III, Founder of the Culturally Competent Care Education Program, Harvard University
- Charles J. Ogletree Jr., Professor of Law, Harvard University and Founder, Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
- Deogratias “Deo” Niyizonkiza, Founder and CEO, Village Health Works, Burundi