
Democratic Dialogue Speaker Series presents:

*Americans Against
“The American Century”:
US Teachers and the
Dilemmas of Culture*

Thursday, October 26, 2006

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Room 86 Tabaret Hall*

Reception to follow



DR. JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
Professor of Education and History
New York University

Between 1898 and the present, between 150,000 and 200,000 Americans – including teachers, Peace Corps volunteers, and Christian missionaries – served as teachers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Early on, these teachers assumed the superiority of their own “civilization” and sought to foist it upon the “natives.” But their sensibilities shifted dramatically near the middle of the century when, instead, they resolved to protect foreign cultures from the ravages of their own. At the same time, their concept of “culture” also caricatured The Other as essentially different from ourselves – and blinded American teachers to the human universals that should bind us all.

Jonathan Zimmerman is Professor of Education and History at New York University. A former Peace Corps volunteer and high school teacher, Zimmerman is the author of numerous articles and three books, most recently *Innocents Abroad: American Teachers in the American Century* (Harvard, 2006). Zimmerman is also a frequent op-ed contributor to the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Toronto Globe and Mail, and many other newspapers and magazines.

*For directions to Tabaret Hall Visit www.uottawa.ca/map

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