

### Through Another Lens: American Democracy Viewed through Race/Ethnicity and Subnational Institutions

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Rodney Hero's intellectual work tracks some of the most significant political, social, and economic changes in recent American life. While the work is broad in scope and analytically intensive, it consistently reflects his concern with the "American Dilemma"—the persistent if changing dynamics of race and inequality in a liberal polity. In addressing this question, his work thoughtfully re-examines basic assumptions about pluralism and inter group politics, federalism, political institutions, political culture, and social capital. With a wide breadth of knowledge and continuing curiosity, Hero has made significant scholarly contributions in a broad range of subfields in the discipline: racial and ethnic politics, state politics, urban politics, public policy, US Congressional politics, federalism, and more. In addition to his reputation for



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Rodney Hero

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innovative theoretical development, his scholarly contributions are distinctly multimedial and theoretically grounded in the classic questions confronting political science: power, representation, equality, democratic practice.

Colleagues, coauthors, and students alike characterize Hero in vivid terms: a strong intellectual curiosity and insight, an understanding of the importance of

asking big-picture questions and seeking answers through solid empirics, a contextualist and relational perspective, an open-minded and generous collaborator, and a committed, engaged mentor. As noted later in the text, when viewed in the context of exceptional service to his universities, communities, and the discipline, this presence and his scholarly contributions are remarkable.

#### TRAJECTORIES

Currently on the political science faculty at the University of California, Berkeley, Rodney Hero recently served as the Packey J. Dee Professor of American Democracy at the University of Notre Dame (2009–2010), including two terms as chair of its political science department. In 2008, he was a visiting senior research scholar at the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, at Princeton University. He joined the faculty at the University of Colorado, Boulder, department of political science (1989–2000), after holding positions at Arizona State University and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Appointed in 2011 as the Haas Chair in Diversity and Democracy at University of California, Berkeley, Hero's own higher education started in public institutions in Florida: St. Petersburg Jr. College (AA, 1973) and Florida State University (BS, 1975). (He was the first in his family to be a college graduate). His 1980 PhD in political science from Purdue University developed questions on federalism that became the core of his early publications and continue to be reflected in his research. The dissertation assessed the

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