Faith and Power

Dr. Jorge Juan Rodríguez V talks to Dr. Maggie Elmore, Dr. Sergio M. González, and Dr. Felipe Hinojosa about their edited volume on how religion has shaped Latino politics and community building since 1945.

Too often religious politics are considered peripheral to social movements, not central to them. Faith and Power: Latino Religious Politics Since 1945 (NYU Press, 2022) seeks to correct this misinterpretation, focusing on the post–World War II era. The edited volume shows that the religious politics of this period were central to secular community-building and resistance efforts. In this episode of OP Talks, Dr. Jorge Juan Rodríguez V talks to Dr. Maggie Elmore, Dr. Sergio M. González, and Dr. Felipe Hinojosa, editors of the volume. Faith and Power traces the interplay between Latino religions and a variety of pivotal movements, from the farm worker movement to the sanctuary movement, offering breadth and nuance to this history.

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“Historians of Latinx politics have typically downplayed the importance of religion, and studies of Latinx religion have tended to focus on spirituality, belief, and cultural expression, while ignoring politics. Featuring an extraordinary lineup of scholars—including some of the top influential Latinx historians—Faith and Power is an impressive resource for understanding Latinx religious politics.”

Geraldo Cadava
Author, The Hispanic Republican: The Shaping of an American Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump