Jointly organized by USCET and SISU, this forum intends to help Chinese scholars of American Studies as well as graduate students to gain a better understanding of the American principles of religious pluralism and the separation of church and state – an important underpinning of the U.S. social, cultural and political fabric. Besides hearing from two distinguished historians from the U.S. and Australia, Chinese academics and students from SISU and Shanghai at large will have the opportunity to present or discuss their insights and perspectives. Major topics to be addressed include the relationship between religion and American national values, the tension between religious values and secular political culture in American social and political life, the notion of America being a “Christian nation” and the influence of the Christian Right on foreign policy, as well as how two of the greatest public tragedies in American life—9/11 and the Boston marathon bombings—have challenged the principle of religious tolerance.

**November 12, Tuesday**

**9:30 am** **Opening Session**

Welcome and Overview of the Forum Theme and Objective

*Shanghai International Studies University American Studies Center Director*

***Wang Enming***

*USCET President Ambassador* ***Julia Chang Bloch***

**9:45 am Discussion I**

**Moderator: Professor Marilyn Lake**

Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow in History at the University of Melbourne, Fellow of the Academies of Humanities and Social Sciences in Australia

President of the Australian Historical Association

*Religion and American National Values: The Politics of a Widely Perceived “Christian Nation”*

**Professor Sonya Michel**

Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
 Professor of History, University of Maryland

*Uncertain Times Ahead: The American Christian Right and US Foreign Policy*

**Professor Tu Yichao**

Assistant Professor, Center for American Studies

Fudan University

**10:30 am Q&A**

**11:00 am Tea Break**

**11:15 am Group Photo**

**11:30 pm Tour of SISU Campus and Neighborhood**

**12:30 pm** **Lunch -** hosted by SISU

**2:00 pm** **University Open Lecture**

**Welcome** **Remarks**

*Shanghai International Studies University American Studies Center Director*

***Wang Enming***

**Introduction of Keynote Speakers**

*USCET President* ***Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch***

**Professor Sonya Michel**

*How 9/11 and the Boston Marathon Bombings Have Challenged the American Principles of Religious Tolerance and Pluralism*

**Professor Marilyn Lake**

*Role of Religion in American and Australian Social Movements for Race and Gender Equality*

**4:00pm** **Open Lecture Concludes**

**4:30 pm Courtesy Call by USCET and Speakers on SISU Leadership (tentative)**

**6:30 pm** **Dinner with USCET-ASN members in Shanghai** - hosted by USCET

**November 13, Wednesday**

**10:00 am** **Graduate Student Roundtable** **with** **Dr. Sonya Michel** **& Dr. Marilyn Lake**

  Discuss Topics of Interest, Share Research Focus/Ideas

**11:30 am Forum Program Concludes, Two Speakers Depart SISU**