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Freedom, Democracy, and Its Institutions

Consider these questions:

- What is freedom? In practical terms, what does it mean to choose freely, act freely, or live in a free society?
- What freedoms are central to democratic societies? And are there some kinds of freedom that are at odds with democracy?
- What kinds of social and political institutions create and sustain democratic freedoms? How do these institutions depend on love and solidarity, and how can they foster this love and solidarity?

This presentation and following discussion will address these questions. After rejecting an understanding of freedom as individual self-determination or personal choice or private power, it will:

- set forth a view of freedom as a feature of public institutions and social practices;
- develop an account of specifically democratic freedoms—and undemocratic freedoms too; and,
- explain how institutionalized love and solidarity are central to democratic freedom and its capacity to overcome contemporary authoritarian forces.

Friday, March 31, 2023
at 5:00 pm,
COE, Room 164
An Informal Reception to Follow