



Today's idea: "The unfortunate fact is that American academics have until recently shown little curiosity about conservative ideas," a Columbia professor writes. So a new "right-wing" studies center in the liberal precincts of Berkeley is a welcome development.

Education | [Writing](#) in the Chronicle Review, Mark Lilla of Columbia University says conservatives are so rare on campus faculties nowadays that when he tells colleagues he used to work for a neoconservative journal, they react as if he were something akin to a wife-beater.

Now an "ex-conservative" professor, Lilla is cautiously optimistic that things are changing. The newly opened Center for the Comparative Study of Right-Wing Movements at the University of California at Berkeley, he says, augurs better days for a type of intellectual diversity that the humanities have long neglected:

A look at the online catalogs of our major universities confirms this: plenty of courses on identity politics and postcolonialism, nary a one on conservative political thought. Professors are expected to understand the subtle differences among gay, lesbian, and transgender studies, but I would wager that few can distinguish between the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation, and the Cato Institute, three think tanks that have a greater impact on Washington politics than the entire Ivy League.

The essay is accompanied by [responses](#) from Bruce L.R. Smith and Alan Wolfe — of George Mason University and Boston College, respectively — who actually agree with Lilla, up to a point. [Chronicle Review, [here](#) and [here](#)]

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Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

this is absolutely insane.

women's studies, queer studies, african american studies and so on have a specific purpose behind them - that of providing an opportunity to study a culture that one is not a part of. for the last thirty years, conservative culture has dominated our contries airwaves and politics. they Hardly need college professors to speak for them.

Love is the law, love under will.

— *Susan Holmes*

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