There are good reasons to think the polarized ideological posturing now routine in Congress, and frequently in State government too, is not just a product of the bad behavior of some elected officials, or of one or both major political parties. Rather, it has institutional roots which are likely to survive the shenanigans of particular office holders, and reproduce the same phenomenon for the foreseeable future.

Prof. Nunan will argue that the manner in which we conduct elections is a major contributor the problem, and to its increasing severity. The issue on which he will focus is not our electoral processes—e.g., hanging chads and compromised punch cards of *Bush v Gore* fame, or the current wave of voter ID laws and reductions in polling place access—but our electoral *system*: our method of voting (something we never discuss in America). Specifically, our single-member district plurality (or majority) system is not helping. An alternative to our current system, proportional representation by single transferable vote, will be discussed in light of two competing views about the true purpose of elections—one advocated by Federal Circuit Court Justice Richard Posner (a Reagan appointee), and the other advocated by nineteenth century political and moral philosopher John Stuart Mill (not a Reagan appointee).