

May 12, 2008

Clarification of Statement Concerning Dr. Kevin MacDonald

The History Department issued its initial statement in response to a request that we host a forum on Professor MacDonald's scholarship. We did not hold such a forum because we do not, nor do professional historians in general, recognize his scholarship as historically creditable. We invite other historians to engage with it, but for the present we simply reiterate that while we support his right to publish his views, we will not credit them by hosting a forum on his work or engaging in a discussion of its historical merits. We conclude by referring interested parties to our original statement below, and to the following policy statements of the American Historical Association:

American Historical Association, "Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct":
<http://www.historians.org/pubs/Free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm>

Jamil Zainaldin, "The Price of Truth: History, Deborah Lipstadt, and the Libel Trial":
<http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2002/0201/0201note1.cfm>

April 4, 2008

Statement Concerning Dr. Kevin MacDonald

In light of the ongoing controversy regarding Dr. Kevin MacDonald, the members of the CSULB History Department have agreed to the following statement:

We in the CSULB History Department firmly believe in and seek to protect the guiding tenets of academic freedom, but we also understand that the mantle of "academic freedom" can sometimes be used to advance racism, bigotry, or other forms of intolerance. When racism or other forms of intolerance are promoted in academia, they undermine the principles upon which CSULB was founded.

As a university, we have an obligation to maintain a campus climate in which individuals from a wide range of religious, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds can have meaningful exchanges in a context of mutual respect. The prejudicial views expressed by Professor Kevin MacDonald in his writings and in his public statements are professionally irresponsible and morally untenable.

We are particularly concerned about MacDonald's misguided attempts to use history to back up his various assertions. Although MacDonald has stated that he is not a historian, he frequently makes historical claims in his writings, despite his lack of training or understanding of historical methodology. For example, he asserts that European culture has been typified by individualistic, democratic, and republican societies, a claim that ignores the centuries-long history of European feudalism, and ignores the historical development of numerous European states. He argues that Europeans have been historically monogamous without ever explaining his method for reaching such a sweeping conclusion. He argues that the 1965 U.S. Immigration Law was "ultimate triumph of the Jewish policy on immigration,"¹ without ever examining the legislative history of the bill or the actual congressional debates over it. It appears that his approach to historical investigation is antithetical to our discipline in that he selects only those materials that support his preconceived thesis while ignoring all evidence to the contrary. MacDonald's misuse of historical methodology would be unacceptable in an undergraduate history paper; how much more disturbing, therefore, is the fact that in these writings he is identified as a professor at CSULB.

¹ Kevin MacDonald, *The Culture of Critique: An Evolutionary Analysis of Jewish Involvement in Twentieth-Century Intellectual and Political Movements* (Westport: Praeger, 1998), 291.

We wish to make it clear that in no way do we wish to impede Dr. MacDonald's First Amendment rights or interfere with his academic freedom. But just as he has the freedom of speech to advance his white nationalist agenda, so too do we have the freedom of speech to deplore his prejudicial views of Jews and non-whites and state that Dr. MacDonald's writings on white ethnocentrism, Jews, race, and immigration do not enjoy the respect of the members of the Department of History.