

# The Provost's Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

## The End of the Corporate University: What We Are Now

### Wendy Brown

Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley



Wendy Brown is a Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Brown's fields of interest include the history of political theory, 19th- and 20th-century continental theory, critical theory, and theories of contemporary capitalism. She is best known for intertwining the insights of Marx, Nietzsche, Weber, Freud, Frankfurt School theorists, Foucault, and contemporary continental philosophers to critically interrogate formations of power, political identity, citizenship, and political subjectivity in contemporary liberal democracies.

In her lecture, Professor Brown will attempt to explain two things at a very broad level: first, why it took so long for the university to be conquered by market rationality, and second, the entailments of this conquest for both faculty governance and the value of an education. She will argue that the frequent naming of our predicament today as "the corporatization of the university" *misreads* how universities have been reshaped by the transition from a corporate economy to a shareholder or financialized one. More than a misnomer, the term "corporate university" prevents us from grasping what this transition has meant for both the governance and the mission(s) of universities.

**Lecture:**

3 to 4:30 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room  
Student Community  
Center

**Reception:**

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
Multipurpose Room  
Student Community  
Center

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