

# IRI 20 IN 21



## Dr. Leah Wright Rigueur

*Associate Professor*  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Leah Wright Rigueur is the Harry S. Truman Associate Professor of American History at Brandeis University and a former Associate Professor of Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. As a trained political historian, her scholarship and research expertise include:

- > 20th Century United States political and social history
- > Modern African American history, with an emphasis on race and political ideology
- > American Presidential elections
- > Policies and civil rights movements
- > Protest and civil unrest in the United States

Dr. Rigueur's award-winning book, *The Loneliness of the Black Republican: Pragmatic Politics and the Pursuit of Power* covers more than four decades of American political and social history, and examines the ideas and actions of black officials and politicians, from the era of the New Deal to Ronald Reagan's presidential ascent in 1980. Currently, she is working on a book manuscript, *Mourning in America: Black Men and Women in a White House*, that documents critical transformations in American politics and corporate America in the 1980s and 1990s — including many of the same issues that plague political institutions and corporate America today.

At both the Harvard Kennedy School and Brandeis University, Dr. Rigueur leads the **Race and American Politics** initiative, a multidisciplinary series of seminars and roundtables addressing the most pressing issues in race and American politics.

Dr. Rigueur is an ABC News Contributor, and her writing, research and commentary has been featured in media outlets including, MSNBC, CNN, CBS News, PBS, NPR, The New York Times, Washington Post, C-SPAN, The Atlantic, 538, Daily Beast, Associated Press, New Republic, The Root, Al Jazeera (English), BBC Radio, Vox, Politico, The New Yorker, Slate, Sirius XM Radio, BuzzFeed News, Weekly Standard, Washington Times, Choice, MTV News, HuffPost, Vogue, TV One News, Fortune Magazine, A&E Networks, The History Channel and Showtime. In 2018, she helped cover the mid-term elections for MSNBC and Al-Jazeera (English) and covered the US Presidential Election for Al-Jazeera (English) in 2016.

She holds a Ph.D. in History from Princeton University and a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College.