

THE CONVERSATION US

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For Immediate Release



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New Podcast on 1968's Lasting Impact on the American Family Features Natasha Zaretsky of Southern Illinois University

August 22, 2018 (Boston, MA) – The Conversation is launching its first podcast — *Heat and Light: Stories from 1968, the year that changed America*. One of the inaugural episodes launching on August 28th explores how that year brought critical changes to the dynamics of the American family.

Go to the website www.heatlightpod.com to hear the trailer and learn more about *Heat and Light*.

In 1968 the *Norman Rockwell* picture of the American family – the husband as breadwinner, the stay-at-home wife and mother, two kids, a white picket fence – was still widely accepted as the ideal. But 1968 brought the beginnings of change as more women entered the workforce, manufacturing moved overseas and the feminist movement gained steam, marked by the protest of that year's Miss America Pageant. For many Americans this wasn't just a change in the structure of the typical family – it was a sign that essential American values were in danger.

"The year 1968 marked a crucial moment of transition in the history of the American family. This history is worth revisiting today, especially as the religious right pivots away from its earlier attention to family values and turns increasingly to questions surrounding religious liberty," said Southern Illinois University historian Natasha Zaretsky, the episode's featured storyteller.

This is one of two inaugural episodes released on August 28th [in this new podcast series](#). In each episode of the six-part series, host Phillip Martin, the Senior Investigative Reporter for Boston public NPR station WGBH, jumps into the maelstrom that was 1968 with scholars from across the country.

"Each topic we cover in *Heat and Light* informs the dialogue we're having today in courtrooms, in classrooms and at dinner tables in the United States, including conversations around police brutality, technology, the morphing of our political parties and more," said Martin.

The Conversation is an independent, nonprofit publisher of analysis and commentary, authored by academics and edited by journalists for the general public. [The Conversation US](#) has relationships with scholars at more than 625 colleges and universities, with articles distributed to thousands of newsrooms daily by the Associated Press. For more information about our inaugural podcast, including interviews, photos, audio samples and other media requests related to the Heat and Light podcast, please contact Joel Abrams or Jason Lindley.

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