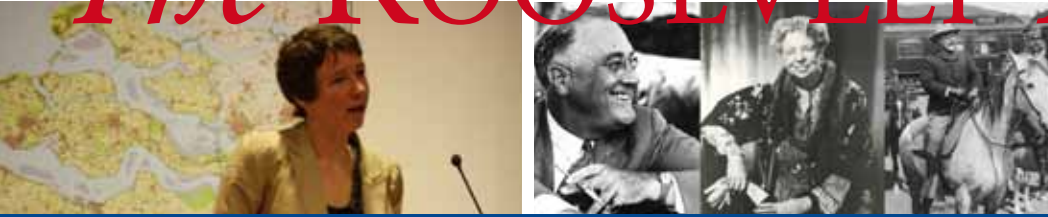


The ROOSEVELT HERALD



The Roosevelt Study Center is located in the historical Abbey of Middelburg

RSC Assessed in International Peer Review as **Good to Very Good**

EVALUATION

Under the auspices of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in January 2012 an international peer review committee has assessed the work of the RSC in the years 2005-2011 as “good to very good.” The committee members were Professor James Kennedy (University of Amsterdam), Dr. Andrew Preston (Clare College, Cambridge University), and Professor Vincent Michelot (Institut d’Etudes Politiques, Université de Lyon).

The committee concluded that the output of the RSC staff was “impressive” and that “extraordinary things have been achieved in the last couple of years.” The committee, however, also expressed its concerns about the severe budget cuts the RSC has faced and which are expected to continue in the next few years. Fortunately, the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science has decided henceforth to co-sponsor the RSC. This year the RSC has worked to implement the committee’s recommendations to improve the RSC’s visibility and identity through a new website and to emphasize more the Roosevelts and their legacy in the RSC research programs. The RSC’s motto is now “Exploring the Roosevelt Legacy in Transatlantic Relations.”

Our New Look

THE ROOSEVELT HERALD

After the RSC’s twenty fifth anniversary in 2011 and the evaluation by an international peer review committee in early 2012, the RSC decided to create a new newsletter, *The Roosevelt Herald*. This newsletter, to be published on the website and in hard copy, will feature news items and short review articles on RSC activities.

For more extensive information on the RSC visit the website: www.roosevelt.nl.

“Extraordinary things have been achieved in the last couple of years.”

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INTERVIEW WITH POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER DARIO FAZZI



Postdoctoral researcher Dario Fazzi with a portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt.

In September 2012 Dr. Dario Fazzi joined the RSC staff for three years to carry out a post-doctoral project on Eleanor Roosevelt and the anti-nuclear movements in Europe and the U.S.

What triggered your interest in the anti-nuclear movements?

I studied International Relations and History in Italy, and this involved studying the Cold War in the traditional way – as an antagonistic political, economic, and military contest between two competing powers. Then during my MA I followed a course on peace history, and I became interested in how the peace movements provide a different view on the Cold War. These were people who wanted to overcome the East-West division, who refused to accept the threat of nuclear Armageddon. I saw them as “frikkettoni,” as alternative thinkers who refused to accept the orthodox view. This inspired me to study them in more detail.

What was your PhD thesis about?

It is called “The Hot Peace: The Birth of Anti-Nuclear Movements in Great Britain and the United States, 1957-1963.”

What is the link with Eleanor Roosevelt?

My project on Eleanor Roosevelt is an extension of my “Hot Peace” work – continuing my work on those individuals, like Linus Pauling or Albert Schweitzer, who refused to accept the Cold War military confrontation as taken for granted. This put them at odds with the Cold War establishment, and I admire their search for a new way of thinking on nuclear weapons, outside the orthodoxy of “more nuclear weapons = more security.”

Up till now there have been no studies of Eleanor Roosevelt’s role in these movements. Yet she was a public intellectual and provided links between the various movements. She understood the power of political rhetoric and public opinion, and the ways to reach out and use the media in the debate. Eleanor Roosevelt was a pragmatist – she did not support unilateral disarmament but she did understand that nuclear weapons did not increase a nation’s security.

What materials on Eleanor Roosevelt does the RSC possess?

The RSC’s holdings are extensive. The Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt 1945-1962, the Oral History Transcripts, and her FBI File form the basis, and the Center recently acquired the recordings from her Radio Programs from 1950-1951, in which she discussed a wide variety of topics ranging from the role of the UN to the impact of television. These broadcasts put her on the map as a political commentator in the U.S. The RSC will be expanding this collection as new materials become available.

FIRST DUTCH SURVEY ON U.S. PRESIDENTS

Inspired by the survey of British academics run by the Institute for the Study of the Americas in London in 2010, the RSC asked 173 Dutch American Studies and International Relations scholars their opinion on U.S. presidents. Forty-four responded with their choice for the president with the highest moral standards, the best overall vision, the most successful foreign and domestic policy and, finally, the worst record. The results show a clear-cut preference for FDR in terms of overall vision, foreign and domestic policy. Lincoln and Wilson received many votes for their moral standards. Surprisingly, popular presidents like Clinton, JFK, or Obama did not do so well, while controversial figures such as Nixon, Reagan, and Johnson scored well in foreign and domestic policy. In general, Dutch scholars disregarded the U.S. founding fathers. Predictably, George W. Bush is considered the black sheep, followed by Republican Presidents Nixon, Hoover and Harding.

Full results and an analysis can be found on the RSC website, www.roosevelt.nl.

EBSN

From September 5 to 7, 2012 the RSC Hosted the First Conference of the Newly Created European Beat Studies Network

The Network aims to bring together from across Europe (and beyond) those who share an interest in the Beat Generation and associated writings. Back in 1998 the RSC organized a successful conference on the Beats for the first time and some of the participants of that meeting were also in Middelburg in September.

The conference was attended by some sixty participants from fourteen European countries, the U.S., and Australia, most of whom presented papers during the three-day meeting on a variety of topics dealing with the Beats. For instance, the conference featured sessions on Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, Beat women, the Beat influences and receptions in Europe, Beat cinema, and also included a session with Jack Kerouac biographer Gerald Nicosia and a screening of the documentary *The Beat Hotel in Paris*.

All participants praised the congenial atmosphere of the RSC and Middelburg's Abbey and the European Beat Studies Network expressed its hope to return to Middelburg for its fifth annual conference in 2016.

Professor Oliver Harris (r), first president of the EBSN, and Kerouac biographer Gerald Nicosia (l).



Historians of Modern America Meet in Middelburg's Abbey and Decide to Return

From June 20 to 22 an international group of sixty five scholars convened at the Roosevelt Study Center to hold the 2012 meeting of the HOTCUS – Historians of the Twentieth Century United States. It was the first time that this conference took place outside the United Kingdom in order to attract more colleagues from the European Continent. This goal was achieved in Middelburg: scholars from twelve countries joined the organization and presented their papers.

The RSC Fulbright scholar Charles Postel (San Francisco State University) delivered the keynote address, entitled: "If They Repeal the Progressive Era, Should We Care?" Linking the New Gilded Age to the development of American liberalism and the expansion of social and civil rights through the twentieth century, and ultimately the Occupy Movement, Postel made a strong case that these rights are now under

threat from a conservative Congress, neoliberal ideology, and Tea Party ideologues. Historians can help defend this legacy by highlighting its achievements and defending the hard-fought victories secured a century ago for a more equal and just America. The lecture was concluded with a vibrant q and a session, a reception and conference dinner.

Over the following two days the conference offered panels on a variety of topics in U.S. history, ranging from civil rights, informal diplomacy, and foreign relations to literature, the arts, and religion. As with every HOTCUS conference, the participants represented a cross-section of the U.S. history academic community, from PhD's to full professors, allowing for an informal and friendly atmosphere and a productive exchange of ideas throughout the three days. Based on this successful foray across the Channel, the board decided to return to the RSC once every three or four years.



Artist's Impression made by studio HARTZEMA

The RSC is a Partner of the New Leiden Institute of Global and Area Studies

LIGA

In 2012 the RSC has become a partner in the Leiden Institute of Global and Area Studies (LIGA) which is still in its early stages of formation and will be based on a cooperation of at present eight organizations, including two museums, that have collections, research and teaching expertise in area studies focused on Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and North America. LIGA aims to develop a dynamic program of research in comparative area studies and public events. The University of Leiden is coordinator and supporter of LIGA.

NEW PUBLICATIONS RSC



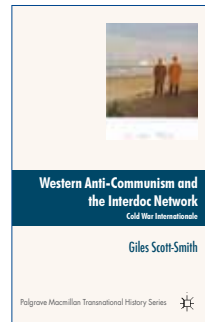
Divided Dreamworlds? The Cultural Cold War in East and West, edited by Peter Romijn, Giles Scott-Smith, and Joes Segal.

Covering developments across the arts and sciences, the eleven chapters in this volume explore perspectives on East-West cultural exchange and visions of modernity, ranging from interior design to popular music, and film-making to air travel.



Obama, U.S. Politics and Transatlantic Relations: Change or Continuity?, edited by Giles Scott-Smith.

The election of president Barack Obama in November 2008 promised change and renewal for the U.S. and its relations with the world. Four years later, the nineteen essays in this book from U.S. and European authors assess the current state of transatlantic relations.



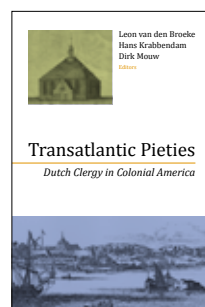
Western Anti-Communism and the Interdoc Network: Cold War Internationale (also published in Dutch as *Interdoc: Een geheim netwerk in de koude oorlog*), by Giles Scott-Smith.

Interdoc was created in 1963 to coordinate the Western response to Moscow's ideological challenge. The book tells for the first time the story of the organization's foundation, its activities, and its extended network across Europe and North America.



America's Transatlantic Turn: Theodore Roosevelt and the "Discovery" of Europe, edited by Hans Krabbendam and John M. Thompson.

TR developed a remarkable array of personal, cultural, intellectual, and diplomatic links to Europe which enabled him to lay the foundation for modern U.S.-European relations. Ten TR specialists analyze the factors that led to this success.



Transatlantic Pieties: Dutch Clergy in Colonial America, edited by Leon van den Broeke, Hans Krabbendam, and Dirk Mouw.

This book explores the ways in which the lives and careers of fourteen Dutch Reformed ministers illuminate important aspects of European and American colonial society of their times.



STUDIUM GENERALE

RSC Lecture Series on the 2012 American Presidential Elections



The Roosevelt Study Center set up a research and lecture program in cooperation with Roosevelt Academy students and the Royal Zeeland Society of Arts and Sciences to present the principles and practices of U.S. Presidential Elections to a general audience.

In his lecture on February 29 American Studies expert and political scientist Koen Petersen observed that Dutch audiences are ill-informed about the U.S. because most Dutch correspondents in the U.S. confirm the image presented by popular TV series that only offer a perspective on the country as seen from modern coastal cities, like New York or San Francisco, and in general completely overlook the perspective from America's heartland.

Professor Galen Irwin, an opinion poll and voting behavior expert at Leiden University, explained the function of campaign strategies on April 4. To win the campaign the contender has to try to motivate supporters to vote and opponents to stay home, to persuade undecided voters to become supporters, and convert opponents into supporters. This goal has stayed the same, but the ways and means of campaigning have changed significantly.

On October 10 Leiden University professor of American history Adam Fairclough compared the presidencies of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Barack Obama as markers of the shifts that occurred in the American political system. On October 24 political adviser Kirsten Verdel talked about her experiences working for the Democratic Party's Obama Campaign in 2008 and provided a rare glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes in American elections. The final lecture in this series was delivered on October 31 by professor of American Studies at the University of Birmingham, Scott Lucas. He addressed the possible changes in foreign policy if Obama is not reelected.

Following each lecture a Roosevelt Academy student presented samples of her or his research on the presidential elections, illustrating and occasionally challenging the conclusions of the speakers. They addressed campaign finance reform, the coverage of Republican candidates in the Dutch press, the free trade issue in presidential debates, and strategies of Democratic presidents to frame the role of Congress in passing foreign policy legislation. This lecture series was part of the Studium Generale events in the Zeeland region.

NEW IN OUR COLLECTION

Opening of Exhibition “United in The Hague”



Developed by the office of The Hague’s Mayor Jozias van Aartsen in cooperation with the Roosevelt Study Center, the exhibition covers the role of President Franklin Roosevelt in establishing the UN and the development of the organization since 1945. The exhibition was on display in October 2012 in the city hall of The Hague.



New sets of microfilms now available at the RSC include Civil Rights during the Eisenhower Administration on school, desegregation and the Black Power Movement.



A unique Eleanor Roosevelt Collection came to the RSC. It consists of 250 tapes of her famous radio programs for WNBC in New York in 1950-1951.

The RSC acquired Cold War Era Special Reports (1953-1963 and 1964-1983) as well as the Cold War Era Research Reports (1960-1963).

The RSC completed the CIA Research Reports between 1946-1976, extending the collection to Asia, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AMERICAN HISTORY AWARDS 2012

Roger Voncken won the Award and a Roosevelt Trip to New York



Each year since 1987 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Awards (TRAHA) are presented to authors of the best Dutch master theses on an American history topic. In a ceremony on April 19 the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award for 2012 was presented to Roger Voncken, a graduate of Radboud University in Nijmegen, for his thesis “Rediscovering U.S. Geopolitics: A Study on the Influence of Classical Geopolitics on American Foreign Policy during 1945-1950.” According to the jury, the thesis was “thought-provoking, well-written, carefully-argued, persuasive and original.”

Roger Voncken won a trip to Theodore Roosevelt sites in New York and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and Eleanor Roosevelt’s Val-Kill in Hyde Park, New York. He also received a bust of Theodore Roosevelt. In the report on his visit Roger Voncken wrote, “I had an unforgettable week and will cherish the Roosevelt trip the rest of my life.”

RESEARCHERS AT THE RSC



Simon Toner, PhD student London School of Economics, U.K.

Seventeen Scholars Received a RSC Research Grant in 2012

In 2012 seventeen young scholars from Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland and the U.K. were awarded RSC research grants to use the Center's holdings for their BA, MA or PhD projects.

The topics of the researchers span the entire twentieth century, from Pandora Donegan's BA dissertation (University of Exeter), "In What Ways did Theodore Roosevelt's response to the Kishinev Pogrom of 1903 differ from Franklin D. Roosevelt's response to Kristallnacht in 1938?" to Paulina Szelag's PhD (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) on "The European Union, the United Nations, and Conflict Resolution in the Balkans."

The RSC's productive alliance with Plymouth University continued into its sixth year, with eight undergraduates studying for their History dissertation visiting the RSC during January-March. In September one of this group, Matthew Coulton, received the Roosevelt Award for the best BA dissertation in U.S. History for his study on "U.S. Policy towards Cuba under the Eisenhower Administration, 1959-1961."

INTERVIEW WITH FULBRIGHT-DOW DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH CHAIR CHARLES POSTEL



You are known as a scholar of the Populist movement – what are your current research interests?

I received my BA and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. I wrote my undergraduate thesis on the New Deal and the Social Security Act of 1935. In graduate school, my search for the historical roots of the New Deal led me to the study of the Populist movement of the 1890s. The People's Party (known as the Populist Party) was a farmer-labor party and the most powerful third party since the Civil War. It is often overlooked that its program of economic justice defined much of the agenda of reform in the U.S. through the New Deal. A broad reinterpretation of Populism's historical role is the topic of my first book, *The Populist Vision*. Presently, my research focuses on the years before and after the Populist decade. I am working on a history of political thought across the "long arc" from the Civil War to World War I, and the role that reform movements – from the farmers' Grange to women's suffrage – played in making America modern.

What brings you to the Netherlands?

When I finished my book on Populism many people asked me what the U.S. would look like if the Populists had won. I replied that it would be maybe something like the Netherlands, or Denmark, or Canada, or perhaps a combination of all three. So my time here is a kind of follow-up to my Populism research. During 2011-2012 I spent a year at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies as a research fellow, and I do think the Netherlands is closer to the Populist/Progressive imagination than Germany. The RSC is an ideal location from which to imagine alternative Americas and alternative visions of modernity. This could not be a better place for thinking about these connections.



RSC ALUMNI



Berit Brink

English Literature

VU University Amsterdam

Internship: January - March 2011

After her internship at the RSC she started with her PhD Program in Postcolonial and African-American Literature at the University of Florida. She received a Fulbright grant for this program, which, in combination with a tuition waiver from the university, allows her to stay and study in the U.S. and work on her dissertation.



Thomas Bottelier

History

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Internship: April - July 2010

His internship at the RSC encouraged him to enroll in a PhD program at the European University Institute in Florence which he considers "A great place where I cherish the intellectual freedom and stimulus to excel." He now researches the influence of geopolitics on U.S. foreign policy under FDR and Truman.



Suzanne van Huizen

Language and Culture Studies

Utrecht University

Internship: October - December 2007

After studying American Studies at Utrecht University and an RSC internship, she moved to New York. She is now the Coordinator of Enrichment Programs at One To World and organizes cultural, social and intellectual events for international and Fulbright students and scholars in the New York area.

NEW WEBSITE



In 2012 the RSC designed a new website and also created a Facebook page. The website gives information about the RSC and its activities, collections, research and educational programs. For all up to date information visit the RSC website: www.roosevelt.nl. The Facebook page shows pictures and gives short messages about our developments and activities. Please take a look and click the 'like' button on www.facebook.com/rooseveltstudycenter.

NEWSLETTER

We also have a digital newsletter. If you want to receive our digital newsletter please fill out your e-mailadress on our website in the section "Join our Newsletter."

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