

Box 206
South Wellfleet, Massachusetts 02663

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Report on a Month-Long Stint at RIAS:

In the spring of 2019 I was privileged to spend a month as Roosevelt Visiting Professor at RIAS in Middelburg, NL.

Long affiliated with the University College Roosevelt I had been in Middelburg many times before, but had only been to the “new” RIAS on two short visits. The first was as the Roosevelt Lecturer in the spring of 2018, when I spoke on “The Politics and Morality of U.S. Refugee Policy;” the second, the following fall when I was one of two keynoters at a conference on “Seeking Asylum” (My lecture was on “Dependency of the Dispossessed”). Both visits to RIAS whetted my appetite for more collaboration with the folks at the Roosevelt Institute.

Needless to say, I was delighted to be invited to serve as the Roosevelt Visiting Professor for the spring of 2019.

During the period of that recent appointment, I managed to make considerable progress on two chapters for a forthcoming book, *Pride, Prejudice and the Politics of Fear* (scheduled for publication by Routledge in 2020). One of those chapters is on “American Nativism” and includes references to the attitudes of both Theodore Roosevelt and FDR. Using the rich sources of the Institute, I managed to begin some new research on the very different attitudes and actions of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt relating the plight of Jewish refugees before and during World War II.

While in residence I also participated in one of the twice-yearly international Ph.D. symposia and another on “American Islands,” organized by Dario Fazzi and Francois Doppler-Speranza of Strasbourg University, dealing with overseas enclaves of American influence. The conference chairpersons had invited me to offer a keynote address and, deciding to speak to the issue of the love/hate relationship the U.S. has and has had with those in other lands, I chose “Yank as a Four-Letter Word” as my only half-facetious title and that is what I discussed.

While at RIAS in May I also was invited to speak to the faculty of the University College Roosevelt on the challenge of STEM to the traditional liberal arts in the United States and, now, in the university colleges, like UCR, in The Netherlands.

Best of all, unlike my earlier in-and-out visits to RIAS, what made the recent appointment most valuable was having an anchorage right there and the opportunity to interact on a regular basis with kindred Americanists, the directors, Giles and Damian, Dario and Cees, the resident Ph.D. candidates, and the ever helpful intern, Tessa Baan, and to find out, now as a *bona fide* insider, why everything at RIAS seems to work so smoothly. (The secret is the all-purpose role of the indefatigable Leontien!)

I have been privileged to have been a resident fellow at a number of think tanks and larger institutes, but few can match RIAS as a place to think, do research and write while being warmly welcomed into their special *sanctum sanctorum* by caring colleagues.

Peter I. Rose, Ph.D.
Sophia Smith Professor Emeritus
Senior Fellow, Kahn Liberal Arts Institute
Former Director, Diploma in American Studies Program for Foreign Graduate Students
Smith College
Northampton, MA
and
Visiting Scholar,
Institute for Research in Social Science