

# The Roosevelt

The Newsletter of the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

DECEMBER 2019

*Food for Thought*



## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

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The Board would like to thank the directors and staff of the institute for a splendid year with an expanding research agenda, excellent education fostering a new generation of Americanist scholars, and quite a few attractive and relevant events, like “Futures of Food,” a full two-day conference, the one-day symposium “American Islands,” and the Spring Roosevelt Lecture by the US Ambassador to the Netherlands Peter Hoekstra.

All this magnificent work, however, would not have been possible without the continuing (financial) support of the Province of Zeeland, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Leiden University, and the Zeeland Library, for which the RIAS is extremely grateful.

Ahead lies a bright new year with new endeavors based on the RIAS Business Plan 2020-2023 and the start of Friends of the RIAS. It will be an exciting year as well because of the US presidential elections.

Wim van den Doel, Gerard van Harten, and Arendo Joustra

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

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We are proud to look back on 2019 as a fruitful year, full of events related to our three-pronged mission to facilitate research on America and transatlantic relations; host and supervise (post-)doctoral researchers; and provide residents of Zeeland with transatlantic perspectives on pressing issues of global relevance.

There were many highlights that deserve a mention. One of the most noteworthy was our Rooseveltian Legacies symposium “Futures of Food,” a two-day event inspired by the theme “Freedom from Want” for which we invited scholars, experts, and even conceptual artists from the US and the Netherlands to reflect on historical and contemporary aspects of the “green revolution.”

Another highlight was the introduction of our new Short-Term Research Fellowship, which allows us to invite young researchers to the RIAS. Finally, we were blessed with a host of visiting researchers from all over Europe and as far away as Australia. We are especially grateful to our Roosevelt Visiting Professors from 2019, Peter Rose and Anne Foster.

Damian Pargas and Giles Scott-Smith

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# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



## American Islands: Outposts of Security, Prosperity, and Culture

The main aim of this symposium, which was held in Middelburg in May 2019 and was jointly organized by the RIAS and the University of Strasbourg, was to explore the idea of “American Island.” American islands are conceived as identifiable places of cross-cultural exchanges, and as centers of contamination and hybridization of American values, principles, habits, and customs that are located outside of the United States.

The participants, coming from the US, the Netherlands, and from other European countries, offered a number of analyses on a variety of different case studies.

Recounting the story of military bases, cultural centers, academic networks, aide organizations, business towns, expat communities, and even cemeteries, the presentations depicted the many American Islands scattered all over the world as crucial sites for the dissemination of American culture, ideology, and power.

Professor Peter I. Rose gave the keynote address in which he pointed out that the Americans, who are often vilified as “Yankees” abroad and targeted as scapegoats and unwanted agents of influence who were simultaneously praised and damned for the changes they brought about.





## Futures of Food

"Futures of Food," organized on 10-11 October 2019, was a unique multidisciplinary event for the RIAS. It brought together an international group of academic and professional experts to discuss a broad range of topical issues related to food production and consumption, such as climate change, biodiversity, land and energy use, sustainability, and aquaculture. Meeting over two days under the theme of "Global Problems, Local Solutions," the conference situated the latest innovations in Zeeland within a wider regional and global context, and situating current developments within historical trajectories.

The four keynote lectures provided the overall framework for the conference. David Woolner (Marist College and Roosevelt Institute, New York) opened the proceedings and spoke on Henry A. Wallace. An Iowa farmer who became FDR's Secretary of Agriculture and then Vice-President (1940-1944), Wallace was driven by the wish to secure the "century for the common man." Following a visit to Mexico in 1940, Wallace worked together with Henry Rockefeller to establish a greater application of mechanized farming techniques. These plans later led to the "Green Revolution" in South America, Africa and Asia, and to an expansion in global food production.

The second keynote, by Courtney Fullilove (Wesleyan University), explored how humans have been practicing agriculture for millennia, and it is within this "deep history" that we may yet find alternatives to the unsustainability of large-scale monocultures. Fullilove presented the results of her own fieldwork in the Caucasus and Central Asia, where she collected cereals and their wild relatives for international gene banks. She also demonstrated that the famous corn prairies of the US Mid-West came about through Eastern European migration and the importing of strains of Russian wheat. As a result, claiming something as 'local' is problematic— all food has gone through transnational pathways of evolution.

These keynotes were followed by two panels, "Society, Economics, and Futures of Food" and "Biodiversity and New Foods."

The first explored the economic and social dimensions of food production, and there was general agreement among the speakers that the current focus on producing the largest yield for the lowest price is unsustainable. As Frederike Praasterink (HAS University of Applied Sciences) put it, we know why we have to change, the point now is how this can best be implemented.





The second panel shifted attention to the importance of maintaining sufficient biodiversity in natural environments, and to exploring the possibilities for large-scale aquaculture as a new source of protein. Despite the evident possibilities, Pauline Kamermans (Wageningen University) did provide a warning that climate change was probably going to have adverse effects on aquaculture yields in the future.

Performance artist Matthijs Bosman closed the first day. For his “Nederland Superland” project he was asked by the Province of Noord-Brabant to encourage consumers to think critically about the food production chain. Having discovered that food distribution in the Netherlands was controlled by only a handful of companies, Bosman set up “Superland: The largest non-existent supermarket in the Netherlands” and toured through festivals, market squares, and council buildings to engage passers-by on what they know about their food and what they wanted from supermarkets.

Bosman revealed that while many support a more ethical food system, they are nevertheless tied to their belief in personal choice as the ultimate source of behavior.

Opening Friday, the third keynote speaker was Bastiaan Mohrmann (former head of the South Asia program at the World Bank’s International Finance Corporation and current director of the consultancy firm “Rural Futures”). Rural communities face multiple challenges, and keeping agriculture sustainable, while also allowing it to meet the demands of a larger, wealthier world population, will require widespread innovation on all fronts. Here, Mohrmann drew attention to promising new techniques in organic farming, such as recent innovations in the field of syntrophic agroforestry—“forest farms” integrated into the local ecosystem—in the Global South.

These themes were expanded on in the following two panels, “Food, Energy, and Sustainability” and “Climate Change and Crop Salinization.”

Here the “Blue Revolution” of aquaculture was held up as a possible sustainable future, but it remains unclear how this can be adapted to food supply patterns. Jacob van Berkel (HZ University for Applied Sciences) also argued that any large-scale shift to renewable energy would require a radical redrawing of urban and rural landscapes to enable sufficient energy generation.



The conference's fourth panel session on salinization of soils mixed views from the worlds of science, consultancy, and business, emphasized that while crops can be adapted, the wider contexts of water management, local customs, and potential for biomass energy need to be taken into account as well.

An intermezzo was provided by the "Food Curators," Digna Kosse and Lucas Mullié, who presented their ongoing project for the Province of Zeeland on the unique qualities of local products. By designing "culinary experiences" that draw on Zeeland's history, they create spaces for locals and visitors alike to reconnect with the yet-untapped richness of Zeeland's culinary culture.

The final keynote, "Coastal Foodscapes," was given by local cultural entrepreneur Gerard van Keken. Van Keken highlighted a distinct lack of coordination at the government level.

"Food" is meant to be a priority theme, yet receives scant attention. Commercial operations are still based on maximizing returns, and lacking any form of support, initiatives for organic alternatives remain scattered and small-scale. Cultural awareness, linking food, quality, and historical identity, remains patchy and in danger of being used as little more than a marketing gimmick. Nevertheless, there are plenty of ongoing projects and engaged citizens who want to change this for the better.

"Futures of Food" demonstrated the potential not only for future foodscapes to be productive, efficient, and ethically sound, but also for the RIAS to play a useful role within Campus Zeeland as a meeting-place for ideas and expertise from both sides of the Atlantic on key current-day issues.

Thanks must also go to the RIAS's partners, Food Delta Zeeland and the HZ University of Applied Sciences, for making the event such a success.



# PUBLIC LECTURES

## Hosting Peter Hoekstra, US Ambassador to the Netherlands

While touring Zeeland last spring, the US Ambassador visited the RIAS and delivered a lecture on four centuries of Dutch-American interaction and collaboration.

Ambassador Hoekstra restated the values that remain at the core of such a transatlantic relationship: a common dedication to democracy, free speech, freedom of religion, and free trade. These were the claims set out in the American Declaration of Independence—and which itself echoed the “Plakkaat van Verlatighe” issued by the Dutch estates two centuries earlier—and subsequently reiterated in President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms.” According to the Ambassador, it is worth recalling these linkages, especially in 2019, when the Netherlands commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation from Nazi occupation.

Throughout his talk, Ambassador Hoekstra made a careful distinction between diplomacy at the top, which can often be contentious, and the ties of trade, investment, and cultural exchange that form the deeper architecture of the transatlantic relationship. After the talk, the Ambassador answered questions on a wide array of issues, from his impressions of the Netherlands to more contentious topics like gun control, trade policy, and climate change.

The lecture was followed by a meet-and-greet with students from Ostrea Lyceum Goes and University College Roosevelt.





## Roosevelt, Rockwell, and the War of Ideals: A Lecture by James J. Kimble



On 24 October 2019, Professor James J. Kimble of Seton Hall University (South Orange, New Jersey) gave an entertaining public lecture about Norman Rockwell's visual promotion of the Four Freedoms in the 1940s.

Rockwell played a crucial role in popularizing the Four Freedoms, so crucial that they may have failed to capture the imagination of Americans at all were it not for his efforts.

For this reason, Kimble referred to them as the "Four Flops." This all changed when the famous artist Norman Rockwell decided to make four popular paintings that would each visualize one of the freedoms. Rockwell managed to get his paintings published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, and thus share them with the nation.

The paintings, through their simple settings, made the Four Freedoms understandable and relatable to the general public. Rockwell's artwork was a huge success and cemented the link in most people's minds between the Four Freedoms of FDR and the paintings of Norman Rockwell by the same name.

During the Q&A after the lecture it was pointed out that FDR's Four Freedoms, while meant for people "everywhere in the world," were at the time not fully implemented in the United States itself, where segregation still reigned.

People of color were not meant to be included in these basic freedoms and not visible Rockwell's paintings.

According to Kimble, even if Rockwell had wanted to include people of color in his depictions of the freedoms, he would not have been allowed to do so by the paper that he worked for.

The readers of the *Saturday Evening Post* were not interested in seeing people of color depicted as equals. Kimble thus presented to an engaged public both the popularity and the underlying shortcomings of the Four Freedoms.

# GRADUATE SCHOOL

## The RIAS International PhD Seminars



*For the upcoming seminars next year, the RIAS staff will circulate the call for papers through its website and social media platforms; further inquiries can be sent to [rias@zeeland.nl](mailto:rias@zeeland.nl).*

In pursuit of its broader educational goals, the RIAS organizes and hosts two international PhD seminars throughout the course of the year. The seminars are open to PhD candidates whose research covers any aspect of US culture, media, society, politics, or foreign relations during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The RIAS international PhD seminars are meant to help doctoral students in US history, politics, and culture present their ongoing research projects, test their preliminary findings, and discuss their primary sources with other peers and experienced professors in the academic community. At the same time, these seminars are a unique opportunity to further develop presenting skills and to test research questions in front of an informed audience.

In the spring seminar, the PhD presentations engaged in variety of topics as public memory, Black Power and Black Feminism, Neoliberalism, the American arms trade in the Middle East, and the issue of slavery in foreign relations.

In the fall, the research topics included the usage of memory during the Bosnian War, the role of the Ford Foundation in Indonesia, representations of Voodoo in film and literature, and a student exchange program run between Texas and Chile during the 1960s.

During both of the seminars, the PhD candidates had the opportunity to share their research results not only with the RIAS academic staff, but also with other guest professors. This year's professors included Peter Rose (Emeritus Professor, Smith College), Nancy Mykoff (University College Roosevelt), Anne Foster (Indiana State University), and Katheryn Roberts (University of Groningen). Their very notable contributions were essential to the overall quality of the seminars.

The feedback from the participants on these seminars was very positive. The collegial atmosphere and academic setting of the RIAS provides the perfect location for these events, and the spacious two-day program allows for plenty of time to present and constructively discuss each project.



## Seminar RIAS-UCR PhD Team



On 4 and 5 June 2019 the RIAS hosted a valuable Middelburg PhD Seminar, involving its own group of PhDs together with the researchers from the Cities of Refuge project run by UCR's Professor Barbara Oomen.

Over the two days, eight presentations were given and each presenter received extensive feedback. Each PhD candidate had twenty minutes to provide a detailed overview of their project, involving a description of their subject area, the central research question(s), the most innovative aspects of the research, and the main challenges that must be overcome to complete it.

The seminar successfully mixed the historical projects of the RIAS with the more legal, anthropological, and sociological projects of Cities of Refuge, with each one fitting in to the same presentation format. The seminar closed with a presentation by Moritz Baumgärtel, a post-doctoral researcher with Cities of Refuge, on his new book, *Demanding Rights: Europe's Supranational Courts and the Dilemma of Migrant Vulnerability*.

The event illustrated the usefulness of the RIAS graduate school concept as a local meeting point and center of expertise, and it paves the way for similar Middelburg-based research seminars in the future.





## Masterclass “Histories of American Empire”



On 12 November 2019, the RIAS organized its first “masterclass”: an event to allow Dutch graduate students an opportunity to take a deep dive into a specific subject. It was led by Professor Anne L. Foster, Roosevelt Visiting Professor for the fall of 2019. As an internationally acknowledged expert on the American colonial territories, Dr. Foster led a diverse range of students, drawn from different Master’s and PhD programs across the Netherlands, through a session that explored the ongoing scholarly debate on the American “empire.”

Historians of the United States have written about the American empire for decades, but until the 1990s, much of the historiography revolved around the tired question of whether the United States was not or was (or is still) an empire. More recently, historians have accepted that the United States is an empire, and have explored several fruitful questions, most importantly what kind of empire the United States has been, and in what ways the fact of US empire has shaped both US history and the regions where the United States exerts power.

It remains puzzling, however, that few historians of US empire have compared the United States to other empires, and even fewer identify as imperial historians.

The masterclass involved in-depth discussions on the historiography of empire, focusing in particular on key publications that have explored the scope, depth and longevity of America’s colonial presence in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

They explored a wide swath of historiographical issues, including the politics of comparison, the meaning of the word “empire,” and the marginalization (until very recently) of the territories from “mainstream” American history.

With several of the participating students in the process of writing theses on subjects closely related to the seminar, what emerged was a productive, insightful, and stimulating discussion of an important and often overlooked subject in American and global history.

## Theodore Roosevelt American History Award

The Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) is an annual prize that the RIAS presents to the best MA thesis written in the Netherlands on US-related topic. In 2019, the jury was composed of Dario Fazzi (chair, RIAS), Megan Griffiths (2018 TRAHA winner), Tim Jelfs (University of Groningen), and Sara Polak (Leiden University).

All the nominees wrote genuinely multidisciplinary theses, which dealt with a variety of topics and offered a number of different methods. Most of the analyses moved away from “traditional” political history and focused instead on popular culture, socio-economic developments, and cultural entanglements, including works on meta-contexts, hyper-textuality, intersectionality, and literary criticism that helped to situate the US in a larger temporal and spatial perspective.

The 2019 TRAHA winner was Queeny van der Spek, from the University of Amsterdam, with a thesis titled “Hitler’s Gift to America: The American Motivations to Rescue Displaced Scientists from Europe in the 1930s.” In her thesis, Queeny recounts the compelling story of America’s efforts to provide European scientists with a safe haven vis-à-vis the rise of Nazi-Fascism in the Old Continent.

As all the previous TRAHA recipients, Queeny won a trip to Medora, North Dakota, sponsored by the US Embassy in The Hague, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University. Queeny visited the old town, attended the traditional, open-air musical, and had a week-long immersion in Teddy Roosevelt’s Badlands.

The runner-up was Lennart Bolwijn, also from the University of Amsterdam, whose thesis “Dogma, Romance, and Double Consciousness: The Dilemmas of the New Negro Generation through the Travels of Otto Huiswoud and Claude McKay” won a one-year subscription to the Dutch weekly magazine *Elsevier Weekblad*.





# RESEARCH



## A Hub for Thesis Writing

As every year, students from all over Europe have made extensive use of the RIAS library to carry out the research they needed to write either their BA or MA theses. The long-standing, very successful cooperation with the University of Plymouth in the UK has brought to Middelburg this year no less than half a dozen students, whose projects spanned across a variety of themes and topics, including the professionalization of US black women during the Jim Crow era, US-Cuban relations in the early Cold War, the US mainstream press' representation of the Vietnam War, and the public role of US first ladies.

For all these students, the RIAS microfilm and microfiche collections continue to be an invaluable source of information. But the ever-expanding RIAS digital holdings are progressively finding more and more space in students' research. Through these unique databases, students are indeed able to skim through large amounts of documents and select those that are more strictly connected to and relevant for their topics.

Such was the case of Eva Durlinger, who came to the RIAS to finalize the research for her MA thesis at Maastricht University. Eva explored the archives for material on Nixon's transatlantic policy. In order to meaningfully reassess the long-term consequences of the so-called "Year of Europe," an aborted plan to revamp Euro-American relations in 1973, and to isolate its impact on the building of a new European identity, Eva analyzed different policy plans and reports.

To collect these sources, she dug deeper into the Declassified Documents Reference System (DDRS), a digital database through which the RIAS provides access to the most recently declassified documents in the United States. Such an online repository is continually updated with the newest releases from presidential libraries and national archives and helps scholars and students alike to further strengthen the originality of their academic outputs.



## The 2019 Roosevelt Visiting Professors: Peter I. Rose and Anne L. Foster

In 2018 Peter I. Rose, Sophia Smith Professor Emeritus and Senior Fellow of the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute at Smith College in Massachusetts, participated in a few activities at the RIAS. In 2019 he returned to Middelburg as Roosevelt Visiting Professor for a month.

While at the RIAS, Professor Rose wrote some chapters for his forthcoming book, *Pride, Prejudice and the Politics of Fear*, and was able to use the extensive RIAS collections for his 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.

In addition to his writing and research Professor Rose was involved in two activities that the RIAS organized in May 2019.

In his report Professor Rose wrote that he had 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.”

In the fall the RIAS staff had the pleasure to welcome Anne Foster, who is associate professor of History at Indiana State University, and editor of *Diplomatic History*.

Professor Foster participated in several RIAS activities and provided a lecture at Leiden University, titled: “Ends of Empire: The United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia, 1912-1961.”

Professor Foster spent her research time working on her new book *The Long War on Drugs*, that she hopes to complete in 2020.

On her stay at the RIAS, Professor Foster reported: “My month there was intellectually rich, supportive and productive, and exceeded even my high expectations.”



## The RIAS Short-Term Research Fellowship

This year, the RIAS was able to launch a short-term research fellowship. This program is meant to enable early career scholars and young researchers to spend a period of research in Middelburg.

The fellowship's main goal is to help with the preparation of grant proposals, the finalization of peer-reviewed articles, and the fine-tuning of PhD dissertations.

Our 2019 research fellow was Thomas Mareite, a former PhD candidate from Leiden University, who made ample use of our collections to start a postdoctoral research project on the nature of slave smuggling in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean during the nineteenth century.

Thomas took an active part in our academic activities during the fall and enriched our daily exchanges with his collegial style and fine observations.



## Trilateral Research Cooperation



In the mid 1990s, the Roosevelt Institute (RI) in New York established the Roosevelt Foundation for the Study of the United States at Moscow State University (MSU).

For a number of years, this cooperation enabled MSU students to do research at the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York, as well as at the Roosevelt Study Center. Thanks to the efforts of Professor David Woolner (RI) and Professor Yuri Rogoulev (MSU), who secured a new source of funding for this unique Grants-in-Aid program, the RIAS is able to welcome Russian researchers on a regular basis again.

In 2019 Iliia Lakstygal and Irina Khruleva both received an RI-MSU-RIAS Grant to visit the RIAS for two weeks of research.



## Research Abroad



Throughout 2019, the RIAS researchers have carried out several off-site archival investigations, exploring sources and collections in many different countries.

The academic director, Giles Scott-Smith, has checked the Arthur Sweetser Papers at the Library of Congress, and the Rockefeller Archives Center.

Dario Fazzi went to Italy, where he explored a variety of sources on a US Air Force station and conducted some oral interviews with former local employees of the installation.

The postdoc, Cees Heere, went to the National Archives in London and to Aix-en-Provence, where France's Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer are located.

Finally, our four PhD students have embarked on extensive primary research abroad. They visited as many different places as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Willemstad on Curaçao, getting the opportunity to collect sources from public and private repositories.

They were also able to meet with and gain advice from experts at US universities, and to catch up with former RIAS Fulbright professors such as Tom Doherty at Brandeis University.



## New Collections

The RIAS holdings keep growing every year, mostly thanks to new digital acquisitions that fit the overall scope of our collections.

This year, the RIAS acquired a new collection featuring petitions on race, slavery, and free blacks that were submitted to state legislatures and county courthouses between 1775 and 1867.

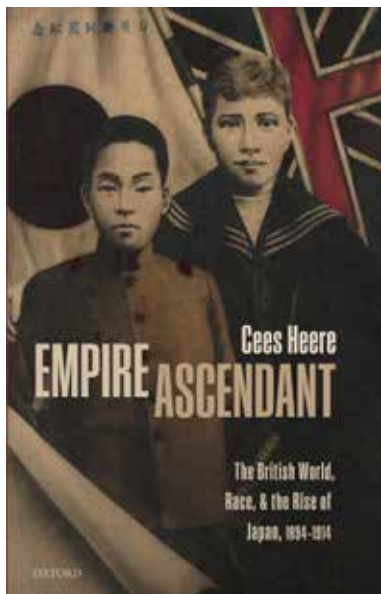
In addition, the RIAS got access to the complete records of *The Daily Worker*, the official paper of the US Communist Party.

Finally, the RIAS also expanded its microfilm collections and purchased President Carter's White House Central Files.

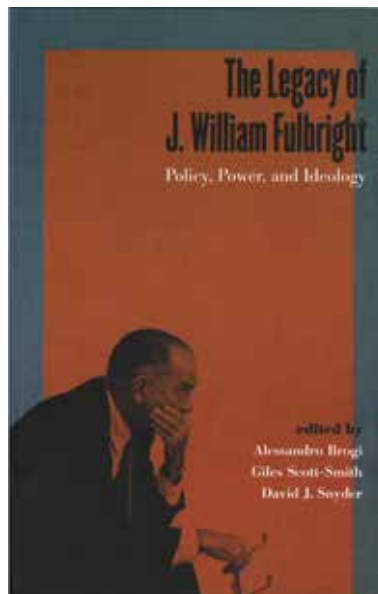
These acquisitions allowed the RIAS to expand the breadth of its collections both chronologically and thematically, with an eye on increasing the number of our nineteenth-century holdings and on strengthening our traditional strong profile in national security and foreign policy.



# PUBLICATIONS



In this book, based on his doctoral work before joining the RIAS, our postdoctoral researcher Cees Heere analyzes the multifaceted relationship of the British and Japanese empires at the turn of the twentieth century. Weaving together histories of diplomacy, imperial relations, and racial ideologies, *Empire Ascendant* examines how officials and commentators across the British imperial system wrestled with the implications of Japan's unique international status as the sole Asian great power in an international system dominated by white European states.



J. William Fulbright's key role in the formulation and criticism of US foreign policy has long been recognized, but scholarship has been slow to assess his influence. Fulbright was a key promoter of US involvement in the world, a supporter of development aid and multilateral cooperation, and a strong advocate for cultural exchange. The Vietnam War also caused him to become a very public critic of US foreign policy. The volume covers his awkward relationship as a Southern senator with civil rights, his role as chair of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the importance of the Fulbright exchange program around the world. Overall, it addresses ongoing debates on ideology, consistency, and imperialism within US foreign policy through the twentieth century.



For decades, transatlantic relations have been based on a set of shared interests, notably in security (institutionally embodied in NATO) and the economy (with the Bretton Woods institutions). These relations were underpinned by an adherence to a set of shared values, related to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and a market economy. Regularly taken for granted, this "soft power" dimension of the EU-US relationship has recently come under increased pressure from both inside and outside the region. This special issue explores transatlantic soft power through six essays on the fields of culture, science and higher education, each essay pitched from either a US or an EU perspective. How important is soft power? And what are the prospects for the future?

# GRANTS & MORE

## The RIAS Research Grants

In 2019, the RIAS awarded a total of eight travel grants. These scholarships have helped students and scholars at different stages of their careers to advance their research agendas by benefitting from valuable access to the RIAS archives and library.

Among them, the RIAS had the pleasure to welcome Michelle Carmody, a researcher at the School of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Melbourne in Australia. With a project titled "Amnesty International and the Challenge of Human Rights in US Foreign Policy," she was the 2019 recipient of the Marilyn B. Young Research Grant.

Through the study of several RIAS holdings, Michelle Carmody was able to reconstruct how Amnesty International engaged in discussions about official trade and aid policies, how it struggled to influence governmental organizations with the aim to incorporate human rights principles into official foreign policy, and how it warned against human rights abuses in Latin American throughout the 1970s.

The calls for the RIAS travel grant programs are always open and more information is available on the RIAS website, [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl).



## Friends of the RIAS

From 2020 onward, it will become possible to join a new initiative and become a Friend of the RIAS. Our supporters help us organize exciting activities, acquire new collections, and fulfill our mission to promote a greater understanding of American, history, culture, and society.

The Friends of the RIAS is a registered charitable foundation with ANBI status in the Netherlands. Membership starts with €25 per year and includes invitations to and priority rights for RIAS public events, a copy of the RIAS annual newsletter, and a stylish RIAS pen. VIP and Golden Members also get personalized gifts and an invitation to a dinner in Middelburg with one of our guest scholars/speakers.





# Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

*The Roosevelt*, December 2019

ISSN: 2589-3599

Design: Dario Fazzi & Leontien Joosse

Editorial Committee: RIAS Staff

Photography: RIAS Staff, Anda van Riet, Queeny van der Spek

*The RIAS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:*



Ministry of Education, Culture and  
Science



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