

December 1, 2019

Damian Pargas, Executive Director
Giles Scott-Smith, Academic Director
Roosevelt Institute for American Studies
Middelburg, Netherlands

Dear Damian and Giles,

Thank you for the opportunity to have joined the scholarly community at the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies during November 2019. I felt honored to be invited as visiting professor, having heard from so many colleagues about how special RIAS is. My month there was intellectually rich, supportive and productive, and exceeded even my high expectations.

From my arrival, the students, staff and faculty were so welcoming, helping me settle in and including me in the lively conversations. I enjoyed the balance I could achieve between quiet time to write steadily, and opportunities for conversations about not only my own work, but also the interesting projects of the PhD students, Cees Heere, and Dario Fazzi, as well as of course yours. I am really grateful, since I made significant progress on my book, *The Long War on Drugs*, and my time at RIAS will have been instrumental in my completion of the book in the next few weeks.

It's clear that RIAS is an important hub for American Studies in Europe. The number of visitors who traveled from across the continent to use the Institute's resources was impressive. I enjoyed meeting and talking with them. Both the masterclass and the PhD seminar drew students from all over the Netherlands and Europe/United States, respectively, for two stimulating events. I appreciate having been able to participate in them. The feedback from the small but dedicated audience at my talk at Leiden University has proved helpful as I think about how to frame that work for publication. I am looking forward to continuing collaboration with people I met, or grew to know better, during my visit. RIAS helps make important connections between scholars studying the United States, living across Europe and in the United States, and that is to the benefit of the broader field of American Studies.

I have to close with a special thanks to intern Christel Poppe and especially office manager Leontien Joosse. Both of them helped me with questions, sometimes before I even knew that I had them! Leontien anticipated what would prove puzzling or difficult, and usually had a solution within minutes. And her advice about what to do in the area during weekends helped me explore Middelberg and Zeeland more generally in ways I might not have thought to do. I thoroughly

enjoyed living there for even a few weeks, and am already looking forward to coming back to both Middelburg and RIAS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A L F', positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Anne L. Foster, PhD
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