

The Roosevelt

The Newsletter of the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

DECEMBER 2021

Inter-Connected



A LETTER FROM THE BOARD



The year 2021 will be remembered as the “second year of the corona pandemic.” For the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies it was a “hybrid year” in which many activities were still held on line.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Institute has managed to remain relevant for today’s world by exploring new themes and developing new ways of public engagement. While rooted in the *Rooseveltian Legacy*, the RIAS continues to foster the research of young PhD students and explore new themes, like environmental studies, for which it can become a leading center in the Netherlands and beyond. The RIAS also remains very relevant for Middelburg and the Province of Zeeland, as its activities on the 1940 German invasion shows.

One can only conclude that despite COVID-19 and thanks to its great staff the RIAS is still very much an innovative and indispensable institute in the great city of Middelburg.

Wim van den Doel, Gerard van Harten, and Laila Frank

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR



The RIAS can be proud of its accomplishments during the past year. Despite the persistence of the pandemic, our institute managed to meet all of its goals, providing a forum for academic research and debate on various aspects of US history and transatlantic relations, as well as organizing a slew of public activities on topics of societal relevance to communities in both Zeeland and North America.

I am particularly proud of the ways in which the RIAS broadened its research profile in 2021. We launched the “Racial Democracy” project in January, which brought us three fantastic new PhD researchers: Manar Ellethy, Christine Mertens, and Marcella Schute. We have also begun to develop a new line of research and public activities in transatlantic environmental history.

I am also extremely pleased with the ways in which the RIAS solidified partnerships with various scholars and organizations in 2021. We worked closely with University College Roosevelt on a PhD seminar and an essay-prize related to environmental history; actively participated in the local Kennisplatform Slavernijverleden; organized the NASA Amerikanistendag along with a couple of webinars with the Netherlands-America Foundation in New York; and welcomed a number of outstanding visiting fellows and researchers.

We’re immensely grateful for our many friends and look forward to a promising 2022!

Damian Pargas

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Public Health and the American Century



In the fall, the RIAS hosted a major academic conference on public health and disease in the “American century,” which brought together a number of prominent historians of medicine, US politics, society, and foreign relations. The common goal was to place the COVID-19 pandemic in its broader historical context and to assess how the United States – while evolving into a global power – coped with disease and public health challenges from the early twentieth century onward.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been multifaceted and immense in its scale and ramifications. For the US, the experience has been especially consequential. The virus (and the measures taken to contain it) has disrupted almost every aspect of American life, revealed and exacerbated social, economic, racial and political fault lines, and raised major issues concerning the role of federal and state authorities in maintaining social well-being.

This public health emergency has also set in motion a set of consequences for the US’s position in the world. President Trump’s decision to withdraw funding from the WHO, for instance, represented not only an act to push back against Beijing’s controlling influence in that organization, but also a nationalist shift, where the former role of the US in bolstering world order through multilateral institutions has been replaced by a boisterous chauvinism.

The conference participants critically examined the provision of health as a public good in the context of the American Century – conceived as the application of American power to achieve a democratic, just, and profitable US-led world order. Through a series of case-studies, the presenters expounded on the ways in which race, gender, and class have shaped attitudes to public and global health.

By reconsidering the American Century through the lens of the political and social struggles surrounding public health, the conference provided a unique analysis of US political and social history.

Nuclear Decommissioning in Transatlantic Perspective

In October, the RIAS held a policy workshop titled “Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning: Lessons and Challenges in Transatlantic Perspective.”

The main object of discussion was the (safe) dismantlement of civilian nuclear reactors, a topic of global relevance and a matter of local concern in Zeeland, which is home to the last active nuclear power plant in the country. The Borssele nuclear power plant, located downstream the Western Scheldt and managed by EPZ, represents an important energy provider in the region and its decommissioning is currently scheduled for 1 January 2034.

As all the panelists recognized, decommissioning is a challenging and complex procedure, which does not necessarily spell the end of a nuclear plant’s life cycle. Decommissioning involves the safe disposal of nuclear waste and the decontamination of equipment and facilities. In this regard, the United States is the country with the greatest deal of experience. Since 2013, some thirty nuclear facilities have been decommissioned or are in the process of being shut down in the United States, with an additional eight reactors on track to be decommissioned by 2025.

The workshop was opened by a keynote address by Melissa Haller, an economic geographer at the University of California interested in innovation, employment, and economic resilience in US cities, with a particular interest in the impacts of nuclear plant closures and economic shocks on regional development. Haller’s talk gave a short overview of nuclear decommissioning history and processes in the US, highlighting its varied socio-ecological consequences.

After a lively Q&A session, Fuel Cycle Manager for EPZ, Tom Keij presented the case of the plant in Borssele and detailed on the costs and opportunities its closure entails. Then, Acting Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Oversight and Chief of Nuclear Safety at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Brenda L. Hawks gave an insightful presentation on the US regulatory approach to nuclear decommissioning. Marieke Schopman-van Gemert concluded the first panel by presenting her work within the Dutch nuclear industry and highlighting the role that NRG plays in granting the safe planning and execution of the decommission of nuclear facilities.



The second panel was opened by Jan Haverkamp, an expert with the World Information Service on Energy (WISE) and co-founder and vice-chair of Nuclear Transparency Watch. Haverkamp underscored both the social and economic setbacks of nuclear power production, and emphasized how difficult and ineffective, from a financial and environmental view, the clean-up of a former nuclear site may be.

Finally, Dirk Bannink, a founding member of the Laka Foundation, gave a historical overview of people’s engagement with and protests against nuclear power in the Netherlands, with particular reference to previous experiences of nuclear decommissioning.

RIAS-NAF Cooperation

On 1 June 2021, the Netherland-America Foundation and the RIAS teamed up to jointly host a webinar on Dutch slave resistance in New York.

From its initial conquest in the early 17th century, Dutch settlers in New Netherland adopted African slavery as an instrument of colonization and economic development. Even after the English established control of the colony in 1664, Dutch-speaking settlers remained important slaveholders in New York well into the 18th and 19th centuries. Dutch-owned enslaved people were some of the most prominent agents of resistance to slavery in New York history. Whether it be as runaways and self-emancipators or as prominent abolitionists like Sojourner Truth, Dutch-owned enslaved people played a significant role in challenging slavery throughout the state.

The event was moderated by the esteemed American writer and historian, and former director of the John Adams Institute in Amsterdam, Russell Shorto, and included a panel with three prominent historians: Michael Douma (Georgetown University), Margaret Washington (Cornell University), and Andrea Mosterman (University of New Orleans).



On 15 October 2021, the RIAS and the NAF also hosted a webinar on the lasting legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt on human rights negotiations within the United Nations.

Eleanor Roosevelt was one of the most significant American women of the twentieth century and remains one of the most admired. The lecture shed further light into Eleanor Roosevelt's role as diplomat and public speaker. In such a capacity, indeed, Eleanor Roosevelt helped to shape not only the United States but also the United Nations and the path we still follow toward greater protection of human rights.

During this lecture, we were joined by Allida M. Black, who is Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Miller Center for Public Affairs, trustee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Editor Emeritus of the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, and RIAS researcher Dario Fazzi. The event was moderated by our RIAS PhD candidates Christine Mertens and Marcella Schute.

Both the webinars are available at the [RIAS YouTube channel](#).





Black Achievement Month

On 3 November 2021, the RIAS welcomed award-winning director Ida Does and winti priestess Marian Markelo to Middelburg for the screening of *Three Women: On Slavery and Freedom*.

This award-winning documentary, directed by Ida Does, features curator Valika Smeulders, winti priestess Marian Markelo, and researcher Ellen-Rose Kambel. *Three Women* revolves around the quest for re-discovering the legacies of colonialism and slavery in Dutch history. It is a cinematic reflection on the lost, and often denied, echoes of this history in our present.

The film screening was organized in the context of the "Black History Month" and attracted audiences from different backgrounds and age groups, including students, academics, and professionals. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Does and Markelo moderated by RIAS PhD candidates Manar Ellethy and Marcella Schute. The discussion also included a Q&A session with the audience.

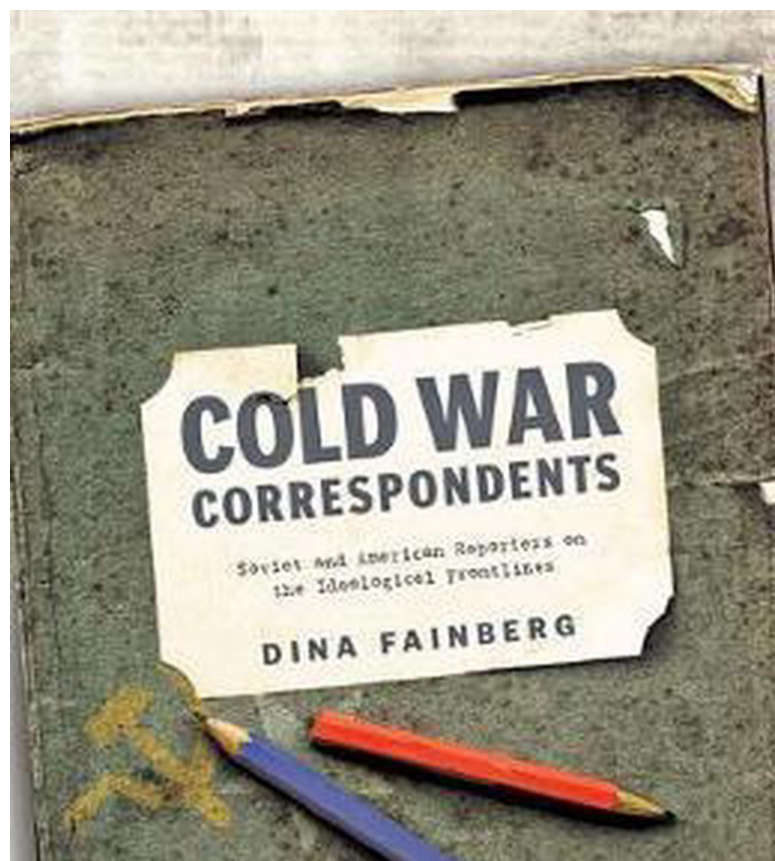
The discussion covered a number of elements relevant to the film such as the link between the film's narrative and the historical context of Zeeland, the role of documentary film in reflecting on sensitive but crucial questions surrounding slavery and colonialism, and the references to American civil rights figures such as Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks found in the film.

Book Launch

On 22 June 2021 an online webinar was held on the book *Cold War Correspondents: Soviet and American Reporters on the Ideological Frontlines* by Dina Fainberg.

The webinar was the first form of cooperation between City University London and the RIAS, with the intention of continuing this collaboration with a series of events on the theme of environmental history through 2022. Dr. Fainberg is associate professor at City University and is a historian of US-Russia relations, Soviet media and propaganda, and Cold War culture.

During the webinar she talked about the extensive research in both Russian and American archives, plus the numerous oral history interviews she conducted, in order to assemble her remarkable study of 45 years of US and Soviet journalism about each other. The webinar was well attended and laid a perfect foundation for further City-RIAS cooperation.



PUBLIC LECTURES

America's Globalization

In the spring of 2021, Professor Petra Goedde, one of the leading scholars in US foreign relations, transnational, cultural and gender history, and co-editor of the journal *Diplomatic History* spent a month at the RIAS.

While at the Institute, Professor Goedde (right) delivered an online lecture on "America's Conflicted Relationship with Globalization in the Age of Covid" in which she explained how the pandemic laid bare the tensions between globalization and nationalism in many parts of the world, with a particular focus on the United States.

In the US, anti-globalization fervor had been stoked by President Trump even before the outbreak of the pandemic, as he engaged in economic protectionism and vowed to build a wall to keep unwanted immigrants out. Once the pandemic hit, nationalist rhetoric and policies only further intensified. Yet the closing of borders, the protectionist policies, and the effort to blame other nations, especially China, for bringing the virus into the country, contrasted sharply with the knowledge that global scientific and political cooperation was vital for fighting against the virus.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A and it is entirely available through the [RIAS Youtube channel](#).



The US and the Environment

Professor Megan Black (left), who teaches at MIT in Boston and is a historian of US environmental management and foreign relations, gave the first Roosevelt Lecture in Environmental Studies.

The online lecture was titled "The Environment and Global American Studies" and was part of the Netherlands American Studies Association conference on the US and the global environment.

Professor Black, who is the author of the award-winning *The Global Interior: Mineral Frontiers and American Power*, which analyzes the surprising role of the US Department of the Interior in pursuing minerals around the world – in indigenous lands, formal territories, foreign nations, the oceans, and outer space – gave an overview of her research and the many overlaps between environmental and diplomatic history.

During the lecture, which can also be accessed through the RIAS Youtube page, Professor Black also talked about her new manuscript, tentatively titled "Short-Circuiting Extraction," a book that will explore anti-mining campaigns in the global 1970s. This project will document how environmentalist groups, local officials, and indigenous stakeholders adopted increasingly transnational strategies in response to the bids of multinational metals firms to secure minerals underpinning a new communications revolution.



Visualizing Local History

On 29 March 2021, the RIAS organized a film screening followed by an online lecture on the 1940 bombing of the town of Middelburg.

The event started with the broadcast of the short movie *Days of May* by the young Italian filmmaker and former RIAS intern Juri Ferri. Ferri, who has Dutch roots, obtained his BA at University College Roosevelt and then moved to the UK to pursue an MA in Filmmaking at the London Film School (LFS). His second-year film, *UB-13*, premiered at the Oscar qualifying *Hollyshorts Film Festival* in 2018.

Ferri's LFS graduation film, originally titled *Meidagen* (*Days of May*) is based on his great-grandfather Jan Hendrik Smit's experience in the Dutch army at the start of World War II. As the country is quickly getting invaded, the film shows how Smit's faith in God is put to a test. The short movie premiered in Vlissingen in September 2019 during the *Film by the Sea Festival* and it has been on tour since then.

After the film screening, local historian Peter Sijnke, who was municipal archivist in Middelburg, and has published widely on the local, regional, and cultural history of Zeeland, expounded on the unfolding of the events in Middelburg on and around 17 May 1940, when an important part of the old town center was destroyed.



Democrats in the US South

Maarten Zwiers, assistant professor of American Studies and History in Groningen and author of *Senator James Eastland: Mississippi's Jim Crow Democrat until the 1960s*, gave a lecture on the Democratic Party in the US South.

Zwiers explained how the "Solid South" had been for years a source of electoral strength for Democrats. Segregationist southern support came at a price, however; it severely impeded the more progressive ambitions of the national Democratic Party, including civil rights.

Once Democratic presidents Kennedy and Johnson – under pressure from the civil rights movement – finally committed their party more firmly to racial equality, the white South commenced its slow exodus from the Democrats to the Republicans.

This switch first happened at the presidential level, but then began to trickle down to congressional, state, and local elections.

Republicans are now the dominant power in the southern states, but their power is not as absolute as the former Democratic hegemony that had traditionally determined politics in Dixie.

This lecture focused on the Democratic South trying to explore how the Democrats became the dominant party in the region, why they lost it, and whether or not they will be able to win it back.

GRADUATE SCHOOL



The Racial Democracy Project

The RIAS launched a new research project this year, titled “Racial Democracy: Challenges to Civil Democratic Ideals in American History.” The project explores practices and institutionalized manifestations of “racial democracy” across time and space in American history, as well as acts of resistance to such practices. A racial democracy is one that applies the laws that govern legal and political rights on the basis of race rather than universal and egalitarian civic ideals.

The project includes three PhD investigations that deal with various case studies, each one addressing a particular way of how race has complicated American democracy across time and space.

Christine Mertens is currently researching the legal constraints placed on the spatial mobility of free African Americans in the early republic, specifically in the Upper South, as well as the ways in which free blacks attempted to subvert such constraints.

Marcella Schute is examining the Louisiana Apprenticeship Bill of 1859, which proposed to circumvent the ban on the Atlantic slave trade and “import” free African laborers in a state of legal bondage and extreme dependency (modeled after similar schemes in the Caribbean).

Manar Ellethy is exploring how African-American documentary filmmakers in the late 1960s attempted to advance counter-narratives of black socio-political issues in an era of significant political transformations in race relations and black citizenship.

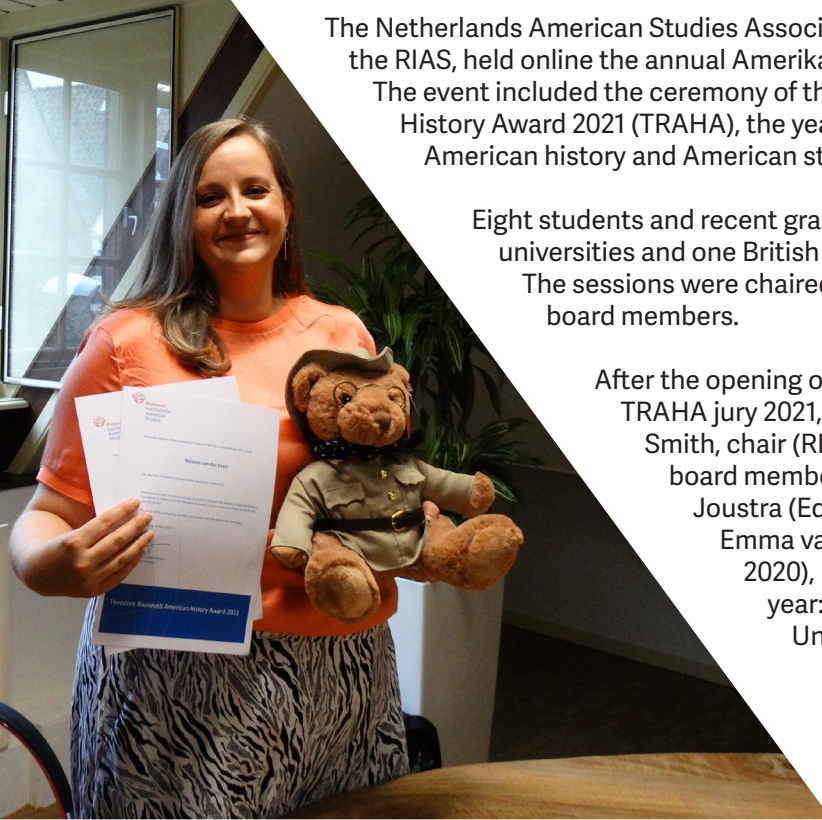
The “Racial Democracy” project is sponsored by the Stichting Praesidium Libertatis and supervised by RIAS Director Damian Pargas, in conjunction with Leiden University. The project duration is four years, from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024.

Theodore Roosevelt American History Award

The Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA), in cooperation with the RIAS, held online the annual Amerikanistendag on Friday, 28 May 2021. The event included the ceremony of the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2021 (TRAHA), the yearly prize for the best MA thesis in American history and American studies in the Netherlands.

Eight students and recent graduates from several Dutch universities and one British university presented their research. The sessions were chaired by RIAS staff members and NASA board members.

After the opening of the 26th Amerikanistendag, the TRAHA jury 2021, consisting of Professor Giles Scott-Smith, chair (RIAS), Dr. Markha Valenta (NASA board member/Utrecht University), Arendo Joustra (Editor-in-Chief *EW Magazine*), and Emma van Toorn (TRAHA prize winner of 2020), announced the winner of this year: Melanie van der Elsen (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen).



Middelburg Seminars

On 3-4 June 2021, a second Middelburg PhD Session was held, linking up the PhD communities of the RIAS with the City of Refuge group under Professor Barbara Oomen of UCR.

As the first had been held two years previously, and several of the group were now approaching completion of their projects, the emphasis of the session was on the process of writing a PhD and looking back on how each PhD project had taken shape.

In what ways did each candidate decide what is relevant and not? Were there problems with finding appropriate sources? How did you settle on an appropriate method? What remaining concerns are there?

The event, hosted by the City of Refuge team and held in the majestic Raadzaal of the old town hall building, involved several hybrid presentations to allow for remote participation.

The event involved twelve presentations over two days and proved very useful as a space for open discussion on progress made and obstacles remaining. The RIAS would like to thank their City of Refuge colleagues for being such great hosts!



"Sustainable Freedoms" Prize

On 17 August 2021, the RIAS was pleased to present the first annual RIAS-University college Roosevelt "Sustainable Freedoms" essay prize for the best essay on an issue that connects environmental issues to human rights. The prize went to Alisa Adams, for her eye-opening and thought-provoking paper "An Approach towards Truly Sustainable Sustainability for Indigenous Communities."

For the "Sustainable Freedoms" prize we invited UCR students to explore the interconnections between environmental sustainability and human rights in any facet, from the free speech and legal protections of scientists and environmental activists; to the participation of disenfranchised communities in political decision-making regarding (ab)use of land and water; to the healthcare rights of people impacted by industrial waste.

We received several submissions, all of them excellent, but Alisa's was one of those essays that made us stop and think. Focusing on the indigenous Zapotec communities of Mexico, Alisa explored the impact of environmental policies on Zapotec land usage, rights, and collective welfare. She examined how attempts to develop sustainable energy in Mexico have often come at the expense of indigenous communities. Her essay indeed opens with a striking example: the opening of a massive wind park, providing sustainable green energy to some 400,000 Mexican homes, but which was developed by compulsory acquisition of indigenous land, from communities that did not cause the energy crisis in the region and that subsequently did not even benefit from the green energy being produced by the wind turbines.

Alisa's essay argues that environmental degradation in Mexico is negatively impacting indigenous communities, among other reasons because their land and water rights are frequently trampled upon as local governments search for green solutions. She invites us all to search for forms of sustainability that serve the needs of everybody, without trampling upon the rights and wishes of local communities.



International PhD Seminars

Our biannual International PhD Seminar are always among the most anticipated and best attended of RIAS events in the calendar year. It has long now provided a truly rewarding opportunity for PhD candidates to present their ongoing research to fellow PhD students, expert scholars, and researchers in an engaging and collaborative format ideal for constructive feedback and additional insight.

We here at the RIAS always look forward to the seminars as a valuable means of keeping at the cutting edge of all the exciting, profound, and groundbreaking developments occurring in the field of American Studies worldwide.

While traditionally hosted in person at the inviting setting of the RIAS in Middelburg, for the second year running due to the COVID pandemic the 2021 PhD seminars were held online. Even though this has meant missing out on some of the expected atmosphere and perks of an in person seminar, there has been no drop off in terms of quality of the presenters, participants, and scholarship presented upon.

Rural Imaginations: Culture and Land in American Studies

In early November 2021, the Rural Imaginations research group, led by Esther Peeren, Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam and Researcher at the Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, visited the RIAS for a two-day workshop.

The workshop was part of *Rural Imaginations*, an ERC-funded project at the University of Amsterdam, that investigates the impact of globalization on rural cultures across the globe, including the United States.

On the first day of the workshop, researchers and PhD students of the *Rural Imaginations* project and the RIAS talked about their scholarship and the methodologies they used, particularly the differences, commonalities, and synergies between history writing and cultural analysis.

On day two, the workshop turned to the Hinterland. Attendees discussed chapters written by workshop participants for an edited volume on hinterlands, a concept that effectively combines (and simultaneously reconfigures) existing notions about the rural, the urban, and the global.

In the afternoon, city guide Peter Sijnke took the group on a tour of the old center of Middelburg, with a specific focus of the town's involvement in the Atlantic slave trade and other imperial pursuits.

For more information about Rural Imaginations, visit the project website: <https://www.ruralimaginations.com>.



RESEARCH

A Safe Haven for Research: The 2021 RIAS Visiting Fellows

This year the RIAS hosted a number of visiting fellows who found the Institute an ideal place where to finalize writings, develop new projects, and expand their professional network. In sum, a genuine hub for global scholarship.

Our first RIAS visiting scholar was Professor Petra Goedde, who came to Middelburg in the early summer. Professor Goedde's research interests are in US foreign relations, transnational and gender history.

A native of Germany, she has spent most of her academic life in the United States, where she teaches at Temple University and co-edits the journal *Diplomatic History*.

Professor Goedde is also the author of *The Politics of Peace: A Global Cold War History* (Oxford 2019) and has published widely on Cold War history, the history of cultural globalization, human rights, and gender in foreign relations history.

While at the Institute, Professor Goedde participated in our International PhD Seminars and delivered a well-attended online lecture. Some of her time at the RIAS was also devoted to completing revisions on a book manuscript that Professor Goedde is co-authoring with Akira Iriye, entitled *International History: A Cultural Approach*, to be published by Bloomsbury Press.

This new book is meant to offer a new way of looking at the history of international relations over the past two centuries by incorporating cultural and non-state transnational actors and transformations into the narrative. In Goedde's own words, "the interactions with PhD students and the faculty at the RIAS have proven extremely stimulating and helpful" in exploring new research endeavors.



Sielke Kelner joined the RIAS during October-November 2021, as part of her Swiss National Science Foundation funded post-doctoral project on religious networks and the Cold War.

During her time in Middelburg, Kelner was able to continue researching and writing on Christian transnational activism and East-West relations, with a particular focus on Romania in the 1970s and 1980s. In particular, she worked on completing an article looking at how state and non-state actors combined their efforts to release from prison an incarcerated Romanian priest. Such an article is meant to offer a prominent example of Christian transnational diplomacy and advocacy during the Cold War.

Kelner's postdoctoral research, titled "Global Crusades and Local Encounters in Communist Lands," is the outcome of a long research that has given her the opportunity to work as research fellow at many different institutes, such as the London School of Economics, the Harriman Institute, and the Elliott School of International Affairs.

In her current work, Kelner examines the important role played by Christian NGOs in maintaining both public and clandestine networks across the Cold War divide, supporting religious dissidents in their attempts to flee to the West while at the same time seeking to influence US politics to take up their cause.

While in Middelburg, Kelner presented her innovative work to the RIAS staff during an engaging research seminar in November 2021.

After her stay at the RIAS, Kelner found a new job as a research associate.

We wish her the best of luck!



From September 2021 until February 2022, Maarten Zwiers has been a visiting fellow at the RIAS.

Maarten Zwiers, who also serves on the board of the Netherlands American Studies Association, is assistant professor of Contemporary History and American Studies at the University of Groningen. In February 2021 he started a three-year research project titled *Race Land: The Ecology of Segregation*, funded by the European Research Council with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship.

Race Land investigates the global and environmental impact of Jim Crow segregation during the Cold War era, especially the entanglement of segregationist politics with environmentally harmful business practices such as the development and application of pesticides, oil drilling, and large-scale agriculture.

More information about the project can be found here: <https://racelandproject.com>.

Three host institutions participate in the project: the University of Groningen, the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi, and the RIAS.

Because of the pandemic, Zwiers had to switch around a few things in his project planning. He moved his placement at the RIAS from the spring of 2023 to the fall of 2021 and plans to go to the US in March 2022 to continue his research there.

While in Middelburg, Zwiers was involved in a number of RIAS activities, such as an online class about primary sources for students of the University of Groningen and the international PhD seminar in December. He gave a talk about the Cowboy Myth, hosted a podcast about the Frontier, and co-organized the Rural Imaginations workshop.

Besides these events, Zwiers finished two related research articles and in late 2021 published an essay about the migration of blues culture from the US Deep South to the Dutch province of Drenthe.





Professor Tosh Minohara was our Roosevelt Visiting Fellow in September-October 2021.

As professor of US-Japan Relations and possessing an immense knowledge of the Roosevelts, Minohara was very interested in the activities of the RIAS, and hopes to return once his own book on Theodore Roosevelt in Japanese is completed.

Minohara had spent time at Leiden University as a visiting scholar in 2006-2007, so he was familiar with The Netherlands. He had also made a brief visit to the RIAS in the summer of 2019, while attending a conference in The Hague. Despite ongoing restrictions on travel between Japan and Europe, he was able to join us in Middelburg for a few weeks in the middle of his busy teaching schedule.

Minohara combines expertise on US history with writing and commentary on current affairs. He is regularly asked as a commentator by Japanese media on developments in the Asia-Pacific region, both in print and on screen. In 2013 and 2019 he also contributed to two series of the National Geographic channel's *Nazi Megastructures*.

During his stay in The Netherlands, the RIAS teamed up with the Atlantic Committee in The Hague to organize a public lecture for Professor Minohara at Nieuwspoord, next to the Dutch parliament building, on 11 October 2021.

Entitled "Tumultuous Decade? China's Challenge to the Global Order and Japan's Response," his lecture covered the rising tensions in the Asia-Pacific and the dilemmas faced by Japan in how best to respond to its restless and powerful neighbor.

While in Middelburg, Minohara was able to continue teaching classes in Japan online (this required some very early mornings) and remained active as a commentator on international affairs.

Professor Minohara was a wonderful guest and we look forward to seeing him here again in the future.

PUBLICATIONS



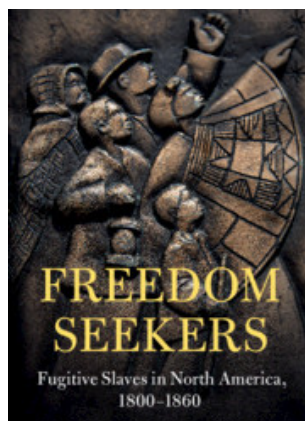
Bram Boxhoorn and Giles Scott-Smith (eds.), *The Transatlantic Era (1989–2020) in Documents and Speeches* (London: Routledge, 2021).

RIAS staff member, Giles Scott-Smith has published a new book together with the director of the Netherlands Atlantic Association (Atlantische Commissie), Bram Boxhoorn.

The book is a textbook that uses key documents to interpret the three decades known as “The Transatlantic Era.”

Providing a unique new look at the recent history and politics of transatlantic relations, the book argues that three key phases can be identified: victory, divergence, and disarray.

Each period defines a particular set of political, economic, and security dynamics, with the trend being a gradual undermining of transatlantic unity.



Damian Alan Pargas, *Freedom Seekers: Fugitive Slaves in North America, 1800-1860* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021).

How and why did enslaved people flee to – and navigate – different destinations throughout the continent, and to what did extent did they succeed in evading recapture and re-enslavement?

In his latest book, RIAS Director Damian Pargas introduces a new conceptualization of “spaces of freedom” for fugitive slaves in North America between 1800 and 1860.

Taking a continental approach, this study explores spaces of informal freedom, where enslaved people attempted to flee; spaces of semi-formal freedom, where slavery was abolished but the precise status of fugitive slaves was contested; and spaces of formal freedom, where runaways were considered free.



Dario Fazzi, “Imperial Constraints: Labor and U.S. Military Bases in Italy, 1954-1979,” *Diplomatic History*, Volume 45, Issue 4, September 2021, pp. 743-766.

In this article, RIAS senior researcher Dario Fazzi writes about the experience of an American military base in Italy, which was established at the dawn of the Cold War in the tiny village of San Vito Dei Normanni in Italy.

After years of peaceful cooperation, the American guests and the Italian hosts ended up by clashing over issues of labor and security. This provoked a crack in the architecture of the US empire and showed the power of local norms in limiting the execution of American imperial privileges.

GRANTS & MORE

In Memoriam: William J. vanden Heuvel

In 2021 we sadly lost one of the great advocates for the Rooseveltian cause. William (Bill) vanden Heuvel was a faithful patron of the RIAS and the whole Four Freedoms enterprise to his very last. A lawyer by trade, Vanden Heuvel had a remarkable political and diplomatic career.

He served under Ambassador William 'Wild Bill' Donovan in Thailand in 1953-1954, advised Robert Kennedy during the 1960s, and was appointed US Deputy Ambassador to the UN during 1979-1981.

In the 1980s Vanden Heuvel – here on the right, next to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., center, and Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., left, the founding fathers of the Institute – was pivotal for internationalizing the Four Freedoms Awards by bringing them to Middelburg, establishing the Roosevelt Study Center there in 1986, and leading the creation of the New York-based Roosevelt Institute.

He was also decisive in raising \$50 million to realize the Four Freedoms Memorial on Roosevelt Island, New York. Vanden Heuvel acted as MC for the Awards ceremony in Middelburg for many years, and he was a major influence in the development of the RIAS over the past four decades.

To remember Vanden Heuvel the board of the RIAS decided to establish a William J. vanden Heuvel Memorial Lecture Series. The first of these lectures will be held in April 2022.

Opening up the Vaults

In spite of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the RIAS staff has been able to host and accommodate a number of students and researchers in 2021.

Among them, the RIAS hosted the 2021 Marilyn B. Young Travel Grant winner, Jacopo Perazzoli, from the University of Bergamo in Italy.

Perazzoli is writing a book titled *Wilson and Wilsonianism in the 20th Century: Influences and Receptions in the Euro-Atlantic Scenario* and found the RIAS collections highly valuable and useful.

A Brand-New Website

In 2021 the RIAS got a brand-new website. It is built around the most important features of the institute: Library; Research; Graduate School; Activities.

Under these tabs it is possible to find out what is going on at the RIAS, its main holdings and collections and its new research projects.

A news section keeps you posted about the current events organized by the institute and its partners.





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