

# The Roosevelt

The Newsletter of the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

DECEMBER 2018

*Seeking Freedom  
beyond Fear*



## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

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As the transatlantic relationship encounters some difficulties at the political level, it is up to civil society to strengthen the bonds between the two worlds that are separated and connected by the Atlantic. The Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (RIAS) is doing this by bringing together these two regions. Guest professors from the United States mingle in Middelburg with young scholars from the Netherlands. And PhD students and other academics from Europe examine and study the US, using the vast collection of the RIAS American Library and its ever-expanding resources. All this, together with a wide range of exciting events and activities, sets the RIAS apart as a vibrant center of learning and understanding.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank the directors and staff of the institute for another bright year. All their 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, and Leiden University, for which the RIAS is infinitely grateful.

Wim van den Doel, Gerard van Harten, Arendo Joustra

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTORS

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When the RIAS was launched in 2017 its overarching mission was to facilitate academic research on US history and transatlantic relations, establish a Graduate School for (post-)doctoral research, and provide the Province of Zeeland with a “window to America” regarding themes of societal importance in the 21st century. Its more immediate mission was to put RIAS “on the map.” In 2018 we achieved both.

During the past year we solidified our position as a preeminent research institution. The RIAS Graduate School truly came into its own and our activities—which included a conference, a public symposium, and captivating public lectures by prominent intellectuals—all proved inspiring and thought-provoking. We fine-tuned our “identity.” Embracing human rights as an important pillar of our academic research and the Rooseveltian legacy, we are committed to organizing certain activities each year around one of the four freedoms. In 2018 the theme was “Freedom from Fear,” into which the symposium on refugees fit seamlessly.

Damian Pargas and Giles Scott-Smith

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# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## Seeking Refuge: A Symposium on Refugees and Asylum

To many Europeans and Americans, the term “refugee” conjures up news images of crammed civilian vessels washing up from war-torn countries, border patrol crackdowns on unauthorized crossings, sanctuary cities, and fiery debates in the halls of government.

Recent public discourse on how to deal with refugees has been polarizing, ranging from demands for exclusion based on concerns for national security and public safety on the one hand, to calls for providing humanitarian assistance on the other.

The current refugee crisis may seem like a new and unprecedented challenge, but modern history is in fact replete with similar episodes—from the slave refugee crisis of 19th century America, to the massive civilian displacement of both world wars, to the Albanian boat refugees of the 1990s.

Refugees, sanctuary cities, and governmental responses were some of the themes at the core of

the RIAS public symposium titled “Seeking Refuge: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Refugees and Asylum,” which was held in Middelburg in September.

The RIAS hosted nine speakers from across the US and Europe, and two leading experts on refugees and asylum: These were the distinguished director of the UNHCR New York Office Udo K. Janz, and professor of sociology and anthropology at Smith College Peter I. Rose.

The symposium was organized in conjunction with the NWO Vidi project “Beacons of Freedom: Slave Refugees in North America, 1800-1860” under the supervision of RIAS executive director Damian Pargas, and with the assistance of the NWO Vici research team “Cities of Refuge” under the supervision of University College Roosevelt professor and longtime friend of the RIAS Barbara Oomen.





## Bridging Divides: The Third New Diplomatic History Conference

On 24-26 October 2018 the New Diplomatic History network held its third conference—NDH3—at the RIAS, following its earlier events in Leiden (2013) and Copenhagen (2016).

It was the largest and most ambitious conference so far, demonstrating the wide reach and popular appeal of the NDH field, in terms of both nationalities present and disciplines represented.

NDH3 was entitled “Bridging Divides,” referring to the aim to bring together historians of the early modern and modern periods to compare, contrast and explore their questions, approaches, and research agendas for the study of diplomacy.

Nineteen panels of papers were spread out over the three days, each one organized around a particular theme to mix perspectives on diplomacy through the ages. It was an experiment, but it worked.

The sharing of ideas in this way proved to be one of the main successes of the event, stimulating participants to reflect on their positions and views.

The conference was framed around two keynote lectures and two plenary roundtables. Professor John Watkins (University of Minnesota) closed off the first day with a *tour de force* lecture entitled “Apocalyptic Diplomacy,” which questioned the orthodox assumption of diplomacy being a rational activity between nation-states.

Linking the influence of faith on England’s relations with the Dutch Republic during the 1650s, to the decision of President Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital in late 2017, professor Watkins sketched in detail how religious conviction has directly impacted on diplomatic relations using examples spanning over four centuries.



In doing so, Shimazu illustrated perfectly the multiple layers of behavior, exchange, and meaning, each one sending significant messages to other participants, that are present at these kinds of occasions.

The first plenary roundtable, led by Sari Nauman (University of Gothenburg) and Susanna Erlandsson (Uppsala University/University of Amsterdam), gathered a number of researchers together to discuss "Trust and Diplomacy: Social Relations and Diplomatic Processes 1600-2000."

The varied research projects presented under this title collectively raised provocative questions: Can diplomacy be conducted at all without trust? Is some level of already-established trust therefore a prerequisite for diplomacy to take place? Is trust transferrable between cultures or professions? Are there significant differences between trust-building and confidence-building?

On the second day, Professor Naoko Shimazu (Yale-NUS College, Singapore) provided the perfect follow-up with a detailed study of the Bandung conference in Indonesia in 1955.

A gathering of some of the prominent leaders of the post-colonial world (Nehru, Zhou Enlai, Kwame Nkrumah, Nasser, with Sukarno as host), Bandung sent a message that global politics were no longer going to be decided in the imperial and superpower capitals of the world.

In her lecture, Shimazu focused her fine-grained talk on Bandung as a unique diplomatic site, involving both formal and informal occasions for dialogue, cross-cultural communication, and displays of power and prestige.

Significantly, while women are absent from the list of leaders and diplomats who attended, they are ever-present in photographs taken of the event, as hostesses, artists, and, in the case of Indira Gandhi, prominent daughters of statesmen.



The second plenary, which closed off the conference, was chaired by Costas Constantinou (University of Cyprus) and included the screening of his documentary "The Blessed Envoy," a study of how Archbishop Makarios represented Cyprus on travels abroad during the 1960s.

Makarios was able to make full use of his status and prestige as head of the Greek Orthodox church to portray himself as statesman and spiritual leader around the newly independent nations of Asia and Africa.

Constantinou's film showed how Makarios was able to act as a Western-style diplomat, a religious figure, and a representative of the post-colonial world all in one, in doing so giving himself a unique identity to engage with other nations.

The conference fully demonstrated the diversity of the NDH research community, but also the extent to which this community recognizes New Diplomatic History as a common field of enquiry.



The papers ranged over the themes of music and the arts, literature and language, gifts, various kinds of mediation, and the role of non-state actors in the diplomatic realm.

Several papers focused on the prominent place of business within diplomacy, both as economic actors and as diplomatic players making use of economic assets. Other researchers explored the role of individuals and organizations in pursuing simultaneously their own and their national interests abroad.

NDH3 therefore fully achieved its goals. The participants brought together views on diplomacy from beyond a Western perspective, they explored the place of non-state actors and individuals, and it broke open the early modern/modern divide in terms of historical periodizations. The benefits of mixing historical approaches, and the theoretical and practical debates that this triggered, were clear to everyone present.

As a result, the basis has been firmly laid for the launch of the NDH community's journal, *Diplomatica: A Journal of Diplomacy and Society*, to be published by Brill from 2019.

NDH3 was made possible thanks to the facilities and services of the Province of Zeeland. The RIAS staff and the NDH network look forward to NDH4, which will be held at Aarhus University in 2020.

# PUBLIC LECTURES



## The Spring Roosevelt Lecture: Peter I. Rose on Immigration

The US thinks of itself as a “nation of immigrants,” but the question of exactly how (or when, or how many) newcomers can become Americans has often been hotly contested throughout American history.

The year 2018 was no exception. From the rescinding of the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in February, to the “caravan” that dominated the final week of the midterm election campaign, questions of migration and refugees were at the forefront of American politics this year. It was perfectly timed, then, that the RIAS was able to host professor Peter I. Rose, a world-renowned sociologist and expert on refugee issues, for its Spring Roosevelt Lecture on 16 April.

Professor Rose spoke on “The Stranger at the Gates: The Politics and Morality of US Immigration

and Refugee Policy from FDR to Trump.” Throughout its history, as Rose argued, the United States has often found itself hamstrung between humanitarianism and nativism.

In the 1930s, as growing numbers of European Jews sought refuge in the United States, FDR faced this dilemma in an acute form. The question of whether he did enough to help the victims of Nazi persecution has haunted his presidency ever since.

Professor Rose is no stranger to Middelburg, and he played an important role in setting up the city’s liberal arts college as the first chair of the advisory board of University College Roosevelt.



## Toleration or Compassion: A Special Four Freedoms Lecture by Karen Armstrong

In today's troubled world, religion is often seen as a problem rather than part of the solution; it is often assumed to be essentially intolerant of difference and inherently aggressive.

But religious belief has been, and still remains, a profound source of hope and inspiration to billions of people across the globe.

For Franklin Roosevelt (himself an Episcopalian) it was clear that "Freedom of Worship" should be one of the Four Freedoms that, to his mind, would form the moral basis of the post-war international order.

In a special Roosevelt Lecture to coincide with this year's Four Freedom Awards, professor Karen Armstrong, best-selling author and scholar of comparative religion, offered her vision on how religion could function as a medium for international and inter-faith understanding; for dialogue, rather than division.

Professor Armstrong herself is a Four Freedoms Laureate: she received the "Freedom of Worship" award in 2008, in recognition for her initiative "The Charter for Compassion," a document that urges peoples of the world to embrace compassion.

In her lecture, professor Armstrong critiqued the intellectual framework in which we commonly discuss and think about religion in modern society.

The most prominent example is what is sometimes called the Golden Rule, "Do not treat others as you would not like them to treat you," a version of which has been propagated by every major faith in world history.

Recognizing these universal principles of justice and compassion, she argues, offers a more fruitful way of overcoming division than concentrating on difference.



## Transatlantic Cooperation 2.0: The View from the Foreign Ministry



Transatlantic cooperation has been crucial for mutual security and prosperity on both shores of the Atlantic. At the same time, such a fundamental collaboration cannot be taken for granted and needs updating constantly.

From this point of view, the most recent political and diplomatic developments have posed new challenges to the transatlantic exchanges. What does that mean for the relationship between the Netherlands and the US? Is it time to imagine a new kind of transatlantic relations?

During this lecture, Dutch foreign policy officers and trainees gave fresh insights into the current state of Dutch-American relations. They spoke about common threats, security challenges, and shared values.

The RIAS guests were Fennigje Hinse, senior policy officer for the Western Hemisphere Department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a focus on Dutch-American relationships, and Tom Schoen, an intern at the same office.

## The Fall Roosevelt Lecture: Hedy Rose, Hidden Childhood

Hedy Rose (née Hedwig Cohen) was born in Amsterdam in 1936. After the German invasion in 1940, her life changed irrevocably. She started first grade, but had to stop again a few weeks later after a Nazi decree forbade Jewish children from going to school.

When her father was arrested, she and her sister left their house, to spend the next four years in an Amsterdam cellar, hidden by a courageous friend of the family, who sheltered them from the Nazi occupying forces at great personal risk. She survived the war, though her parents did not, and moved to the United States to live with her aunt and uncle.

She would go on to have a distinguished career as an academic, teaching at Smith College, Wesleyan University, and the University of Massachusetts.

She is currently preparing a book on her wartime experience, for which she has been working in archives and record offices in Amsterdam, at the war archives of the Hoover Institution, and at the libraries of Stanford University studying the history within which her own wartime experiences took place.

In her Roosevelt Lecture, "My Childhood in Hiding," she offered an insight into her life as an "onderduiker"—unique in its particulars, but part of an experience shared by those victimized by the Second World War and the Holocaust.



## Discussing Human Rights: A Roundtable on Eleanor Roosevelt

Exactly seventy years ago, in December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That seminal document, which still represents the cornerstone for the protection of collective and individual freedoms and for the safeguarding of minorities, was the product of careful negotiations between contrasting and seemingly antithetic interests.

Different cultural backgrounds, judicial philosophies, forms of government and worldviews were harmonized so as to find a common base upon which to build a new idea of citizenship and humanity. One of the main architects of this enterprise was former US first lady and the chair of the UN Human Rights Committee, Eleanor Roosevelt.

But what was, more specifically, her contribution? What role did she play in paving the way for the achievement of a workable compromise? And how do the legacies of her actions, views, and methods still reverberate today, in our contemporary world?

The Eleanor Roosevelt specialists at the RIAS, Dario Fazzi and Nanka de Vries had a public conversation on this at De Drvkkery in Middelburg, where they engaged the audience about the relevance of human rights and made use of Eleanor Roosevelt's exemplary story to cover their evolution, codification and modification over the past seventy years.

# GRADUATE SCHOOL

## The RIAS International PhD Seminars

The international PhD seminars, which the RIAS staff organizes twice a year, have become a core component of the RIAS graduate school. They are open to PhD candidates whose research covers any aspect of US history, culture, society, and politics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

These seminars offer a unique opportunity to present ongoing research projects, test preliminary findings, and discuss primary sources with a larger community made of peers and experienced professors.

In doing so, PhD candidates can collect feedback and comments and at the same time build up an international network of contacts that will help them in the pursuit of their academic career.

The spring presentations spanned a variety of themes concerning public memory and cultural identity, naval policies and cultural diplomacy, integration and foreign aid.

In the fall, students' presentations focused on the meaning of freedom in the US, transatlantic relations, human rights, the New Deal, and Mormon culture.

As is often the case, the PhD candidates benefited from the presence of a few distinguished guests. This year professor Halbert Jones from the Rothermere American Institute in Oxford, and professor David Woolner from Marist College and the Roosevelt Institute in New York joined the discussions and provided the PhD candidates with insightful advice and constructive comments.

All the participants greatly valued their experience and especially appreciated the RIAS informal atmosphere. The RIAS will also organize two international PhD seminars in 2019 and will soon 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).





## The Amerikanistendag and the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award

The Roosevelt Institute of American Studies was proud to host the annual Amerikanistendag, an event organized and sponsored by the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). This event provided an opportunity for students of American Studies, from the Netherlands and abroad, to present their research.

The day began with the keynote address by Mike Schmidli (Leiden University). Schmidli's talk was devoted to how examples of public diplomacy between the US and Central America represented insightful precedents for the recent phenomenon of "fake news."

The Amerikanistendag also happened to be the occasion during which this year's Theodore Roosevelt American History Award (TRAHA) was presented. This award was given to the best Master's thesis on American history produced at a Dutch university.

The winner of the TRAHA this year was Megan Griffiths of Leiden University. Her thesis was on the Salem witch trials and investigated witchcraft as rebellion. As a prize, Megan won a week-long trip to North Dakota, hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation and sponsored by the US Embassy in The Hague, and a subscription to *Elsevier Weekblad*. The jury report is available at [www.roosevelt.nl/traha-2018](http://www.roosevelt.nl/traha-2018).



## Growing Up at the RIAS: The Library Internship

Over the course of each calendar year, the RIAS offers up to four library internships. This program, which is open to all students enrolled in a Dutch university, represents a unique opportunity to acquire first-hand working experience in an academic institute, and at the same time broaden knowledge and understanding about the United States.

Our library interns work at the RIAS on a full-time basis and get a standard remuneration for a period of three months. Their activities include different library duties, assisting the staff in the organization of conferences and other public events, editorial

work, making archival materials accessible, translating documents, and secretarial assistance. In addition, each intern carries out a research project under the supervision of the RIAS staff.

In 2018 four interns, by coincidence all coming from Leiden University, have helped the RIAS staff to manage its day-to-day activities and have contributed to strengthening and promoting its public image through all sorts of social media.

If you are interested in this position, send us a motivation letter and a CV at [rias@zeeland.nl](mailto:rias@zeeland.nl).



Our first intern, from January to the end of March, was Tim Kies, who coordinated several student visits and helped the RIAS staff in organizing different events, including an informal visit that the Japanese ambassador to the Netherlands paid to the RIAS in January. In his own words, the RIAS internship helped Tim in getting to know his potential career path.



Kirsten Weitering was our intern in the spring and attended one of the RIAS international PhD seminars. That experience gave her "a real taste of what it's like to be part of an academic community." Kirsten made valuable use of her experience at the RIAS to clarify her research interests and develop her MA thesis.



The third intern was Laura op de Beke, a research master student who staffed the RIAS library over the summer. While working at the RIAS Laura managed to finish her thesis and write a PhD proposal on environmental humanities. Laura especially appreciated the fact that the RIAS connected her to a valuable network of American Studies scholars in the Netherlands and abroad.



Josefien Vermet worked at the RIAS in the fall and, while making substantial progress on her research on Native Americans in the New Deal era, she also helped the RIAS staff with the organization of seminars and student visits. Being "in charge" of the library for her was also a great opportunity to broaden the scope of her research interests.

## A Living Research Hub: The RIAS Seminar Series

This spring, the RIAS organized a nine-part seminar series with a variety of scholars as speakers. This series was specifically designed for the RIAS PhD students, but it was open to those interested from the Middelburg academic scene and beyond.

The speakers came from different backgrounds and disciplines, bringing a diverse set of topics to the seminar series. Professors from University College Roosevelt, Leiden University, the University of St. Andrews, Oxford University and Hunter College in New York presented their work in progress. The seminar series covered a broad range of topics, illustrating the latest research in global history,

music and international history, the United Nations and human rights, US-Mexican relations, and the study of dynasties

The series also sparked lively discussions about many aspects of academic life such as publishing in journals, writing grant proposals and working on edited volumes. The RIAS is grateful to all those colleagues who gave their time to make this seminar series a useful addition to the graduate school program.

## Researchers for a Day

The RIAS holds more than 10,000 volumes on US history, politics, culture and society. Its holdings also include more than 300,000 documents collected from many public and private US repositories. In addition, the RIAS is located at the heart of Middelburg, in its beautiful medieval abbey. All of this makes the RIAS an attractive location for student trips and research visits.

The RIAS staff is always happy to host groups of students coming from a variety of Dutch universities. We offer them research seminars and short lectures, and the opportunity to carry out group assignments and archival surveys.



This year, groups of students from Groningen, Leiden, Nijmegen, Rotterdam, and Middelburg visited the RIAS and benefited from the experience. One of them was led by Thomas Bottelier, a former RIAS intern who now lectures at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Students dug deeper into our holdings, found inspiration for their papers, developed ideas for their theses, and gathered first-hand experience of primary research.



# RESEARCH



## A Growing Team: Introducing the New PhD Candidates

In 2018, the RIAS welcomed two new PhD candidates in its growing Graduate School.

Nanka de Vries (MA Leiden) started her PhD project in February. Her research aims to explore the various strategies and tactics used by Eleanor Roosevelt to promote and defend the UN's global mission as an international institution for peace and justice.

Debby Esmeé (MSt Oxford) will begin her project on Black Power in the Dutch Caribbean in January 2019, with the aim of demonstrating how African American ideas about black pride and self-determination influenced political and cultural resistance in the Netherlands Antilles and Suriname in the 1960s and 1970s.

Nanka: "Scholars have thoroughly examined Eleanor Roosevelt's role as an official representative and diplomat at the United Nations. My PhD expands on this research by exploring how she continued to educate the public and lobbied politicians for the UN as a non-state actor and private citizen.

As my project focuses on how she publicized the

image of the UN both in the United States and abroad, I will analyze which public diplomacy tools she employed to encourage interest and active participation in the UN."

Debby Esmeé: "I find the international history of the Black Power movement fascinating because it shows just how powerful minorities can be. The global impact of the movement indicates that diasporic communities in different regions shared similar experiences and that there was a widespread need for pan-African solidarity.

In the Dutch Caribbean, Black Power ideology was primarily used to criticize the colonial power of the Netherlands. By exploring the connection between African American and Dutch Caribbean protest in this period, I hope to place resistance in the Dutch colonies into a broader context while also explaining its unique position in the international Black Power movement."

The RIAS is really pleased to have both Nanka and Debby Esmeé on-board!



## Fulbright Distinguished Research Fellowship: Tom Doherty at the RIAS

Tom Doherty was the Fulbright Visiting Fellow at the RIAS during the fall of 2018. He is professor of American Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where he teaches on film and media in the history of the United States. He spoke about his experience at the RIAS with our postdoc, Cees Heere.

“I’m writing a book on the ‘crime of the century’—the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby in 1932—and the ‘trial of the century,’ when the likely kidnapper, Bruno Hauptmann, was captured, tried, and executed.

Now the Roosevelt angle on this is twofold. First, when we think of the New Deal and the ‘alphabet agencies’ it produces, the AAA, the CCC, the WPA, and so forth, we often forget the longest-lived one, which is the FBI. And the FBI becomes the FBI we know today during and because of the Lindbergh case. The state police in New Jersey just isn’t equipped for the kind of police work that this case involves.

The Lindbergh case shows in many ways that America needs a national, bureaucratic law-enforcement agency of the sort that Hoover is already putting into place.

The second thing is the rise of electronic media—radio and the sound newsreels—which Roosevelt is just a devastatingly effective performer with. The Lindbergh case is really the moment at which these reach a sort of nationwide penetration and power that they didn’t have before. And other than that, it’s just a fascinating crime case.

This isn’t my first time in the Netherlands—I was here in the early 90s—though the food has gotten better since then! The Roosevelt Institute is just a wonderful place, I can get a lot of work done, I’m surrounded by friendly, supportive colleagues. Plus, it’s been terrific to be able to take advantage of all the film festivals that are happening here and in the rest of Europe.”



## A New Partnership: The RAI

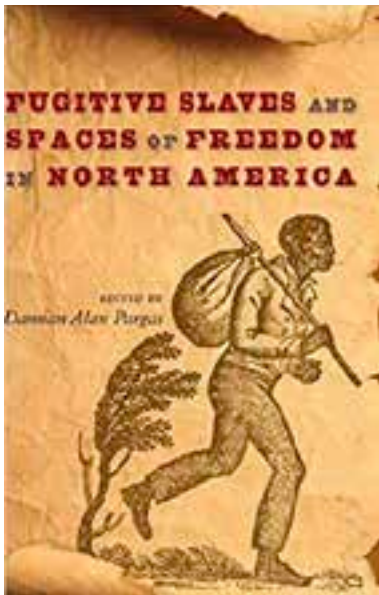
From 2-4 May 2018, Halbert Jones, director of Oxford University’s Rothermere American Institute (RAI), visited the RIAS. During his visit, it was agreed that the two American Studies institutions would deepen their cooperation by facilitating the exchange of short-term visits between Oxford and Middelburg.

The Rothermere American Institute was opened in 2001 by former US President Bill Clinton, and it has since developed a leading role in the study of American history, politics, and culture both within Oxford and across the international academic environment.

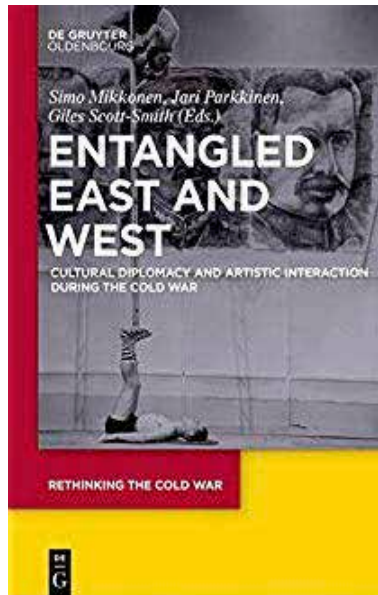
Both institute staff and visiting scholars will be able to move between the two institutes for such purposes as the holding of graduate seminars and the use of research collections. The agreement therefore lays the basis for an important circulation of scholars, ideas, and skills between two leading institutes for American Studies in Britain and the Netherlands.



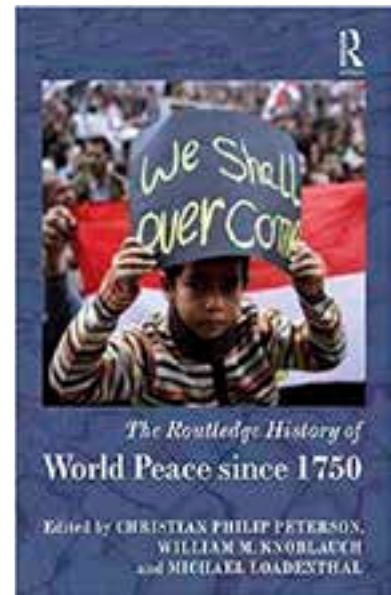
# PUBLICATIONS



This volume introduces a new way to study the experiences of runaway slaves by defining the different “spaces of freedom” they inhabited. It also provides a groundbreaking continental view of fugitive slave migration, moving beyond the usual regional or national approaches to explore locations in Canada, the US North and South, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Drawing from newspapers, advertisements, and new demographic data, contributors show how the changing landscape of slavery and freedom that emerged in the wake of the American Revolution affected opportunities for enslaved people to escape their masters and craft lives of freedom.



The Cold War was not only about a superpower struggle and a nuclear stand-off. It was also about competing cultures, and this competition often involved exchange across the East-West divide. This volume brings together a set of wide-ranging essays exploring that exchange through architecture, art exhibitions, classical and popular music, public monuments, academia, and photography. The volume concludes with a unique study of Mathias Rust, the West German teenager who flew a hired Cessna airplane to Red Square in 1987 to try and establish an “imaginary bridge” for peace.



Edited by Christian Philip Peterson, William M. Knoblauch, Michael Loadenthal, *The Routledge History of World Peace since 1750* came out in August 2018. The book examines the varied and multifaceted scholarship surrounding the topic of peace and provides an innovative global perspective. RIAS researcher Dario Fazzi contributed a chapter titled “The Nuclear Freeze: Transnational Pursuit of Positive Peace,” in which he describes the development of the early 1980s nuclear freeze campaign as a genuinely transnational—namely transatlantic—phenomenon

# GRANTS & MORE



## The Marilyn B. Young Research Grant

Each year, the RIAS offers a number of travel grants. It also awards the Marilyn B. Young Research Grant, with the aim to support research on the history of US foreign policy and especially its overlap with social and civil rights history.

The grant is offered to scholars who are interested in using the RIAS holdings and collections to further their research. It is named after professor Marilyn B. Young, who was a leading historian of American foreign relations and professor of history at New York University. Professor Young was also a long-time RIAS friend and supporter, and her work has inspired generations of scholars both in Europe and in the United States.

In 2018, the recipient of the Marilyn B. Young Grant was professor Simon Hall from the University of Leeds, who visited the RIAS to complete his book project on "Fidel, Harlem, and the Making of the 1960s." To apply, please visit our page at [www.roosevelt.nl/research](http://www.roosevelt.nl/research).

## Enriching the Vaults: New Digital Collections

This year, the RIAS has expanded the number of its digital collections considerably. The new acquisitions include a collection on "Slavery and the Law," which features petitions on race, slavery, and free blacks that were submitted to state legislatures and county courthouses between 1775 and 1867, and a collection on women's rights movements spanning across more than a century.

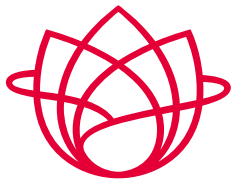
Furthermore, the RIAS has now access to a number of new documents concerning the American involvement in the First World War, the emergence and campaigns of several Anti-Vietnam War movements, and the evolution of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. These sources can be accessed on-site at the RIAS library in Middelburg.

## The Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt

Members of the Roosevelt family have visited the RIAS many times in the past. This year, we welcomed Laura and Truda Roosevelt, respectively Eleanor's granddaughter and great-granddaughter, at our library in Middelburg for a very special occasion.

The Province of Zeeland had invited them to mark the seventieth anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights by unveiling a new bust of Eleanor Roosevelt. The sculpture, which is an initiative of Art for Amnesty, was made by the Czech artist Marie Seborova.





# Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

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