



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Seminar Series on Modern North American History

September 2023 – April 2024

Program

Invitation to Seminar

by Prof. Andrew Preston
20 November 2023

The political developments, societal transformations, cultural shifts, foreign policy initiatives, national security concerns, and international relations that originated from the US have left an indelible mark on the North American continent and the global landscape.

This hybrid seminar series, organized by the RIAS and the Sciences Po Center for History (CHSP) in Paris, forms a platform to explore these diverse and interconnected themes.

This series, one of very few of its kind in Europe, intersects with various significant historiographical trends, continuing the move towards a more integrated view of US and North American history. It pays special attention to the inclusion of global, imperial, transnational, and interconnected histories to reframe our understanding of the United States' place in the world and the emerging focus on international environmental history and issues.

The platform, which meets once a month in a hybrid format (online and in person), encourages active participation from doctoral students and aims to serve as an open and inclusive forum for discussing some of the most innovative recent scholarship. It aspires to bring together historians of different backgrounds and in different stages of their career, foster a historiographical and interdisciplinary conversation, and critically consider the contemporary societal and political ramifications of the historical events under discussion.



Coordinators:

- **Dario Fazzi (Leiden University / RIAS)**
- **Gaetano Di Tommaso (RIAS)**
- **Mario Del Pero (Sciences Po-Paris, Centre d'histoire)**
- **Olivier Burtin (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)**

Invitation

FROM PLANNING TO STRATEGY: NEW DEAL LIBERALISM AND THE INVENTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY

LECTURER Professor Andrew Preston

DATE Monday, 20 November 2023 from 5 PM to 6.30 PM CET

LOCATION This is a hybrid event. You can participate in the seminar in person in Paris or join online.

Click on the [registration link](#) below to see the address of the location in Paris



Andrew Preston is Professor of American History at Cambridge University and a fellow at Clare College.

He specializes in the history of American foreign relations, primarily since 1898, and he is the author or editor of nine books. Among the most recent ones are *Rethinking American Grand Strategy*, edited together with Elizabeth Borgwardt and Christopher McKnight Nichols (Oxford University Press, 2021), and *American Foreign Relations: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2019). In 2013, he also won the Charles Taylor Prize with the book *Sword of the Spirit, Shield of Faith: Religion in American War and Diplomacy* (Knopf).

He is currently writing a book on the idea of national security in American history as well as co-editing (with Lien-Hang Nguyen) volume 2 of the forthcoming 3-volume *Cambridge History of the Vietnam War*.

In his talk, titled *From Planning to Strategy: New Deal Liberalism and the Invention of National Security*, he will discuss his current research project. Historians are increasingly in agreement that American "national security" is not a timeless concept or a neutral descriptor of US foreign and military policies. It has a political, conceptual, and ideological history of its own that only recently has started to come to light. But where did it come from? Did it develop as a reaction to external crises, or was there something more to it? Drawing directly from a draft chapter from his forthcoming book *The Invention of National Security*, Preston will explain how the concept was a product of the late 1930s-early 1940s, but just as much for domestic reasons, rooted in political economy and social security, than as a reaction to the growing world crisis.

To attend the lecture, [please register here](#).

Program

Monday, 25 September 2023, 17.00 – 18.30 CEST

- Kristin Hoganson (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), *Structures of Power: US Infrastructure Building in the Circum-Caribbean During the Bad Neighbor Era*

Monday, 23 October 2023, 18.00 – 19.30 CEST

- Matthew Connelly (Columbia University), *America's Secrecy Industrial Complex: History and the Future*

Monday, 20 November 2023, 17.00 – 18.30 CET

- Andrew Preston (University of Cambridge), *From Planning to Strategy: New Deal Liberalism and the Invention of National Security*

Monday, 11 December 2023, 17.00 – 19.00 CET

- Rebecca Herman (UC Berkeley), *Cooperating with the Colossus: US Military Basing in World War II Latin America*

Monday, 29 January 2024, 17.00 – 18.30 CET

- Sean Vanatta (University of Glasgow), *A Treacherous Ocean of Money: Finance and Failure across the Interwar Atlantic, 1920-1935*

Monday, 26 February 2024, 17.00 – 18.30 CET

- Sarah Nelson (Leiden University), *Networking Empire: Communications, Decolonization, and American Power in the 20th Century*

Monday, 25 March 25, 2024, 17.00 – 18.30 CET

- Augusta Dell'Omo (Southern Methodist University), *Far Right Capitalism in the US and South Africa at the End of the Cold War*

Monday, 29 April 2024, 17.00 – 18.30 CEST

- Elsa Devienne (Northumbria University), *Rubbish Tactics? Oil Spills, Beach Clean-Ups, and the Making of Modern Environmentalism (1969-2023)*