



Roosevelt  
Institute for  
American  
Studies

# Seminar Series on Modern North American History

September 2023 – April 2024

**Program**

**Invitation to Seminar**

by Prof. Rebecca Herman

11 December 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

## COOPERATING WITH THE COLOSSUS: US MILITARY BASING IN WORLD WAR II LATIN AMERICA

**LECTURER** Professor Rebecca Herman

**DATE** Monday, 11 December 2023 at 17:30 to 19:00 CET

**LOCATION** Online

Click on this [link](#) to register



Rebecca Herman is associate professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *Cooperating with the Colossus* and a number of articles and essays that have appeared in *The American Historical Review*, *Diplomatic History*, and *Gender & History*. Her broader research agenda is concerned with the complicated relationship between international cooperation and global inequality, and is marked by an interest in grounding big questions of international politics in local histories and the lives of "ordinary" people. Her newer work explores these tensions and methodological inclinations in the realm of environmental politics. She is currently working on a book about Antarctica in the 1970s and 80s that reconstructs a fraught period in Antarctic governance through the stories of the soldiers and scientists, military wives and children, artists, writers, and activists who traveled to the frozen continent in growing numbers during these years. Her most recent article, "Greenpeace Goes South: The Promise and Pitfalls of Global Environmentalism in Argentina," tells the story of Greenpeace International's first office in the global South, which opened in Buenos Aires in the 1980s. It is due out in *Environmental History* in January 2024.

In her talk, Rebecca Herman will discuss her last book, *Cooperating with the Colossus*, which was published by Oxford University Press in 2022 and won the 2023 Tonous & Warda Johns Family Book Award given annually to an outstanding book on the history of US foreign relations, military history, or immigration history by the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. The book brings together the diplomatic history of US military basing in Latin America during World War II with the social and political histories of the communities where the bases were built to better understand the tensions between sovereignty and cooperation that have profoundly shaped the modern history of the Americas.

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, 17.30 – 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)*



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