



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Seminar Series on Modern North American History

September 2023 – May 2024

Program

Invitation to Seminar

by Augusta Dell'Omo
25 March 2024

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

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WHITE POWER

LECTURER Augusta Dell'Omo

DATE Monday, 25 March 2024 at 17:00 to 18:30 CET

LOCATION Online — Click on this [link](#) to register



Augusta Dell'Omo is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University (Dallas, TX). She received her PhD in History from the University of Texas at Austin in 2022. She specializes in US foreign policy and race in international relations from the late Cold War to the present. Augusta's manuscript *Saving Apartheid: White Supremacist Internationalism at the Cold War's End* analyzes the construction of a transnational network of white supremacist political, religious, and terroristic organizations seeking to stabilize white rule in South Africa while working against Congressional and Presidential sanctions policies from 1980 to 1994. Her work has been published in *Cold War History and Diplomatic History*. You can find her public-facing work on *Washington Post*, *Inkstick Media*, *AJ+*, and *CNN International*. Her research is supported by the Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, and the Clements Center for National Security, among others.

The end of the Cold War heralded a shift in the pro-apartheid movement's organizing, as white supremacist actors drew on the global human rights movement to defend and reimagine white rule in South Africa. In a world without the existential threat of the Soviet Union, the pro-apartheid movement's anticommunist rhetoric did not resonate as it had in the 1980s. As international concerns about human rights emerged in the 1990s, the pro-apartheid movement positioned itself as the premier defender of ethnic rights for white Afrikaners, and eventually, for South Africa's Black Zulus, both under threat from the African National Congress. President F.W. de Klerk's ascension to the helm of the apartheid state and his apartheid reforms enraged the South African far-right. In the aftermath of de Klerk's 2 February 1990 unbanning the African National Congress, South African white paramilitary and political actors organized across the nation, insisting that the National Party no longer represented the interests of Afrikaners. The National Party and the African National Congress's formal process of negotiating towards a democratic transition—the Convention for a Democratic South Africa—galvanized far-right violence in South Africa, unleashing almost five years of national and local white terrorist action. Fearing a permanent shift in the balance of power in South Africa away from whites and toward the Black majority, South African far-right parties—backed by their U.S. counterparts—created their vision for white rule. Invoking the historic “Boer Republics”—self-governing white republics of the late 19th century—South African far-right organizations demanded the formation of new, segregated ethno-states under the guise of minority rights protections. However, not all factions of the pro-apartheid movement supported creating the Boer Republics. Far-right organizations across the United States and South Africa disagreed on the pro-apartheid movement's tactics, strategies, and goals as it faced the reality of a National Party no longer serving exclusively white interests. The renewed focus on national and ethnic minority rights within democratic states provided the perfect opportunity for pro-apartheid activists to continue using human rights rhetoric to defend white rule.

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, 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), *Human Rights for White Power*

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)*

Monday, 13 May 2023, 17.00 – 18.30 CET

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



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