



Roosevelt  
Institute for  
American  
Studies

# **International PhD Seminar**

## **12-13 June 2025**

**Roosevelt Institute for American Studies**  
**Hofplein 16**  
**4331 CK Middelburg**

**Program**

# International PhD Seminar

12-13 June 2025

All sessions follow the following format: a 15-minute presentation followed by a 45-minute discussion. Following each presentation and discussion, there will be a 10-minute coffee break.

## WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE

- 15:00 onwards**    **Arrival in Middelburg & Hotel Check-In**  
Hotel De Nieuwe Doelen, Loskade 5, Middelburg
- 20:00**            **Welcome Drinks**  
Hotel Bar De Nieuwe Doelen, Loskade 5, Middelburg

## THURSDAY, 12 JUNE

- 09:00-09:15**    **Walk-in & Introduction**
- 09:15-12:45**    **Session 1: Toxicity**  
Chair: Dario Fazzi (RIAS/Leiden University)
- **Catherine Simpson** (Utrecht University)  
*Examining the Invisible: The Impact of the Industrial Revolution on Historical Air Pollution in Amsterdam and Maastricht 1850-1950*
  - **Airin Farahmand** (Radboud University Nijmegen)  
*The Story of Plastic: From Scientific Marvels to Mundane Objects*
  - **Tholithemba Lorenzo Ndaba** (University of Groningen)  
*Mountains that Move: The Witwatersrand's Mine Dumps as Legacies, Landscapes and Lives*
- 12:45-13:45**    **Lunch**
- 13:45-14:45**    **Workshop session on getting published during your PhD**
- 14:45-15:00**    **Coffee & Tea**

**15:00-18:30**

**Session 2: Land Use**

Chair: Roberta Biasillo (Utrecht University)

- **Jonas Danen** (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)  
*The New World as Garden: Harvesting the Dutch Hudson Valley, 1609-1664*
- **Seb Verlinden** (KU Leuven)  
*Marshes Into Farmland. Combining AI-Segmented Maps and Historical Surveys to Assess Landscape Change in the Campine Area (1770-1970)*
- **Georg Schäfer** (Max Planck Institute)  
*Hiding in Plains Sight: Tracing the Emergence of the Technosphere between Kansas' Dust Bowls*

**18:45**

**Dinner**

La Piccola Italia, Damplein 46, Middelburg

**FRIDAY, 13 JUNE**

**09:00-12:30**

**Session 3: Multispecies**

Chair: Johannes Müller (Leiden University)

- **Sabrina Schettino** (University of Eastern Piedmont)  
*Wild Beasts: Fur Seals, Nuu-chah-nulth and Pelagic Sealing in the North Pacific (1860s-1910s)*
- **Charlotte Meijer** (Radboud University Nijmegen)  
*Bugging Bugs: Researching Human-Insect Relations in the Early Modern Netherlands*
- **Daan Jansen** (University of York)  
*Rats! Migrations, Transgressions, Replacements and Perceptions of Urban Rats in Early Modern Britain and the Low Countries*

**12:30-13:00**

**Expanding the Dutch Environmental History Network (DEHN) – Collaborations and Research Plans**

**13:00-14:00**

**Lunch & Farewell**

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