



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Invitation

Roosevelt Lecture
by Nikole Hannah-Jones
Monday, 29 September 2025



Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize—winning reporter covering racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. She is the creator of the landmark 1619 Project, which became a multimedia project of great success. It was turned into a series on Hulu and even won an Emmy-Award in 2024. In 2017, she obtained a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, known as the Genius Grant, for her work on educational inequality. In 2021 she received the Freedom of Speech and Expression Award in New York, in addition to many more awards. In 2016, Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization geared toward increasing the number of investigative reporters of color. Hannah-Jones is the Knight Chair in Race and Journalism at Howard University, where she has founded the Center for Journalism and Democracy. In 2021, she was named one of Time’s 100 most influential people in the world.



Damian Pargas is Professor of American History at Leiden University and Executive Director of the RIAS. His research is focused on the history of slavery and emancipation in the United States. He is the author of seven books and several articles about African-American History and the history of slavery. Damian is currently involved with a research project about the influence of race on the development of American Democracy in the 19th century.



THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA

LECTURER Nikole Hannah-Jones

DATE Monday 29 September 2025, 16:00-18:00 (The doors open at 15:30.)

LOCATION Town Hall, Lange Noordstraat 1, 4331 CB Middelburg

History is never neutral. It is written, rewritten, and sometimes erased entirely. At a time when the very foundations of American democracy are under pressure and the past is being recast to serve political ends, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and creator of The 1619 Project Nikole Hannah-Jones returns to Middelburg for an urgent conversation on the role of art and historical memory in the fight for freedom and justice.

Across the United States, the past is being weaponized to serve the ambitions of the present. After his return to power, President Donald Trump has named himself honorary chair of the Kennedy Center, reshaped the National Endowment for the Humanities, and forced the Smithsonian to promote a vision of the nation that sidelines complexities and erases injustices. This is not simply a debate over textbooks or museums. It is a struggle over national identity, over who belongs, and whose stories get told. In this battle, art and historical truth are not luxuries—they are battlegrounds, and the effects will echo in America for generations.

In this Roosevelt Lecture, Damian Pargas will lead a conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones. Together, they will take a clear look at where America stands today—exploring how history, democracy, and the fight for justice are deeply connected, especially at a time when all three are under pressure.

After the conversation, the audience will have ample opportunity to ask questions.

To attend the lecture, please register via the following link by
Friday 19 September 2025 at the latest:
[Roosevelt Lecture 2025](#)

This lecture is sponsored by



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