



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Pursuing the Rooseveltian Century

European Forum on US History

September 2025 – May 2026



The RIAS, in collaboration with six other European institutions, is launching the European Forum on US History, a new monthly hybrid seminar series on US history. Our partnership consists of the following research centres:

- American Studies Center, University of Warsaw (Warsaw, Poland)
- Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po (Paris, France)
- Centro di Studi sugli Stati Uniti – LAB-USA (Bologna, Italy)
- Instituto Franklin-UAH (Alcalá, Spain)
- Roosevelt Institute of American Studies (Middelburg, Netherlands)
- Rothermere American Institute (Oxford, Great Britain)
- University of Southern Denmark (Odense, Denmark)

Together, our seven institutes will curate a rotating, hybrid seminar series that deepens historiographical and interdisciplinary exchange, broadens our geographic reach, diversifies scholarly voices, and creates new opportunities for joint workshops, doctoral mentoring, and collaborative publications. By fostering an inclusive platform for scholars and reaffirming our shared commitment to cutting-edge research on US history, we sustain vital cross-border collaboration at a moment when restrictions on academic freedom make such partnerships more essential than ever.

This series, one of the 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, encourages active participation from doctoral students and serves 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 careers, foster a historiographical and interdisciplinary conversation, and critically consider the contemporary societal and political ramifications of the historical events under discussion.

Five of the seven partner institutes are members of the American Studies Network (ASN), a consortium of European American studies centres affiliated with the European Association for American Studies (EAAS).

Members

William Glass (American Studies Center)
Matteo Battistini, Angela Santese (Centro di Studi sugli Stati Uniti)
Olivier Burtin, Mario Del Pero, Jonathan Levy (Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po)
Carlos Herrero, Ana Lariño (Instituto Franklin-UAH)
Gaetano Di Tommaso, Dario Fazzi (Roosevelt Institute for American Studies)
Daniel Rowe (Rothermere American Institute)
Jørn Brøndal (University of Southern Denmark)

Program Coordinator

Gaetano Di Tommaso

Invitation

SLAVERY, GENDER AND EMOTIONS IN THE ANTEBELLUM US SOUTH

LECTURER Beth Wilson

DATE Monday, 27 October 2025 at 17:15 to 18:45 CEST

LOCATION Online



Click on this [link](#) to register

Beth Wilson is a Lecturer in History at **Cardiff University**, having previously held a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Rothermere American Institute and University of Reading. Beth's first monograph, *"I Felt All This": Enslaved People's Emotional Lives in the Antebellum US South*, will be published by Cambridge University Press next year. Drawing on methods from the **history of emotions** to study enslaved people's lives, her book exposes the social, cultural and political role that emotion played in the **US South**. Beth has also published articles on **slavery, emotions** and **gender** in *Slavery and Abolition* and *American Nineteenth Century History*. She also recently co-edited a collection, *Slavery and Emotions in the Atlantic World*, alongside Emily West.

In her paper, Dr. Wilson draws on history of emotions methods to **explore enslaved people's emotional lives** in the antebellum US South. Re-considering a well-analysed source set, the Works Progress Administration interviews conducted in the 1930s with formerly enslaved people, her paper considers two moments of collective emotional expression that formerly enslaved people testified to - **sale and religious gatherings**. Exploring patterns in these individual accounts of collective emotion, this paper will reveal how enslaved people navigated enslavers' restrictions on their emotions, created gendered and spatially defined emotional standards for expression that sat in explicit opposition to these restrictions and ultimately, how enslaved people developed their own emotional frameworks to **resist** and **survive** the institution of slavery.

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

Program 2025-2026

Monday, 22 September 2025, 15:30 – 17:00 CEST

- Roundtable, *Decentering the Study of U.S. History – A European Perspective*

Monday, 27 October 2025, 17:15 – 18:45 CET

- [Beth Wilson](#) (Cardiff University), *Slavery, Gender and Emotions in the Antebellum US South*

Monday, 24 November 2025, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Francisco Rodríguez Jiménez](#) (University of Extremadura/University of Salamanca), *Trump's Foreign Policy*

Monday, 26 January 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska](#) (University of Warsaw), *Laboring in America: Polish-American Women and Labor Migration (1890s-1930s)*

Monday, 23 February 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Tom Meinderts](#) (Sciences Po-Paris), *Political Influence of the Christian Right on US Foreign Policy during the Reagan Administration (1981-1989)*

Monday, 23 March 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Roberta Ferrari](#) (University of Bologna), *Poor People's Movement and the Debate on Social Planning in the US during the 1960s*

Monday, 20 April 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [David E. Nye](#) (University of Southern Denmark), *The Great Energy Transition: American from 1876 to 1929*

Monday, 18 May 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Oliver Burtin](#) (Sciences Po-Paris/Université de Picardie Jules Verne), *The US Far Right In Historical Perspective*



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

SciencesPo
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This program is sponsored by



Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

Hofplein 16
4331 CK Middelburg
The Netherlands
T +31(0)118 678 836
E info@roosevelt.nl

www.roosevelt.nl