



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

LABORING IN AMERICA: POLISH-AMERICAN WOMEN AND LABOR MIGRATION (1890s-1930s)

LECTURER Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska

DATE Monday, 26 January 2026 at 17:00 to 18:30 CEST

LOCATION Hybrid (online on Zoom; in person at the University of Warsaw)

[Click on this link to register](#)



Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska is a historian and Associate Professor at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Poland. She specializes in transnational history and the cultural and social history of modern Poland and the United States. Her areas of research include women's and gender history, migration history, and the history of reproduction. She has authored two scholarly monographs and several articles that appeared in such journals as Comparative Studies in Society and History, Technology and Culture, Gender and History, The Historical Journal, and Medical History. She has been awarded numerous grants and scholarships, including the Fulbright Senior Award (2024-25), National Science Center OPUS Research Grants (2020-2024 and 2025-2029), and the Kosciuszko Foundation Fellowship (2020). She has been a visiting fellow at the University of Maryland (2024-25), the University of Illinois at Chicago (2020), and the University of Notre Dame (2012).

In her presentation, she uses the concept of labor to discuss narratives about and experiences of predominantly working-class and Catholic women who, at the turn of the 20th century, migrated from the Polish lands to the US. Her primary focus is on **reproductive labor** performed by **Polish women** to reproduce the American labor force. High fertility was one of the factors that triggered migration from the Polish lands, as land shortages and poor economic conditions made it impossible to support large families and forced people to seek work abroad. In the early 20th century, findings regarding the “fecundity” of Polish women in the US sparked a vivid debate among the American public as the high birth rate of the Polish immigrants disturbed American nativists and eugenicists. Examining these discussions, she also probes how the Polish-American community debated women's reproductive practices and how Polish immigrants and **ethnics attempted to control their fertility** by practicing abortion and contraception.

The American Studies Center (ASC) of the University of Warsaw is celebrating 50 years of studying and teaching about the history, literature, culture, society, and politics of the United States. Throughout 2026, the center will host a series of lectures, conferences, and film screenings to illustrate the diverse ways in which the United States can be studied. The ASC appreciates that this Forum lecture can be included as part of our celebration.

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*



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This program is sponsored by



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