



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

BETWEEN PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE: SOCIAL AND POOR MOVEMENTS DURING THE 1960S

LECTURER Roberta Ferrari

DATE Monday, 23 March at 17:00 to 18:30 CET

LOCATION Online

Click on this [link](#) to register



Roberta Ferrari holds a PhD in the History of Political Thought; she is a research fellow in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the **University of Bologna** and teaches History of Political Thought at the **University of Florence**. Her research focuses on **socialist thought in England and Ireland** and on the **concept of planning in Europe**, the **USSR**, and the **United States** in the 1920s and 1930s and in the 1950s and 1960s. She has published *Beatrice Potter e il capitalismo senza civiltà* (Beatrice Potter and Capitalism without Civilization) (Rome: Viella, 2017) and, with Michele Cento, *Il socialismo ai margini. Classe e nazione nel Sud Italia e in Irlanda* (Socialism on the Margins: Class and Nation in Southern Italy and Ireland) (Soveria Mannelli: Rubettino, 2018), and she is now writing a book on planning as a political concept.

Analyzing **Lyndon Johnson's Great Society** policies, especially the **War on Poverty**, the talk examines the transformations liberalism faced with the emergence of social organizations and movements whose radicalism challenged the New Deal compromise. During this crisis - when US liberal thinkers and policymakers believed they could govern social forces by finally addressing racial divisions - **American liberalism** sought to free itself from the political burden of the New Deal order and its model of social planning. It did so to respond to both the critiques of social movements and conservative attacks, but above all to recenter the **ethics of the individual** against what it perceived as the radical, uncontrolled expansion of collective forces. These forces had used the Community Action Program both to access federal resources and to challenge the social order that had long managed and preserved racist, patriarchal, and class hierarchies.

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 Meindert](#)s (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
CENTRE FOR HISTORY



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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