



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

THE GREAT ENERGY TRANSITION: AMERICA FROM 1876 TO 1929

LECTURER David E. Nye

DATE Monday, 20 April at 17:00 to 18:30 CET

LOCATION Online

Click on this [link](#) to register



David E. Nye is an American citizen who has been based in Europe since 1982, with a research focus on US technological history. His research as a whole was recognized with the **2005 Leonardo da Vinci Medal**. He has written 12 books with MIT Press, including *The Great Energy Transition* (2026), the focus of this lecture. He has taught American studies in Spain, Britain, and the US, but primarily in Denmark, where he founded the Center for American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in 1993. He has had research grants at Harvard, MIT, Cambridge, Leeds, the University of Virginia, the Smithsonian, and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. He was knighted by the Queen of Denmark in 2013. Since retiring from teaching, he has been a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Minnesota and a Bye-Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The lecture offers a social history of the period from 1876 to 1929, when American society underwent two simultaneous energy transitions: electrification and the adoption of oil and gas. The talk will not focus on energy production or business history but rather on the **transformation of the lifeworld**. Few histories of these years attend to the social consequences of new energies, and yet their adoption meant fundamental changes in almost every aspect of the home, the workplace, transportation, entertainment, and public space. When looking at the *longue durée* rather than short-term events, one is forcibly struck by fundamental shifts in the understanding of nature, space,

time, and identity. Yet Americans failed to conceptualize these changes in terms of “energy” in the thermodynamic sense, but continued to use the outmoded idea of “force.” Nor did they yet use the word technology. They struggled with a semantic void.

*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



This program is sponsored by



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