



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Pursuing the Rooseveltian Century

European Forum on US History

September 2026 – June 2027



The RIAS, in collaboration with eleven 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
- CEI-Iscte / Centre for International Studies of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon
- Centre d’Histoire de Sciences Po
- Centro di Studi sugli Stati Uniti – Università di Bologna
- Heidelberg University
- Instituto Franklin-UAH – Alcalá University
- Roosevelt Institute for American Studies
- Rothermere American Institute – University of Oxford
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Southern Denmark

Together, our eleven 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 eleven 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 – University of Warsaw)
Ana Mónica Fonseca, Luís Nuno Rodrigues (CEI-Iscte / Centre for International Studies of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon)
Olivier Burtin, Mario Del Pero, Jonathan Levy (Centre d’Histoire de Sciences Po)
Matteo Battistini, Angela Santese (Centro di Studi sugli Stati Uniti – Università di Bologna)
Nicole Colaanni (Heidelberg University)
Carlos Herrero, Ana Lariño (Instituto Franklin-UAH – Alcalá University)
Gaetano Di Tommaso, Dario Fazzi (Roosevelt Institute for American Studies)
Daniel Rowe (Rothermere American Institute – University of Oxford)
Fabian Hilfrich (University of Edinburgh)
Jay Sarkar, Sarah C. Dunstan, Oli Charbonneau (University of Glasgow)
Jørn Brøndal (University of Southern Denmark)

Program Coordinator

Gaetano Di Tommaso

Invitation

**FLYING FOR REFUGE: EUROPE'S UNWED MOTHERS AND BIRTHRIGHT
CITIZENSHIP AT THE US BORDER, 1880S-1920S**

LECTURER Brooke L. Blower

DATE Monday, 28 September 2026 at 17:00 to 18:30 CEST

LOCATION Online



Click on this [link](#) to register

Brooke L. Blower is Jon Westling Professor of History and chair of the history department at Boston University, where she studies modern **American political culture, travel, and war in urban and transnational contexts**. She is the author and editor of numerous award-winning books and articles, including *Becoming Americans in Paris: Transatlantic Politics and Culture between the World Wars*, which won the Gilbert Chinard Book Prize from the Society for French Historical Studies and the James Hanlan Best Book Prize from the New England Historical Association. Her most recent book, *Americans in a World at War: Intimate Histories from the Crash of Pan Am's Yankee Clipper*, won the New Deal Book Award, received honorable mention for the Myrna Bernath Award, and was a finalist for the Gilder Lehrman Military History Prize. Her research has been supported by an NEH Public Scholars Fellowship, an ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship, among several other grants.

Faced with rising stigma and dwindling support in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Europe, unwed women who fell pregnant often ran away—to keep babies they could not at home, to give babies up anonymously, or to try to find someone to help them not have a baby at all. Because these runaways made use of preexisting migration routes, and because those were leading unprecedented millions to the United States, pregnant refugees from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Austro-Hungary, and the Russian Empire left significant traces in the US Immigration Service's expanding bureaucracy. Historians who work on the **policing of gender and sexuality at the US border** note that single, pregnant arrivals were excludable. This paper offers the first systematic exploration of how this policy worked and what difference this traffic made, including how it reaffirmed the **citizenship rights of babies born on US soil** to mothers who did not have permanent, sanctioned residence in the United States.

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

Program 2026-2027

Monday, 28 September 2026, 17:00-18:30 CEST

- [Brooke L. Blower](#) (Boston University), *Flying for Refuge: Europe's Unwed Mothers and Birthright Citizenship at the US Border, 1880s–1920s*

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

- [Bastiaan Bouwman](#) (Utrecht University), *'Why Do They Fear to Return?' Amnesty International's Internationalization and Haitian Refugee Advocacy in the United States, 1973–1980*

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

- [Frédéric Heurtebize](#) (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), *Constrained Engagement: US Labor and Portugal's Democratic Transition (1974–1975)*

Monday, 14 December 2026, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Aimée Plukker](#) (Center for Presidential History, SMU), *Destination Europe: Cold War Transatlantic Tourism and the Making of 'the West'*

Monday, 25 January 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Hélène Quanquin](#) (University of Lille / IUF), *Feminisms Without Children: Childlessness, Feminist Activism and Kinships in the United States, 1830s–1920s*

Monday, 22 February 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Matteo Rossi](#) (Fondazione 1563 / University of Turin), *The Artifice of Accumulation: Henry Carey's Political Economy in the Making of American Capitalism*

Monday, 22 March 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Sarah E. Naramore](#) (University of Edinburgh), *Transatlantic Negotiations: American and European Interpretations of Disease*

Monday, 19 April 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Katharina Wiedlack](#) (University of Vienna), *'When Uncle Sam Sent Me to Alaska': Entangled Imperialisms and Native Resistance at the Turn of the 20th Century*

Monday, 24 May 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Emilie Cunning](#) (Emory University), *Borders of Freedom: How Europe Became Contested Territory for Amnesty Politics during the US War in Vietnam*

Monday, 21 June 2027, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Suzanne Enzerink](#) (University of St. Gallen), *From Race Suicide to the Great Replacement: Europe and the United States in a Century of Dialogue and Exclusion*



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