Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

European Forum on US History

September 2026 – June 2027

Program

The RIAS, in collaboration with twelve 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 centers:

- 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
- John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies - Freie Universität Berlin
- Roosevelt Institute for American Studies
- Rothermere American Institute – University of Oxford
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Glasgow
- University of Southern Denmark

Together, our twelve 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 twelve 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 Colaianni (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

CONSTRAINED ENGAGEMENT: US LABOR AND PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION (1974-1975)

SPEAKER **Frédéric Heurtebize**
DATE **Monday, 23 November 2026 at 17:00 to 18:30 CET**
LOCATION **Online**

Frédéric Heurtebize is Professor of American studies at Sorbonne Nouvelle University. His research focuses on U.S. foreign policy and transatlantic relations during the Cold War. He is the author of Le péril rouge: Washington face à l'eurocommunisme (Paris, 2014) and co-editor of Alliances and Power Politics in the Trump Era: America in Retreat? (New York, 2020). His work has appeared in Diplomatic History, Journal of Transatlantic Studies, Relations Internationales and Vingtième Siècle. He was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in 2008 and at American University's School of International Service in 2023. He is currently writing a book on US policy toward democratic transitions in Southern Europe in the 1970s.

While scholars have highlighted the role of European social-democratic parties, trade unions, and transnational networks in **Portugal's democratic transition** (1974–75), the involvement of American labor organizations has received little attention. Drawing on AFL-CIO, UAW, and ICFTU archives, this paper examines **how American labor leaders interpreted the Carnation Revolution** and sought to influence the emerging labor movement. It argues that their responses differed significantly. The **AFL-CIO**, skeptical of détente and increasingly isolated from European unions, largely disengaged, while the **UAW** remained active through international labor networks. These contrasting approaches reflected deeper **divisions within American labor internationalism over anti-communism and cooperation with European unions.** Despite their shared commitment to free and pluralistic unionism, both organizations exercised limited influence, revealing the constraints of US labor's internationalism during the Cold War.

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*
  Host: American Studies Center, University of Warsaw (Poland)

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*
  Host: Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po (France)

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)*
  Host: CEI-Iscte/Centre for International Studies of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal)

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*
  Host: University of Southern Denmark (Denmark)

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*
  Host: Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (Netherlands)

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*
  Host: Centro di Studi sugli Stati Uniti - Università di Bologna (Italy)

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

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

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
Host: Heidelberg University (Germany)

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*
  Host: Rothermere American Institute - University of Oxford (England)

Monday, 24 May 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*
  Host: Instituto Franklin-UAH – Alcalá University (Spain)

This program is sponsored by

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