



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Seminar Series on Modern North American History

September 2024 – May 2025

Invitation

Evan Bonney
24 March 2025

The political developments, societal transformations, cultural shifts, foreign policy initiatives, national security concerns, and international relations that originated from the US have left an indelible mark on the North American continent and the global landscape.

This hybrid seminar series, organized by the RIAS and the Sciences Po Center for History (CHSP) in Paris, forms a platform to explore these diverse and interconnected themes.

This series, one of 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 (online and in person), encourages active participation from doctoral students and aims to serve 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 career, foster a historiographical and interdisciplinary conversation, and critically consider the contemporary societal and political ramifications of the historical events under discussion.



Coordinators:

- **Dario Fazzi (Leiden University / RIAS)**
- **Gaetano Di Tommaso (RIAS)**
- **Mario Del Pero (Sciences Po-Paris, Centre d'histoire)**
- **Olivier Burtin (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)**

Invitation

FORESTS, WATER, AND THE SCIENCES IN ASSEMBLING EMPIRE IN THE INTERMOUNTAIN WEST, 1901-1915

LECTURER Evan Bonney

DATE Monday, 24 March 2025 at 17:00 to 18:30 CET

LOCATION Online

Click on this [link](#) to register



Evan Bonney is a PhD candidate at the Centre for History at Sciences Po and is due to complete his dissertation by June 2025. His dissertation focuses on the introduction of forestry into federal administration highlighting that U.S. foresters were uniquely versatile agents of empire to settle the Intermountain West between 1891 and 1914. Consequently, his work examines the creation of the U.S. "administrative state", environmental management, and the history of the sciences in State and federal policy making.

Whether forests generate precipitation or if they mechanically influence water distribution remains up for debate even today. This presentation examines the origins of this debate in the United States, demonstrating that it served as a stage to define who was most apt to inform Congress at the turn of the twentieth century. Indeed, the future of forestry as a federal practice hinged on the lack of conclusive evidence that could close the debate, allowing the foresters of the Forest Service to continue to build a presence in the Intermountain West. By experimenting with what this paper terms the "forest-water link", U.S. foresters transformed the region into the prime laboratory to explore the potential for and limits of federal power between 1901 and 1914.

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

Program

Monday, 23 September 2024, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Melani McAlister](#) (George Washington University), *Promises, Then the Storm: Notes on Memory, Protest, and the Israel-Gaza War*

Monday, 7 October 2024, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Jayita Sarkar](#) (University of Glasgow), *Global Southwests: Capital and Uranium in Africa and America*

Monday, 18 November 2024, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [James T. Sparrow](#) (University of Chicago), *The Archives of Self-Repression: Anticommunism, Internationalism, and the Case of Ralph Bunche*

Monday, 9 December 2024, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Emma Day](#) (University College London), *Beyond Procreation: A New History of Reproductive Justice in the United States*

Monday, 27 January 2025, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Evan McCormick](#) (Columbia University), *Remembering a Presidency: The Obama Presidency Oral History Project*

Monday, 17 February 2024, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Joel Suarez](#) (Harvard University), *Towards a Global Labor History of the Volcker Shock: Mexico, Informality, and Undocumented Labor*

Monday, 24 March 2025, 17:00 – 18:30 CET

- [Evan Bonney](#) (Sciences Po-Paris), *Forestry and the Intermountain Experiment that Transformed Executive Power in the Age of Empire, 1897-1914*

Monday, 14 April 2025, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Gretchen Heefner](#) (Northeastern University), *'From the Red Desert to the Red Planet': Engineering the American Empire*

Monday, 19 May 2025, 17:00 – 18:30 CEST

- [Jeanine Quené](#) (Roosevelt Institute for American Studies), *The (Un)changing Nature of U.S. Women's Conservatism Across the Twentieth Century*



Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

Hofplein 16
4331 CK Middelburg
The Netherlands
T +31(0)118 678 836
E info@roosevelt.nl
W www.roosevelt.nl

SciencesPo
CENTRE FOR HISTORY



This program is sponsored by

