

Fall 2022 Lecture Series Archive

“The First Duty of a Sovereignty Is To Protect Its People:’ Citizenship and Survival in the Atomic Age”

Sarah E. Robey, Assistant Professor of History, Idaho State University

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Sarah E. Robey is an Assistant Professor of History at Idaho State University. Her recently-released book, *Atomic Americans: Citizens in a Nuclear State* (Cornell University Press), examines how nuclear weapons challenged American ideas about participatory democracy, the role of the state, and civic responsibility during the early Cold War. In addition, she will have a chapter on industry-sponsored science education films included in the upcoming collection, *American Energy Cinema* (University of West Virginia Press, 2023). Robey is beginning work on her second manuscript project, an environmental-political history of Idaho National Laboratory and its place in the landscape of the Nuclear West. In addition to her expertise in nuclear history, she also has a longstanding interest in public safety and disaster history. Robey has held fellowships at the Miller Center at the University of Virginia, National Museum of American History, the National Air and Space Museum, and the Philadelphia History Museum. She holds a PhD in History from Temple University (2017).

In her presentation, Dr. Robey tells the story of how Americans adjusted to a world transformed by nuclear weapons. Faced with the constant specter of nuclear attack, Americans did so much more than duck and cover under elementary school desks in the decades after World War II. Instead, the dawn of the Atomic Age sparked a new wave of civic involvement centering on the twin goals of national and individual survival. By examining a range of sources from everyday citizens alongside those of elite policymakers and physicists, Robey shows us how nuclear weapons ushered in a complex era of not only activism and action, but also debate and dissent.

- [Video of Sarah E. Robey's Lecture](#)

“Borderland Circuitry: Immigration Surveillance in the United States and Beyond”

Ana Muñiz, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society, University of California, Irvine

Monday, September 19, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Ana Muñiz is Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine. She is the author of *Police, Power, and the Production of Racial Boundaries and Borderland Circuitry: Immigration Surveillance in the United States and Beyond*.

Discourse on immigration in the United States has often focused on what is most visible, such as border walls and detention centers, while the information systems that undergird immigration

enforcement remain obscured. Tracing the evolution of several surveillance-related systems, Borderland Circuitry investigates how this information infrastructure has shaped immigration enforcement practices since the late 1980s. Specifically, Dr. Muñiz illuminates three phenomena that are becoming increasingly intertwined: digital surveillance, immigration control, and gang enforcement. Using ethnography, interviews, and analysis of never-before-seen documents, Dr. Muñiz uncovers how information-sharing partnerships between local police, federal law enforcement, and foreign partners collide to create multiple digital borderlands; and how those in power deploy the specter of violent cross-border criminals to justify intensive surveillance, detention, brutality, deportation, and the destruction of land for border militarization.

- [Video of Ana Muñiz's Lecture](#)

"Arrested Development: The Soviet Union in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, 1955-1968"

Alessandro Iandolo, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University

Monday, October 3, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Dr. Iandolo is a historian of the Soviet Union's economic, intellectual, and political interactions with external ideas, states, and people. His recently-released book, Arrested Development: The Soviet Union in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, 1955-1968 (Cornell University Press), explores the Soviet Union's economic partnership with three newly-independent countries in West Africa during the Nikita Khrushchev era. He is currently working on a new project that investigates intellectual exchanges between Soviet and Latin American economists preoccupied with theorizing "backwardness" and "dependency."

His talk examines the USSR's involvement in West Africa during the 1950s and 1960s as aid donor, trade partner, and political inspiration for the first post-independence governments in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali. Buoyed by solid economic performance in the 1950s, the USSR opened itself up to the world and launched a series of programs aimed at supporting the search for economic development in newly independent countries in Africa and Asia. Based on extensive research in Russian and West African archives, Dr. Iandolo explores the ideas that guided Soviet engagement in West Africa, investigates the projects that the USSR sponsored "on the ground," and analyzes their implementation and legacy. The Soviet specialists who worked in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali collaborated with West African colleagues in drawing ambitious development plans, supervised the construction of new transport infrastructure, organized collective farms and fishing cooperatives, conducted geological surveys and mineral prospecting, set up banking systems, managed international trade, and staffed repairs workshops and ministerial bureaucracies alike. The exchanges and clashes born out of the encounter between Soviet and West African ideas, ambitions, and hopes about development reveal the USSR as a central actor in the history of economic development in the twentieth century.

- [Video of Alessandro Iandolo's Lecture](#)

"The Roots of the Russo-Ukrainian War: A Historian's Perspective"

Serhii Plokhi, Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History, Director of the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

A leading authority on Ukraine, Russia, and Eastern Europe, Dr. Plokhi has published extensively on the international history of World War II and the Cold War. His books won numerous awards, including the Lionel Gelber Prize for the best English-language book on international relations and the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction (UK). His latest book, *Atoms and Ashes: A Global History of Nuclear Disasters* was released by W.W. Norton in US and Penguin in UK in May 2022.

Russia's attack on Ukraine and the start of the largest European conflict since the end of World War II came as a shock to the world at large. Putin's de facto declaration of war on Ukraine, delivered in conjunction with his official recognition of the independence of the puppet states created by Russia in eastern Ukraine, was dubbed a history lecture, and few observers outside Russia could make sense of it. How important have been the misuse and abuse of history in the perpetration and justification of this war, and what are the actual historical causes of the conflict? Dr. Plokhi will provide answers to these and other related questions by tracing the origins of the newest European war and explaining the reasons for the return of the Cold War to the very same part of the world where it ended thirty years earlier.

- [Video of Serhii Plokhi's Lecture](#)

"To Deter and Punish: Preventing International Terrorism in the 1970s"

Silke Zoller, Assistant Professor of History, Kennesaw State University

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Dr. Zoller's research focuses on international security collaboration against terrorism and political violence in the second half of the twentieth century. She earned a Ph.D. in History from Temple University in 2018. While at Temple, she held the Thomas J. Davis Endowed Fellowship in Diplomacy and Foreign Relations from the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy. Silke also held postdoctoral fellowships at the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas at Austin and the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College.

Dr. Zoller's talk will discuss her new book, "To Deter and Punish: Global Collaboration Against Terrorism in the 1970s" (Columbia University Press, 2021). The early 1970s were an era of hijackings and terrorist attacks around the world. Bureaucrats in the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and Japan began to collaborate in response, hoping to deter new attacks and motivate other states to punish attackers. They passed several multilateral agreements; these substantially shaped

how the industrialized Global North would conceptualize the threat of “international terrorism” in the decades to come.

- [Video of Silke Zoller's Lecture](#)

“*US-Brazil Relations: Post-Election Challenges and Opportunities in a New World*”

Fernanda Magnotta, Professor of International Relations, Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation

Monday, November 14, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Fernanda Magnotta holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree from PPGRI San Tiago Dantas. An expert in U.S. politics, she is the coordinator of the International Relations undergraduate program at the Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation. She is also a columnist of international affairs, appearing in outlets such as Portal UOL and CBN Radio. She served as a consultant for the Brazilian Bar Association’s Committee on International Relations and as a Senior Fellow in the U.S. Program of the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI). Magnotta is the author of the book *Ideas Matter: North-American Exceptionalism in the Dawn of the Superpower* (2016) and several other chapters and articles. Currently, she is a Fulbright scholar at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Magnotta visited CENFAD to discuss the conclusion of Brazil's recent presidential election and what it means for U.S.-Brazil relations.

- [Video of Fernanda Magnotta's Lecture](#)

“*Paradoxes of Nostalgia: Cold War Triumphalism and Global Disorder since 1989*”

Penny M. Von Eschen, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of American Studies, University of Virginia

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 4:30-5:30PM

Dr. Von Eschen received her Ph.D. in History from Columbia University in 1994. She is author of *Paradoxes of Nostalgia: Cold War Triumphalism and Global Disorder Since 1989* (Duke University Press, 2022); *Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War* (Harvard University Press, 2004), and *Race against Empire: Black Americans and Anticolonialism, 1937-1957* (Cornell University Press, 1997). She co-curated “Jam Sessions: American’s Jazz Ambassadors Embrace the World,” a photography exhibition with Meridian International Center, that opened in Washington D.C. in 2008 and traveled to 27 countries; and served as historical consultant for “Art and Ideas,” a permanent exhibit that opened at the JFK Center for the Performing Arts in September 2022.

Recent essays include “From London 1948 to Dakar 1966: Crises in Anticolonial Counterpublics,” In Gyan Prakash and Jeremy Adelman eds., *Inventing the Third World: In Search of Freedom for the Global South*, (Bloomberg Press, 2023) and “Roads Not Taken: The Delhi Declaration, Nelson Mandela, Václav Havel and the Lost Futures of 1989,” in *Revisiting Ideology and Foreign Policy*, Chris Nichols et al, eds., (Columbia University Press, August 2022).

Dr. Von Eschen's talk will begin with outlining the roads not taken in the years surrounding the collapse of the Eastern bloc. Widespread calls for political openness, a serious reckoning with the Cold War past and proposed reforms to address the social, economic, and environmental costs of Cold War policies were largely ignored. Instead, U.S. foreign policy was defined by the projection of unipolar military force and a doubling down on the extractive and ecologically destructive industries that had sustained Cold War militarism. Cold War triumphalist narratives – the idea that the United States “won” the Cold War through military might, have shaped justifications for war from the earliest post-Cold War interventions in Panama and Iraq, through the war on terror, and even to this day in Ukraine. Above all, this idea of U.S. “victory” though military strength has elevated military responses over diplomatic solutions. Memory battles over the Cold War past, seen in U.S. triumphalist victor's history along with Russian shifts from critical to mythic nostalgia, have resulted in the elevation of victim's history and mythic nostalgia critical to the rise of the right in Eastern Europe, the United States, and globally.

- [Video of Penny M. Von Eschen's Lecture](#)