

- Dr. Aaron Sullivan – “The Disaffected and the British Occupation of Philadelphia”
 - [Aaron Sullivan Fall 2023 Cenfad Lecture \(panopto.com\)](#)

How do we categorize the peoples and loyalties of the American Revolution? Who supported the move toward independence, who opposed it, and how do we identify a people’s allegiance? Dr. Sullivan encourages us to reconsider these questions and to look more closely at the many Americans who strove to disengage from either side in the imperial dispute. Set during the British invasion of Pennsylvania and the ensuing occupation of Philadelphia, Sullivan’s 2019 book, *The Disaffected*, notes that both the redcoats and the patriots believed the local population was strongly opposed to them. In unraveling this apparent contradiction, he finds a significant but often overlooked population for whom the war for independence was neither a glorious cause nor an unnatural rebellion but a tragic disaster, best avoided. The plight of these people highlights the dangers of neutrality and the ways in which the quest for government by consent can, paradoxically, encourage tyrannical acts of oppression.

Aaron Sullivan is an author and historian living near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his amazing spouse, two inexhaustible children, and very neurotic dog. He serves as a professor of history at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ, and his book *The Disaffected* (Penn Press, 2019), received the Book of the Year Award from the American Revolutionary Roundtable of Philadelphia. Sullivan received his Doctorate in History from Temple University in Philadelphia in 2014 and his Bachelors in Computer Science from LeTourneau University in 2004.

- Dr. Eric Alterman – “We Are Not One: A History of America's Fight Over Israel”
 - [Eric Alterman CENFAD Fall 2023 Lecture \(panopto.com\)](#)

In *We Are Not One*, historian Eric Alterman traces this debate from its nineteenth-century origins. Following Israel’s 1948–1949 War of Independence (called the “nakba” or “catastrophe” by Palestinians), few Americans, including few Jews, paid much attention to Israel or the challenges it faced. Following the 1967 Six-Day War, however, almost overnight support for Israel became the primary component of American Jews’ collective identity. Over time, Jewish organizations joined forces with conservative Christians and neoconservative pundits and politicians to wage a tenacious fight to define Israel’s image in the US media, popular culture, Congress, and college campuses. Deeply researched, *We Are Not One* reveals how our consensus on Israel and Palestine emerged and why, today, it is fracturing.

Eric Alterman is Distinguished Professor of English, Brooklyn College, City University of New York. From 1995-2020, he was *The Nation*’s “Liberal Media” columnist and is now a contributing writer to the magazine and also to *The American Prospect*. In the past, he has been a senior fellow of the Center for American Progress, the World Policy Institute and The Nation Institute, a columnist for *Rolling Stone*, *Mother Jones*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Beast*, *MSNBC.com*, *The Forward*, *Moment* and the *Sunday Express* (London) as well as a contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic* and *Le Monde Diplomatique*, among other publications. Alterman has also been named a Media Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, a Schusterman Foundation Fellow at Brandeis University, a Fellow of the Society of American Historians and a member of the Usage Panel of the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language.

- Dr. Melvyn Leffler - Confronting Saddam Hussein: George W. Bush and the Invasion of Iraq

Why did the United States invade Iraq in 2003? Why did the invasion turn to tragedy? Who was responsible? I will examine how fear, power, hubris, and administrative dysfunction shaped decisions. So much of what we think we know about the invasion is misleading, but some of it is right on the mark. Based on a unique set of interviews with American policymakers and research in American, British, Iraqi, and UN documents, I will untangle a complicated, dramatic, and tragic story of understandable intentions and horrendous consequences.

Melvyn P. Leffler is Emeritus Professor of American History at The University of Virginia. He is the author and editor of books on the Cold War and on U.S. relations with Europe, including *For the Soul of Mankind* (2007), which won the George Louis Beer Prize from the American Historical Association, and *A Preponderance of Power* (1993), which won the Bancroft, Hoover, and Ferrell Prizes. He has served as president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Harmsworth Professor at Oxford University, and Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at The University of Virginia.

- Dr. Debbie Sharnak - *Of Light and Struggle: The International Histories of Human Rights and Transitional Justice in Uruguay*

During the country's dictatorship from 1973 to 1985, Uruguayans suffered under crushing repression, which included the highest rate of political incarceration in the world. Debbie Sharnak will give a talk on her book, *Of Light and Struggle*, which explores how activists, transnational social movements, and international policymakers collaborated and clashed in response to this era and during the country's transition back to democratic rule.

At the heart of the book is an examination of how the language and politics of human rights shifted over time as a result of conflict and convergence between local, national, and global dynamics. examines the utility and limits of human rights language used by international NGOs, such as Amnesty International, and foreign governments, such as the Carter administration.

Debbie Sharnak is Assistant Professor of History and International Studies at Rowan University and a senior fellow at Foreign Policy Research Institute. She is the author of the book *"Of Light and Struggle": Social Justice, Human Rights, and Accountability in Uruguay* and the co-editor of the volume *Uruguay in Transnational Perspective*. Other work has appeared in the *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*, *TALLER*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, and several edited volumes on topics such as Latin America, human rights, and transitional justice. She holds an MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a BA from Vassar College.

- Dr. Beth Bailey - An Army Afire: How the U.S. Army Confronted Its Racial Crisis in the Vietnam Era
 - [Beth Bailey Cenfad Fall 2023 Sequence 01 1 \(panopto.com\)](#)

In the early 1970s, U.S. Army leaders worried that racial conflict within the ranks would undermine the army's ability to defend the nation. Beth Bailey analyzes Army attempts to solve that racial crisis (in army terms, "the problem of race"), arguing that Army leaders were surprisingly creative in confronting demands for racial justice, even willing to challenge fundamental army principles of discipline, order, hierarchy, and authority. They acted in the interest of the army, but their actions fostered racial justice and equality.

Beth Bailey is Foundation Distinguished Professor of history and director of the Center for Military, War, and Society Studies at the University of Kansas, and a former faculty member at Temple. She has authored or edited/co-edited twelve books, including *An Army Afire: How the US Army Confronted Its Racial Crisis in the Vietnam Era* (2023) and *America's Army: Making the All-Volunteer Force* (2009). Bailey chairs the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Subcommittee; her honors include a Carnegie Fellowship, the Pitt Professorship at Cambridge University, and the Society for Military History's Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for lifetime achievement.

- Dr. Dina Fainberg - Cold War Correspondents: Soviet and American Reporters on the Ideological Frontiers

In an age of mutual acrimony and closed borders, journalists were among the few individuals who crossed the Iron Curtain. Their reporting shaped the ways that policy makers, pundits, and ordinary people came to understand the American or the Soviet "other." In her talk, Dina Fainberg examines how Soviet and American journalists covered the rival superpower; how two distinctive sets of truth systems and political cultures defined international reporting on both sides, and how Cold War legacies influence journalism today.

Dina Fainberg is an Associate Professor in Modern History at City, University of London. Dina is an historian of US-Russia relations, Soviet media and propaganda, and Cold War Culture. Fainberg is the author of *Cold War Correspondents: Soviet and American Reporters on the Ideological Frontlines*. She is also the co-editor of *Reconsidering Stagnation in the Brezhnev Era: Ideology and Exchange*.