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From the Director

Dear Friends,

We don't talk enough. Actually, Americans today too often talk past one another. Whether speaking into a political echo chamber, or just posting messages in hope of going viral, our nation is talking plenty. But not listening enough.

We here at CPH are renewing our mission to overcoming this structural omission within our national dialogue. We can't promise to solve every national fissure. But talking together is a start. It is why we bring the nation's best historians to campus, including historians who disagree. It is why we are redoubling our partnership with the undergraduates in SMU's Hunt Leadership program, expanding our graduate program, and renewing our ongoing mentoring program with students from the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School. It's why we are taking students back to D-Day in 2024 (and beyond), and engaging members of our Article II Society with even more up-close and personal conversations with some of the leading thinkers about American society and the American presidency.

We're honored to be a place everyone can listen, and learn. As we turn into the headwinds of another election season, keep watch for more CPH opportunities to engage the pressing political and historical conversations of our day, and our growing Article II offerings in particular, so we can continue making thoughtful history a part of your conversation.



Jeffrey A. Engel

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CPH exists to research and advance understanding of the history of the American presidency. The Article II Society is a giving society for loyal supporters who contribute \$2,500 or more each academic year to CPH, helping ensure the work and this organization can continue.

From The Program Director

To echo Director Engel, CPH strives to bring you the widest range of exciting work in our field to spark insights into the consequential past while casting new light onto our unfolding present. This fall, our public lectures feature two Pulitzer Prize winners as well as historians recounting the fighting of one horrific war and the avoiding of a more devastating one. In addition, we invite Article II Society supporters to an exclusive luncheon with *New York Times* journalist David Leonhardt to dive further into his new book. And as part of our High Table with Historians series, we are pleased to highlight the work of CPH's inaugural H. Ross Perot Sr. Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Camille Davis. These exciting programs, as well as our research and teaching, would not be possible without your staunch support. Thank you.



LaiYee Leong
Senior Fellow and Article II Society Program Director

Newsletter produced by CPH research assistant Tamal Pilla.

Article II EVENTS

Members of the Article II Society are invited!
Please look out for notifications about each special event.

High Table with Historians - Dr. Camille Davis

October 5, 10:00 am
The Evolving Political Face of Thomas Jefferson

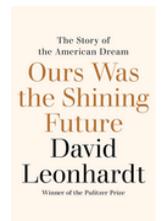


Painted by Rembrandt Peale in 1805

Hear CPH Postdoctoral Fellow **Camille Davis** explore how Jefferson used his words and his style of dress to challenge American leaders to remember the nation's founding principles. Dr. Davis will use Jefferson's portraits to illuminate his way of using his personal appearance to steer the politics of his time.

Luncheon with David Leonhardt, *The New York Times*

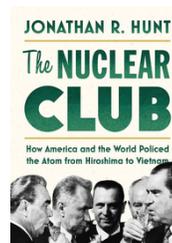
November 13, 12:00 pm
Ours Was the Shining Future: The Rise and Fall of the American Dream



Chat with the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer about his book, which traces how democratic capitalism flourished to make the American dream possible, until the latter decades of the twentieth century when, bit by bit, the dream was corrupted to serve only the privileged few.

Book Club

The Nuclear Club: How America and the World Policed the Atom from Hiroshima to Vietnam
by Jonathan R. Hunt, US Air War College



Enjoyed *Oppenheimer* at the cinema? Join us to compare notes and engage in conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Engel about this book before the author delivers his CPH-sponsored lecture. **Be on the lookout for more information in your inbox very soon.**

A Warm Welcome

Meet our new Postdoctoral Fellows.

Dr. **Zachary Conn** comes to SMU from Yale, where he earned his PhD in early American history. His book project, *The Ambassadors*, examines the embassies the early US government maintained in Native American villages. He has written for such publications as *Intelligence and National Security*, *Age of Revolutions*, and *The Washington Post's Made By History* series.

Zach is a passionate history teacher with experience working with a diverse range of students at college and high school levels. He would love to tell you how he and four colleagues survived two weeks exploring the American Southwest with a bus full of ninth graders. Ask him!



Zachary Conn

Dr. **Greta Swain** received her PhD from George Mason University. She specializes in early American history and digital history. Greta's book project *Potomac Networks: Waterways, Commerce, and Enslavement in the George Mason Family, 1700–1828* presents a new approach to the study of the Mason family by employing digital analysis and visualizations. Her dissertation has been described as “a masterclass in how to use digital methods for historical interpretation.”

Greta is co-editor of *Current Research in Digital History*, an online, peer reviewed, open access journal that she helped create in 2018. From 2017–2021, she was a Digital History Fellow and collaborator at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media. Her public history experience includes work at several museums and the Smithsonian Institute Archives.



Greta Swain

CPH Podcast: Stay Tuned

Season 5 of the CPH's podcast, *The Past, the Promise, and the Presidency* will be produced and hosted by **Zachary Conn**. He will use the story of the remarkable career of President John Quincy Adams to investigate the early United States' role on the world stage from its revolutionary origins to the beginnings of its near-fatal crisis over slavery. Don't miss it when it becomes available!

Across the Atlantic last spring, former postdoctoral fellow **Sarah Nelson** served as the executive producer and host of the *Global Orders Podcast*—a podcast associated with the European Research Council-funded “Invisible History of the United Nations and the Global South” at Leiden University. The podcast is available exclusively on Spotify.

building ARCHIVES...

...ROSS PEROT SR.

The Perot Foundation has entrusted CPH with the task of building a digital archive of oral histories that illuminate the life, career, and politics of H. Ross Perot, Sr., along with the most important technological and business advances and political developments of the 20th century. Director **Jeffrey Engel** has so far conducted more than 30 interviews, with more to come. As the H. Ross Perot Sr. postdoctoral fellow, **Camille Davis** is assisting Dr. Engel with conducting the interviews, overseeing the transcription process, and managing the data collection and technology for this project.



Ross Perot Sr. standing outside the Electronic Data Systems (EDS) building in Dallas, TX.

...OBAMA'S PRESIDENCY

Former postdoctoral fellow **Evan McCormick** leads an interdisciplinary team at Columbia University creating an oral history archive about the Obama presidency. They recently released transcripts related to Obama's policies on the environment and climate change, which are now available at <https://obamaoralhistory.columbia.edu/>. The launch received wide media coverage. Evan himself has conducted 90 interviews with decisionmakers and diplomats here and abroad about Obama's global policies. Check it out as the archive continues to grow.



George W. Bush signs a bill that extends PEPFAR, in the White House East Room on July 30, 2008.

...PEPFAR

Along with Associate Professor of History **Jill Kelly** and postdoctoral fellow **Augusta Dell'Omo**, Associate Director **Brian Franklin** secured competitive funding from SMU and the George W. Bush Institute for two postdoctoral fellowships to support a new collaborative project: "A Global Oral History of PEPFAR." The project seeks to document the global health program launched during Bush's presidency by recording interviews with US policymakers and others who implemented and experienced the program worldwide. It will initially focus on the southern African continent.

...GEORGE MASON

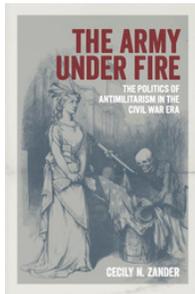
Greta Swain is set to publish an original dataset about the individuals who were enslaved by the George Mason family in the Chesapeake region over the course of 125 years. The dataset documents more than 850 mentions of enslaved individuals between 1700 and 1825 and draws on a range of sources including Mason family wills, inventories, deeds of sale, and runaway ads in newspapers. The dataset aims to help other scholars and the public better understand the lives, experiences and forced migration of these individuals over time.

almost Hot Off the Press

Augusta Dell’Omo’s book manuscript, *Saving Apartheid: White Supremacist Internationalism at the Cold War’s End*, is under contract with Columbia University Press

University of North Carolina Press is set to publish *The Life and Death of Ryan White*, a second book by former postdoctoral fellow **Paul Renfro**, in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

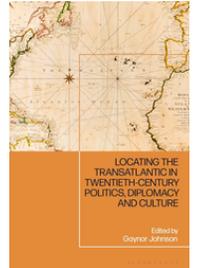
Former postdoctoral fellow **Cecily Zander** will have her book, *The Army Under Fire: Antimilitarism in the Civil War Era* (Louisiana State University Press), hit all good bookstores by February 2024.



OTHER WRITINGS

Former postdoctoral fellow **Sharron Conrad** has published an article "More Upset Than Most: Measuring and Understanding African American Responses to the Kennedy Assassination," in the June 2023 issue of *American Quarterly*.

Jeffrey Engel contributed a co-authored chapter (with Frank Costigliola), "Reconstructing the Backstory: America, Russia, and the Cold War," to a volume, *Thinking Otherwise: How Walter LaFeber Explained the History of US Foreign Relations*, to be published by Cornell University Press next year. Another chapter, "Personalities and Power at the Cold War’s End," will appear in *Locating the Transatlantic in 20th Century Politics, Diplomacy, and Culture* (Bloomsbury).



A chapter, "Grant Funded Research and Graduate Student Success," co-written by postdoctoral fellow **Amanda Regan**, will appear in *Digital Futures of Graduate Study in the Humanities* (University of Minnesota Press).

Former postdoctoral fellow **Tim Sayle** has published the article, "Indications of War: American, British and Canadian Intelligence Diplomacy and the 1957 Tripartite Intelligence Alerts Agreement," in a recent issue of *Intelligence & National Security*.

"Whither The Radicals?," an article by **Cecily Zander**, appears in *Reviews in American History* (March 2023).

Summer Travel

World War I Tour: An American Journey through "The Great War"
June 1-10, 2023

Jeffrey Engel and Essential History Expeditions’ Brian DeToy led a spectacular and engaging examination of Belgium and France through the lens of World War I. For students, alumni, and friends, this intergenerational tour offered an in-depth exploration of America’s role in The Great War in the cities and on the fields where history took place.



Sharing Research & Expertise

Current and former CPH fellows took active part in numerous professional conferences across the country and beyond. Others were invited to deliver guest lectures. Among them, Senior Fellow **Paul Behringer** presented a talk at the University of Maryland, drawing on material in his forthcoming book on the Russian Civil War. **Jeffrey Engel** taught a weeklong K-12 teacher seminar on “US Foreign Policy since 1898” for the Gilder Lehrman Institute and Richard Nixon Presidential Library during the summer.

CPH created a strong presence at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) annual conference in Washington DC in June. It sponsored a roundtable titled “SHAFR and Presidential History: An Assessment,” which brought together **Paul Behringer** (organizer), postdoctoral fellow **Jonathan Ng** (moderator), postdoctoral fellow **Ashlyn Hand**, **LaiYee Leong**, and former postdoctoral fellow **Kaete O’Connell**. The panelists discussed their diverse approaches to presidential history, highlighting the range of methods and topics that it encompasses. In addition, **Jonathan Ng** and **Augusta Dell’Omo** separately delivered individual papers on other panels.

Noteworthy

Where Are They Now?

See the latest moves that our former postdocs have made.

Greg Brew is an analyst covering Iran and the geopolitics of energy at Eurasia Group.

Carolyn Levy is Instructional Consultant for Equity and Inclusion within the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Washington.

Sarah Nelson is Assistant Professor of History and International Studies at Leiden University.

Cecily Zander is Assistant Professor of History at Texas Woman’s University.

The Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute renewed funding for the third time to support **LaiYee Leong’s** research cluster on Asian Studies and Asian American Experiences (co-convened with two faculty colleagues). The cluster seeks to introduce critical Asian American perspectives into research and teaching. Last April, it hosted the first ever symposium at SMU centered on an Asian American theme.

Jonathan Ng won a William and Madeline Welder Smith Research Travel Award, which supports his research at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Austin, Texas. Jonathan will review the papers of sociologist and peace activist C. Wright Mills, as well as the archives of Congressman Henry González, who oversaw a seminal investigation of the arms industry.

The Social Science and Humanities Research Council recently awarded **Tim Sayle** a major grant for the study of nuclear weapons policy during the Cold War. Tim just completed a manuscript on allied intelligence efforts during the early Cold War and is sharing recently declassified documents through a free newsletter at <http://timsayle.substack.com>.

Former postdoctoral fellow **Greg Brew** appeared on CNBC's Last Call with Brian Sullivan to in June to discuss Iran's booming oil exports. He has also been interviewed on podcasts such as *American Prestige*, *History as it Happens* (*The Washington Times*), and *Barron's Live*. *Foreign Policy*, *TIME*, and *Barron's* have all recently published some of Greg's writings.

Zach Conn is serving as a researcher and adviser for a proposed PBS documentary on Native American history since 1880.

The 60th anniversary of JFK's assassination means opportunities for CPH's scholars to share their professional insights. A new History Channel documentary, *Kennedy*, will include **Sharron Conrad** and **Jeffrey Engel**. The eight-part series will broadcast in November. Sharron will also be the featured speaker at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library's "Kennedy Library Forum."

Augusta Dell'Omo was recently interviewed for *The Washington Post's* report, "[Study: At all levels of public office, threats now come with the job.](#)"

Postdoctoral fellow **Jonathan Ng** contributed two articles to the journal *Truthout*: "[US Economic War on Venezuela Has Rewarded Corruption and Undermined Democracy,](#)" and "[Peace in Ukraine Is Too Important to Leave in the Hands of Arms Dealers.](#)"

As interest in the digital humanities continues to explode, **Amanda Regan** remains at its forefront. She was interviewed for a report by Ithaka S + R on [Data Sharing in the Humanities](#). She also got time on *The Atlas Obscura Podcast* in July to talk about *Mapping the Gay Guides*.

Paul Renfro contributed an essay, "Pinning the Rise of Neoliberalism on Ronald Reagan Lets Democrats Off Easy," to *Jacobin* over the summer. In addition, he was interviewed for a story in *Slate* about Soul Asylum's classic music video for the song "Runaway Train."

With NATO in the news, **Tim Sayle** has been offering commentary to many local and global news outlets. In [a podcast by Globe & Mail](#), he explains the history and tension between the security alliance and Russia and tells us what NATO expansion reveals about the state of world affairs.

CSPAN viewers will catch **Cecily Zander** next month as she delivers a talk on Braxton Bragg and the Civil War in 1863.

Presidential History Fun Facts

1. Martin Van Buren's family primarily spoke Dutch at home, making him the only president to speak English as a second language.
2. James Garfield's childhood dream was to become a sailor.
3. Andrew Jackson kept a 1400-pound block of cheese in the White House, which he served to guests at an open house.
4. James Buchanan is the only president to remain unmarried his whole life.

A chat with

Dr. Amy Zanoni

Former postdoctoral fellow Amy Zanoni talks to CPH intern Tamal Pilla.

How has your postdoc experience at CPH helped prepare you for your current position?

The CPH gave me space and support to make progress on my research and establish myself as a scholar by publishing work, connecting with other historians, and more. While at the CPH I also gained crucial public history experience — for example, through organizing and hosting public events and speaking on the CPH podcast. I draw on all of this experience in my current position as the executive director of a nonprofit organization that builds community through public humanities and arts programming, and also when continuing to write for academic and public audiences.



Dr. Amy Zanoni

What spurred your love of history in general?

My love of history is rooted in my desire to understand our world and, especially, inequality. What policy decisions and commitments got us here? I am also very interested in the many alternatives people have envisioned — health care and social welfare systems that look different from those in place today.

What are you reading right now?

Well, I just finished re-reading *Moby Dick*. I recommend! Now I am reading two books, one fiction and one non-fiction. The fiction is *Perma Red* by Debra Magpie Earling, a novel that takes place on the Flathead Reservation in western Montana. I recently heard the author read from the book, which just came out in a new edition (after being out of print for quite a while). I'm about a quarter of the way through and really loving it. I also just started *All Health Politics Is Local* by historian Merlin Chowkwanyun, a professor at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. I have been eagerly awaiting the publication of this book, which casts U.S. health care as profoundly local. Up next in my history reading cue are Joan Flores-Villalobos's *The Silver Women*, Melanie Newport's *This Is My Jail*, and Keith Wailoo's *Pushing Cool*.

Our Newest Interns



Erik "EJ" Rorem, Senior
B.A., Political Science
B.S., Statistical Science

EJ compiles research briefings to help CPH fellows prepare for oral history interviews and edits transcripts of past interviews for publication. Currently, he is working on research for an upcoming interview with former Salvadoran Foreign Minister María Eugenia Brizuela de Ávila.



Sofie Arguijo, Senior
B.A., History
B.S., Educational Studies

Sofie's role at CPH involves keeping the website updated and promoting events. Additionally, she reviews transcripts and event videos.

DAAHS interns

CPH helped arrange for several SMU students to work as Dallas Asian American Historical Society (DAAHS) interns during the summer. They contributed many hours of research and hands-on work to DAAHS's first exhibition, "Leftover: The Enduring Legacy of Chinese Cuisine in Dallas," in partnership with Preservation Dallas. The exhibition ran from July to September.



DAAHS intern
Ayan Khan.



DAAHS intern
Michelle Ma.

The DAAHS was established to research, preserve, and amplify the legacy of Asian Americans in the Dallas area

Want to see more of the CPH?

Follow us on social media:

www.facebook.com/CPHSMU/

twitter.com/cphatmsmu



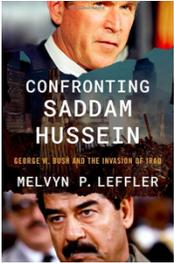
and check out our webpage:

smu.edu/cph

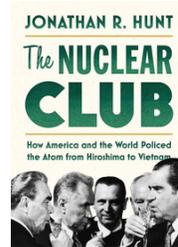
SMU Center for Presidential History

Upcoming Speaker Events

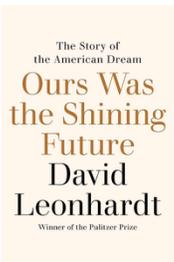
All events take place on the SMU campus (Dallas Hall, McCord Auditorium) unless otherwise indicated.



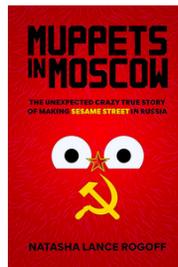
Oct. 19, 2023 @ 6pm: *Confronting Saddam Hussein: George W. Bush and the Invasion of Iraq*
Melvyn P. Leffler
University of Virginia
Bancroft Prize winner



Dec. 6, 2023 @ 6pm: *The Nuclear Club: How America and the World Policed the Atom from Hiroshima to Vietnam* [ZOOM Event]
Jonathan R. Hunt
United States Air War College



Nov. 13, 2023 @ 6pm: *Ours Was the Shining Future: The Rise and Fall of the American Dream*
David Leonhardt,
The New York Times
Pulitzer Prize winner for Commentary

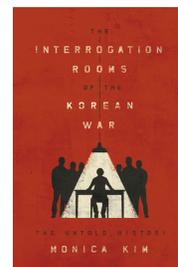


Jan. 24, 2024 @ 6pm: *Muppets in Moscow: The Unexpected Crazy True Story of Making Sesame Street in Russia* [ZOOM Event]
Natasha Lance Rogoff
Author, television producer and filmmaker

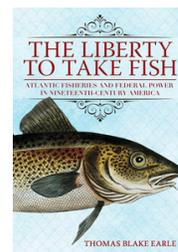
Past Events



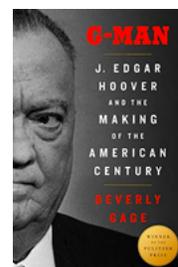
Feb. 19, 2024 @ 6pm: *The Triumph of Broken Promises: The End of the Cold War and the Rise of Neoliberalism*
Fritz Bartel
Texas A&M University
2023 CPH Book Prize Lecture



March 20, 2024 @ 6pm: *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War: The Untold History*
Monica Kim
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Recipient of the MacArthur 'Genius Grant'



April 18, 2024 @ 6pm: *The Liberty to Take Fish: Atlantic Fisheries and Federal Power in Nineteenth-Century America*
Thomas Blake Earle
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Former CPH Post-doc



May 9, 2024 @ 6pm: *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century*
Beverly Gage
Yale University
Pulitzer Prize-Winner in Biography

Celebrating CPH's Tenth Anniversary
March 7: Presidential History in Real Time: Insights into the White House from Inside Washington
Peter Baker, *The New York Times*
Susan Glasser, *The New Yorker*



Jeffrey Engel moderating a discussion between Baker and Glasser.

A packed auditorium and eagerly listening crowd.



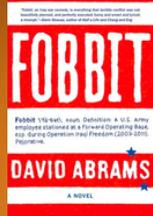
SMU President R. Gerald Turner chatting with Baker, Glasser, and Engel.

BOOK NOOK

Looking for reading suggestions? CPH scholars share a few of their recent favorite reads.

Listen UP

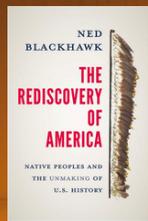
Give these podcast series a try!



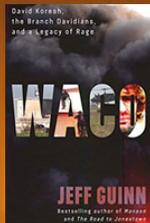
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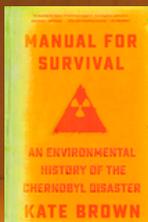
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Blackhawk, Ned. *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History*. Yale University Press, 2023.



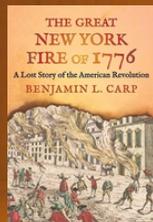
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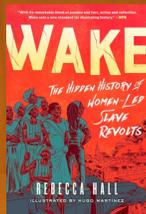
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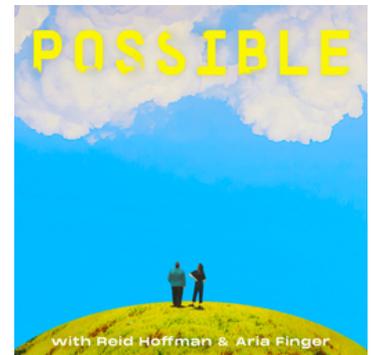
Carp, Benjamin. *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution*. Yale University Press, 2023.



Hall, Rebecca. *Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts*. Simon & Schuster, 2021.



Kelly, Mills, host. *The Green Tunnel*. R2 Studios, 2021—, <https://www.r2studios.org/show/the-green-tunnel/>.



Finger, Aria, and Reid Hoffman, hosts. *Possible*. Reid Hoffman, 2023—, <https://www.possible.fm/>.



Carpenter, Kate, host. *Drafting the Past*. Kate Carpenter, 2022—, <https://draftingthepast.com/>.

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