Cambridge American History Seminar 2019-2020

We are pleased to announce the schedule of seminars and events for the academic year 2019-20. Seminars will be held on Mondays at 5:00pm in either the Knox Shaw Room, or The Old Library, Sidney Sussex College, unless otherwise stated. Several of the seminars will be based on pre-circulated papers that will be made available two weeks prior to the seminar date.

All inquiries should be directed to Jonathan Goodwin, jmg216@cam.ac.uk, 01223 335317.

We look forward to seeing you once term begins.

Gary Gerstle

Michaelmas Term

14 October (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Stefan J. Link, Assistant Professor of History, Dartmouth College, and Noam Maggor, Lecturer in American History, Queen Mary University of London

The United States as a Developing Nation: Revisiting the Peculiarities of American History

This paper will be pre-circulated

21 October, (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Heather Thompson, 2019-2020 Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, University of Cambridge, and Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan

Lore and Logics: The Liberal State, the Carceral State, and the Limits of Justice and Inequality in Postwar America

This paper will be pre-circulated
28 October (Old Library, Sidney Sussex College):

Sarah Pearsall, Senior Lecturer in the History of Early America and the Atlantic World, University of Cambridge

Book Launch:

Polygamy: An Early American History (Yale University Press, 2019)

4 November (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Imaobong Umoren, Associate Professor of International History, London School of Economics

Eugenia Charles, Caribbean Regionalism, and the US Invasion of Grenada

11 November (Old Library, Sidney Sussex College):

Katherine Paugh, Associate Professor in North American Women’s History, University of Oxford

Race and Venereal Disease in the Atlantic World

18 November (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Robert A. Schneider, Professor of History, Indiana University

The Rise and Fall of the “Resentment Paradigm” (ca 1935-1975)

This paper will be pre-circulated

25 November (Keynes Hall, King’s College):

Angus Burgin, Associate Professor of History, Johns Hopkins University

The Neoliberal Turn

This is a joint session with Political Thought and Intellectual History

This paper will be pre-circulated
2 December (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

David Minto, Associate Professor of Modern British History, Durham University


This paper will be pre-circulated

Lent Term

20 January (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Peter Mancall, 2019-2020 Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History, University of Oxford; Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities and Linda and Harlan Martens Director of the Early Modern Studies Institute, University of Southern California

Art and Violence in Early America

This paper will be pre-circulated

27 January (Room TBC):

Heather Thompson, 2019-2020 Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, University of Cambridge, and Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan

Pitt Professor Inaugural Lecture:

American Prison Uprisings and Why They Matter Today

3 February (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Emma Teitelman, Mellon Research Fellow in American History, University of Cambridge

Class and State in America’s Greater Reconstruction

This paper will be pre-circulated
10 February (Old Library, Sidney Sussex College):

Axel Schäfer, Professor of American Studies, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, University of Mainz, Germany

*Social Movements, Immigration, and Welfare Policies in the U.S. between the World Wars*

This paper will be pre-circulated

17 February (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Mario Del Pero, Professor of International History, Institut d’études politiques, Sciences Po, Paris

*Ten Texan Evangelicals in Rome: Religion, Micro-History and the Early Cold War*

24 February (Old Library, Sidney Sussex College):

Elisabeth Leake, Lecturer in International History, University of Leeds

*US Responses to the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan, 1978-89*

This paper will be pre-circulated

2 March (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Jonathan Daniel Wells, Professor of History and Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan

*The New York Kidnapping Club: Wall Street and Slavery before the Civil War*

9 March (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Rachel Herrmann, Lecturer in United States History, University of Cardiff

*Settler Colonialism and the Problem with Water*

This paper will be pre-circulated
Easter Term

27 April (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, Associate Professor of History, Cornell University

Voter Apathy, Suppression, and Fraud: Struggles Over U.S. Democracy in the Post-Voting Rights Era

4 May (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Margot Canaday, Associate Professor of History, Princeton University

“Trouble [Came] with Revolutionary Action”: Gay Liberation and Work
This paper will be pre-circulated

11 May (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Jane Kamensky, Jonathan Trumbull Professor of American History and Pforzheimer Foundation Director of the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Candida Royalle and the Sexual Revolution: A History from Below

18 May (Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College):

Tiya Miles, Professor of History, Harvard University

Reconstructing Enslaved Women’s Lives Through Objects
This paper will be pre-circulated
Conferences and Workshops

27 February Workshop:

*French Atlantic Louisiana During the Slave Era*

Organised by Sarah Pearsall and Mary Laven, University of Cambridge, and Emily Clark, Tulane University

15-17 May Conference:

*The Art and Craft of Western History*

Organised by Robert Lee and Sarah Pearsall, University of Cambridge

26-27 June Conference:

*Reckoning and Renewal: Writing American History in the Age of Trump*

Organised by Nicholas Guyatt, University of Cambridge

The details of these events will be forthcoming.