The National History Center of the American Historical Association is pleased to welcome you to the International Seminar on Decolonization Reunion Conference.

Each summer from 2006 through 2015, fifteen historians at the beginning of their careers attended the month-long International Seminar on Decolonization. Sponsored by the National History Center, hosted by the Library of Congress, and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, these seminars provided participants a unique opportunity to conduct research, write papers, and exchange ideas with one another about the phenomenon of decolonization. The Reunion Conference brings together alumni from the decade-long seminar to reflect on the seminar’s accomplishments, to honor the scholarship of its participants, to define the current parameters of the field, and to forge future directions for research.

Seminar Founder and Director
Wm. Roger Louis

Program Committee Members
Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo, University of Coimbra
Jennifer L. Foray, Purdue University
Leigh Gardner, London School of Economics
Jessica Pearson-Patel, University of Oklahoma

National History Center Staff
Dane Kennedy, Director
Amanda Moniz, Associate Director
Amanda Perry, Program Assistant
In the September 2015 issue of Perspectives on History, Dane Kennedy reflects on the contributions of the seminar.

It is a wonderful thing to witness the birth of a new historical field. I’ve had the privilege to be party to such an event as a founding faculty member of the International Decolonization Seminar, which came to an end this summer after a remarkable 10-year run.

Starting in 2006, each year the seminar brought 15 early-career historians to Washington, DC, where they spent the hot, steamy month of July exploring the incomparable resources of the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and other area research institutions, engaging in vigorous debates with faculty leaders and one another, and writing in-depth research papers that became the basis for countless articles, book and dissertation chapters, conference presentations, and other scholarship on decolonization. Over the past decade, the 150 seminar participants have helped to forge a new and vibrant field of study.

I do not mean to suggest that until the launch of the seminar historians had not noticed what Farina Mir has recently referred to as one of “the most significant events or processes of the 20th century.” Christopher Bayly, Frederick Cooper, John Darwin, and various other distinguished historians had already written important works on the subject. Wm. Roger Louis was arguably the leading authority on the British withdrawal from empire long before he envisioned the idea of the seminar and served as its director from start to finish.

Even so, a decade ago few historians saw decolonization as a distinct field of study. In the early years, most of the seminar participants identified themselves as historians of empire or the Cold War or particular countries or regions. But once they came together, they discovered that their individual research interests often overlapped, revealing common patterns and parallel trajectories. Perspectives were widened, insights gained, friendships forged, collaborations created, and an intellectual cohort brought into being. The international composition of the seminar proved especially valuable and generative. Participants came from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Portugal, Turkey, Singapore, and the United States. Each of them contributed particular experiences, skills, observations, and information to what became a common enterprise. Together they broke down cultural and intellectual barriers, enriching their own research and the field of decolonization as a whole.
What the seminar accomplished can be measured in a variety of ways. Seminar alumni have introduced new courses on the history of decolonization at their home institutions. They have organized panels at meetings of the American Historical Association, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, the North American Conference of British Studies, and other scholarly venues. They have founded the H-Net listserv H-Decol. And, of course, they have published lots of books and articles, creating an intellectual synergy around the issue of decolonization that has become all but impossible to ignore.

Above all, the seminar alumni have contributed to a wholesale reassessment of decolonization—its causes, character, and consequences. When the seminar launched, the story of decolonization was told almost exclusively in terms of the political and diplomatic struggle between imperial states and anticolonial nationalists. This was an important story, to be sure, and it remains integral to our understanding of decolonization. But over the past decade, the range of issues that have attracted the attention of seminar participants has multiplied. Whereas many historians once believed decolonization took place mainly in the colonies, it is now recognized as having had an equally profound impact on imperial homelands. Formerly regarded as a moment of great rupture, it is now understood to have involved substantial continuities as well. Interest has increasingly shifted from the actions of states to the influence of international agencies like the United Nations, multinational conglomerates like Lonrho, and nongovernmental agencies like Oxfam.

Much recent research has also moved from the state to the local level, where decolonization's experiential impact on peoples was more readily apparent and where factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and sexuality contributed to community mobilization and identity formation. The crucial issue of sovereignty—its nature, its scope, and the conditions and consequences of its transfer—is increasingly understood to have been far more variable, contested, and problematic than once supposed. This has helped spur greater interest in issues such as the drawing of borders, the expulsion of peoples, and the construction of national and subnational loyalties. Spatial, social, cultural, and other considerations now jockey with political ones for prominence in interpretations of decolonization.

When I joined the team of faculty that Roger Louis assembled for the inaugural seminar in 2006, I never imagined that it would last as long as it did or have such a profound impact on the study of decolonization. Nor, I suspect, did Roger or the other veteran seminar faculty: Philippa Levine (Univ. of Texas at Austin), Jason Parker (Texas A&M Univ.), Pillarisetti Sudhir (American Historical Association), and Marilyn Young (New York Univ.). Each of us brought a different expertise and set of interests to the seminar, which also benefited over the years from various guest faculty: Julia Clancy-Smith (Univ. of Arizona), John Darwin (Oxford Univ.), Jennifer Foray (Purdue Univ.), Joseph Miller (Univ. of Virginia), and Lori Watt (Washington Univ. in St. Louis). Parker, Foray, and Watt were themselves alumni of the seminar. I’m sure I speak for all of them when I say that it has been a rare privilege to be part of this seminar, getting to know so many talented young historians from so many different countries and bearing witness to their vibrant role in reshaping our understanding of decolonization.

Finally, it should be stressed that the seminar would not have been possible without the remarkable generosity of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which funded its 10-year run, and the wonderful hospitality of the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, which provided the magnificent setting and support for our proceedings.

—Dane Kennedy, September 2015
TUESDAY, JULY 5

9:00–10:00 AM  **Optional Private Tour of *The Value of Money***, led by Ellen Feingold
The National Museum of American History
14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

1:00–1:10 PM  **Welcome from the Kluge Center**, Jason Steinhauer

1:10–1:20 PM  **Welcome from The American Historical Association**, Dana Schaffer

1:20–1:45 PM  **Opening Remarks**, Wm. Roger Louis

2:00–3:15 PM  **Resources, Technology, and Economics in the Era of Decolonization**
chair: Guiliano Garavini, University of Padua

*Building an Oil Empire: U.S. Oil Companies and the Reshaping of Labor Relations in Libya, 1951–1981*  |  Elisabetta Bini, University of Trieste

*If All Else Fails, Ask America: Facing Colonial Exclusion in Nazareth*  
Leena Dallasheh, Humboldt State University

*Making the Hydro-Nation: Sovereignty and Regionalism in India, 1950s–1960s*  
Daniel Haines, University of Bristol

*Shifting Sudan: An Economic Region Between Interwar Imperialism and the Age of Development*  |  Alden Young, Drexel University

3:30–4:45 PM  **Empire at War**
chair: Andres Rodriguez, University of Sydney

*Sentencing and Executing in the Metropolis during Decolonisation: The Case Study of “Fort Montluc”*  |  Marc André, Associated researcher of the Larhra (Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes/Historical research laboratory of Rhone-Alpes)

*Doing Justice or Guarding National Unity: Sentencing Female ‘Traitors’ in Times of Transition*  |  Eveline Buchheim, NIOD, Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies

*Bad Blood in the Post-War Netherlands: Indonesian Decolonization as Interpersonal Conflict*  |  Jennifer L. Foray, Purdue University

*At the Crossroads of Empire: Neutral Macau during the Second World War*  
Felicia Yap, London School of Economics, Saw Swee Hock Southeast Asia Center
**WEDNESDAY, JULY 6**

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<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00–10:30 AM| **Drawing Borders, Building Communities**  
Chair: Aiyaz Husain, U.S. Department of State  
Isabel de Souza Lima Junqueira Barreto, Fluminense Federal University  
Who Wants an East African Federation?  
Michael Collins, University College London  
The Integration of African Chiefdoms into the Colonial Administration: Institutional Change or Institutional Persistence?  
Leigh Gardner, London School of Economics  
Decolonizing Borders in South Asia  
Elisabeth Leake, Royal Holloway, University of London  
“Federations I Have Known...”  
Jason Parker, Texas A&M University  
Eurafrique: Decolonization by Participation  
Anne-Isabelle Richard, Leiden University |
| 10:45 AM–12:15 PM| **Roundtable: Teaching the End of Empire**  
Chair: Annalisa Urbano, Universitaet Bayreuth  
Stephen Jackson, University of Sioux Falls  
Mairi MacDonald, University of Toronto  
Jessica Pearson-Patel, University of Oklahoma  
Kate Stevens, University of Otago  
Akhila Yechury, University of St. Andrews |
| 12:15–1:30 PM| **Lunch** |
| 1:45–3:15 PM| **Languages of Independence, Histories of Decolonization**  
Chair: Erik Linstrum, University of Virginia  
Two Corollaries to the Monroe Doctrine: Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, and the Rhetoric of Anti-Imperial Imperialism  
Charlie Laderman, Peterhouse, University of Cambridge  
Taming Babel: Language, Colonialism, and Legacies in British Malaya  
Rachel Leow, University of Cambridge  
Decolonizing Words: A Contribution to the History of French Empire’s Decline  
Élodie Salmon, Paris-Sorbonne University  
Decolonization and the Writing of Indian History  
Rajagopal Vakulabharanam, University of Hyderabad |
3:30–5:00 PM  **Global Connections in a Decolonizing World**  
Chair: Elizabeth Buettner, University of Amsterdam  
*The Mutual Influence of India and Palestine, 1933–1939* | Lucy Chester, University of Colorado Boulder  
*Developing Control: Development Policies and Violent Trajectories of Late Colonialism in Portuguese Africa (1945–1975)* | Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo, University of Coimbra  
*Orientalism at Bay: Lebanon, the United States, and Edward Said’s Postcolonial Moment* | Maurice Jr. Labelle, University of Saskatchewan  
*“They Are All Lumumbas”: Anti-Colonial Solidarities and Media Representations in the United Arab Republic during the Congo Crisis, 1960–1961* | Zoe LeBlanc, Vanderbilt University  
*Afro-Asian Networks in the Early Cold War: A Collaborative Research Network* | Su Lin Lewis, University of Bristol  

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THURSDAY, JULY 7

9:00–10:30 AM  **Between Empire and Independence**  
Chair: Ellen Feingold, Smithsonian Institution and Georgetown University  
*In the Aftermath of Power Transfer: Anti-French Sentiments and the Rhetoric of “Unfinished” Decolonization in Postcolonial Ivory Coast* | Abou B. Bamba, Gettysburg College  
*To Mecca by Land or by Air: Decolonizing the Hajj in Nigeria, 1955–1963* | Matthew M. Heaton, Virginia Tech  
*Afterlife of Empire: The Life History and Colonial/Postcolonial Careerings of Arthur Hugh Bunting* | Joseph M. Hodge, West Virginia University  
*The Specter of Secession: Decolonization and the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution of India* | Srijan Sandip Mandal, University of Hyderabad  

10:45 AM–12:15 PM  **Roundtable: Humanitarianism and Development**  
Chair: Juan Romero, Western Kentucky University  
John Aerni-Flessner, Michigan State University  
Emily Baughan, University of Bristol  
Charlotte Lydia Riley, University of Southampton  
Kara Moskowitz, University of Missouri–St. Louis  
Tehila Sasson, Institute of Historical Research
12:15–1:30 PM  **Lunch**

1:45–3:15 PM  **Decolonizing Global Governance: International Organizations and the End of Empire**

**Chair:** Laura Robson, Portland State University


*Molding the Intercultural Mind: Peace Corps Training in Hawai‘i*  
Sarah Miller-Davenport, University of Sheffield

*The Internationalization of Social Policies and Late Colonialism: The Portuguese Empire and the International Labour Organization (1944–1963)*  |  José Pedro Pinto Monteiro, Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa

*The Turn to Sanctions by the Anti-Apartheid Movement*  
Simon Murray Stevens, European University Institute

*“World Organization Intoxication”: The Arab League at the San Francisco Conference, 1945*  |  Stefanie Wichhart, Niagara University

3:30–5:00 PM  **Rethinking the End of Empire: New Approaches to the Study of Decolonization**

**Chair:** Emma Hunter, University of Edinburgh

*Decolonization and the History of Emotions: A Case Study from British Africa*  
Ellen Boucher, Amherst College

*Two Commonwealths? Re-Thinking the Commonwealth of Nations: 1921–1975*  
Andrew Richard Dilley, University of Aberdeen

*Rehabilitating the Home: Women’s Self-Help at the End of Empire*  
Elizabeth Prevost, Grinnell College

*Apartheid’s Playground: Decolonization and the Pleasures of Holding Ground*  
Caio Simões de Araújo, Graduate Institute, Geneva

*The Unfinished Decolonisations of Settler Colonialism*  
Lorenzo Veracini, Swinburne University

7:00–9:00 PM  **Closing Reception at the National Museum of Women in the Arts**

1250 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005
**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


Roger Louis, Seminar Leader, is Kerr Professor at the University of Texas and an Honorary Fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. While President of the American Historical Association, he founded the National History Center and the Decolonization Seminar. He is the Editor in Chief of the Oxford History of the British Empire and its Companion Series. In October he will give a lecture to the US Naval Academy on Sea Power and Empires; and in November, the Weizmann Memorial Lecture in Israel, ‘Bevin Days’.

Julia Clancy-Smith is a Regents Professor of History at the University of Arizona, Tucson. She is the author of: Mediterraneans: North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800-1900 (California UP, 2010) and Rebel and Saint: Muslim Notables, Populist Protest, Colonial Encounters (Algeria and Tunisia, 1800-1904) (California UP, 1994) as well as co-editor and author of Walls of Algiers: Narratives of the City in Text and Image (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2009). Clancy-Smith is currently completing a co-authored text entitled, North Africa: from Queen Dido to the Arab Spring (Cambridge, 2017).


Jennifer L. Foray (Seminar Faculty, 2012; Seminar Member, 2008) is an Associate Professor of History at Purdue University, where her work focuses on modern imperialism and decolonization, particularly in the Netherlands. Her seminar research focused on the Dutch commonwealth idea, popular in the 1930s and 1940s, and an expanded version of her seminar paper appeared in the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History in 2012. Her first book, Visions of Empire in the Nazi-Occupied Netherlands (Cambridge University Press, 2012; paperback reissue, 2014) demonstrates how World War Two forced a rethinking of Dutch colonial practices and relationships. Her present book project is entitled “Occupational Aftershocks: War, Decolonization, and Dutch Political Culture.”

Dane Kennedy is the Elmer Louis Kayser Professor of History and International Affairs at George Washington University, where he teaches modern British, British imperial, and world history. He also directs the National History Center. He is the author of a half-dozen books, including The Highly Civilized Man: Richard Burton and the Victorian World (2005), The Last Blank Spaces: Exploring Africa and Australia (2013), and Decolonization: A Very Short Introduction (2016).

Philippa Levine is the Mary Helen Thompson Centennial Professor in the Humanities and Co-Director of the Program in British Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on three main projects: a book she hopes to call The Empire Has No Clothes; a 3rd edition of The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset; and a four-volume compilation for Bloomsbury, The British Empire: Critical Readings.

Jason Parker completed his PhD in 2002 at the University of Florida under Bob McMahon. He joined the Texas A&M History Department in 2006, after teaching at West Virginia University. He is the author of Brother’s Keeper: The United States, Race, and Empire in the British Caribbean, 1937-1962 (2008) which won the SHAFR Bernath Book Prize. He has received research fellowships from the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Truman Library Institute, the Fulbright Foundation, and the Mershon Center in support of

**Pillarisetti Sudhir** has been involved with the summer seminars on decolonization from the very beginning. He served as one of the seminar leaders for all the ten seminars. The former editor of *Perspectives on History*, he received his PhD in South Asian history from the School of Oriental and African Studies for a thesis on British attitudes to Indian nationalism in the 1920s and 1930s. He is interested in the economic and cultural dimensions of decolonization.

**Lori Watt** is Associate Professor of History and International & Area Studies, and Director of East Asian Studies, at Washington University in St. Louis. Author of *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan* (Cambridge, MA, 2009), she is currently working on a manuscript called *The Allies and the Decolonization of the Japanese Empire*, which explores the intersection of decolonization, foreign occupation, and population transfers throughout the Asia-Pacific region after World War II. She has been affiliated with the National History Center’s International Seminar on Decolonization, as a participant in 2008 and as a facilitator in 2013.

**Marilyn B. Young**, New York University. Marilyn B. Young received her Ph.D. in 1963 from Harvard University and went on to teach at the University of Michigan and New York University. She is the author of *Rhetoric of Empire* and *The Vietnam Wars* and co-editor, often with Lloyd Gardner, of a number of collections of essays on Americans permanent wars.