

News from the Director  
By Alan McPherson



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The Covid-19 pandemic has upset just about every facet of society, and CENFAD has been no exception. We have been unable to gather in the Weigley Room for our regular lecture series, kept from fostering in-person connections between students and scholars, and banned from Philadelphia’s delicious dining! More seriously, our researchers, both students and faculty, have been locked out of in-person archives, biding their time with online sources.

Still, CENFAD has continued to operate at full throttle, funding student research, publishing *Strategic Visions*, and hosting scholars online.

### **Fall 2020 Lecture Series**

When it came to inviting scholars to “campus,” we made a strength out of our



weakness. We not only invited a regular slate of book authors but also focused on those faraway whose visit to Philadelphia might in more normal circumstances be too expensive or complex. We also held all our talks on Zoom webinars, which allowed anyone from anywhere with CENFAD’s digital earshot to attend. As a result, attendance at this semester’s talks ranged from about 20 to 70 per event, making this semester CENFAD’s most attended in years.

Our fearless Davis Fellow, Josh Stern, engineered all these events and also conducted what were in the past transcribed in-person interviews as pandemic-era Zoom conversations, all of which can be found on the CENFAD website.

First up was Professor Uğur Ümit Üngör from the University of Amsterdam, recommended by our new colleague, Prof. Artemy Kalinovsky. On September 2, Üngör stayed up late in Europe to [speak to us](#) about his new book, *Paramilitarism*, a nation-state-adjacent phenomenon that has increased in recent decades and that has allowed a greater flexibility for typically authoritarian states to conduct foreign policy. He is interviewed [here](#).

On September 30, Jana Lipman, a historian from Tulane University, [discussed](#) *In Camps: Vietnamese Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Repatriates*, a new book in which she argues for the agency—and occasional successes—of refugees who must participate in international diplomacy from the liminal space of the camps in which they live. Josh interviewed her [here](#).

One week later, on October 7, Professor Thomas C. Field from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University [surveyed](#) labor diplomacy in inter-American affairs, a theme he holds in common with Josh Stern. Field's country of expertise is Bolivia, one with a long history of labor struggles. Field also sat for an [interview](#).

Another Latin Americanist visited us on October 14. Robert Karl of Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute and Non-Resident CENFAD Fellow [talked](#) about Colombia's security situation since the peace agreement reached four years ago. Much has been achieved to put an end to a half-century of antagonism, but much remains. Karl's interview is [here](#).

Another European stayed up late on November 4 to [speak to us](#) on "Enemies and Lovers: Soviet-American Relations during the Cold War." Rósa Magnúsdóttir, Associate Professor of History at Aarhus University in Denmark, argued that the Soviet government's perception of the United States was almost entirely manufactured as propaganda but that its reception among the Soviet people was difficult to assess.

Finally, a guest who had to cancel back in March because of the pandemic finally joined us remotely. And what a guest! Daniel Immerwahr from Northwestern University [presented](#) his latest book, *How to Hide an Empire: Telling the Story of the Greater United States*, a bestseller that argues for a broader understanding of the United States that includes all its formal territorial possessions.

### **Fall 2020 prizes**

In October, the following two graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- Ethan Cohen earned a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Scholarship of \$1,000 to pursue research on his project, "Envisioning Colonialism: How Aviation made Conquest Tangible for Spaniards, 1919-1931."
- Mike Fischer won a John Votaw Endowed Research Award in the amount of \$2,000 in support of research for his project on the Wilson Administration and the Russian Revolution.

Some of the planned research may be delayed due to the pandemic.

Congratulations!

### **Funding—and Applying For!—the Immerman Fund**

A new CENFAD fund, named after longtime director Richard Immerman, is now open for applications! After Immerman retired, several of his past students started a nucleus fund, and many friends, colleagues, and former students contributed generously to a matching fund. The Immerman Fellowship Fund will now offer research support for graduate students for generations to come. Gifts can still be made online at [www.giving.temple.edu](http://www.giving.temple.edu). When selecting a funding option, scroll down to "Other" as an open box and type "Immerman Research Award – 511097." Gifts can also be mailed to Temple University, Institutional Advancement, P.O. Box 827651, Philadelphia, PA 19182-7651. Please write "Immerman Research Award - 511097" in the memo.

In March 2021, Temple PhD students in History will be able to apply to become the first ever Immerman Fellow. Details are on CENFAD's [funding page](#).