

News from the Director



By Alan McPherson

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Fall 2024 Lecture Series

This semester saw a first-rate lineup of scholars from the United States and Europe and on a host of topics. Particularly relevant was any talk of the November presidential election. Please click on the hyperlinks to see the talks on the [CENFAD Website](#), now recorded and posted on our site more efficiently—and from a different angle!—by our Davis Fellow.

Our first event was co-sponsored by the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History and ably hosted by its director and my colleague, **Lila Berman**. On September 9, she held an illuminating [conversation](#) with journalist **Aaron Gell** and historian and author of *Our Palestine Question: Israel and American Jewish Dissent, 1948-1978*, **Geoffrey Levin**, who uncovered the long history of Americans who opposed Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. See the interview with Gell and Levin [here](#).



Dr. Artemy Kalinovsky introduces Aaron Gell and Dr. Levin as Dr. Lila Berman prepares to monitor their conversation

On September 23, Chapman University historian **Mateo Jarquín** discussed his new book, *The Sandinista Revolution: A Global Latin American History*, which looks at the under-explored role of Latin American nations from Venezuela to Panama in mostly supporting the coming to power and struggle against the United States of the Nicaraguan Sandinistas in the 1970s and 1980s.



Dr. Mateo Jarquín presenting on his work at CENFAD

The following week, on September 30, **Florian Wagner** from the University of Erfurt in Germany talked about his own book, *Colonial Internationalism and the Governmentality of Empire, 1893-1982*, a study of efforts at colonial reform through the little-known International Colonial Institute.



An engaged audience listens to Dr. Drew McKeivitt

A few days after that, on October 3, Professor **Andrew (Drew) McKeivitt**, a Temple PHD who is now the John D. Winters Endowed Professor of History at Louisiana Tech University, visited Temple for the second time in about five years. This time he discussed his buzzy new book, *Gun Country: Gun Capitalism, Culture & Control in Cold War America*, a fascinating tale of how Cold War fears inspired Americans to import cheap guns and thus feed the already-unusual culture of firearms in America.



An attentive crowd listens to Dr. Gvosdev giving his CENFAD talk

A few weeks before the U.S. presidential election, **Nikolas Gvosdev**, a professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College, helped the CENFAD audience understand what stakes that election held for America's relations with the world. His talk was titled, "Competing Visions for Global Engagement: The 2024 Elections and Possible Futures for U.S. Foreign Policy." CENFAD interviewed him after the election here.

Finally, the day after the election saw us discussing the life of Merze Tate, a pioneering black woman scholar of U.S. foreign policy in the mid-twentieth century. **Barbara Savage**, an emeritus professor of American social thought and Africana studies at the University of Pennsylvania, presented her new book about the life and scholarship of Tate.

Fall 2024 Prizes

The following graduate students won CENFAD research awards:

- **Ethan Cohen** won a \$2,000 Marvin Wachman Fellowship for research in Spain.
- **Anthony Guerrero** won a \$1,300 Marvin Wachman Fellowship for a language acquisition program in Guatemala.
- **Joseph Johnson** won a \$3,300 Marvin Wachman Fellowship for research in Washington, DC, New York City, and Charlottesville, VA.
- **Ryan Langton** won a Marvin Wachman Fellowship of \$1,500 for research in California.
- **Audrey Rankin** won a Jeffrey Bower Endowed Research Fellowship of \$2,000 for research in Spain.
- **Laura Grace Waters** won a John Votaw Endowed Research Grant of \$1,500 for research in the United Kingdom.

These numbers and research destinations demonstrate the CENFAD community's continuing dedication to archival research, including in international archives, and promises a bumper crop of high-level dissertations in the years to come.

In addition, the following students received CENFAD funds to present their work at academic conferences:

- **Andrew Santora**, at the German Studies Association conference in Atlanta.
- **Jake Wolff**, at the Western History Association conference in Kansas City.

Congratulations to all!

Gift from Todd Davis

Thanks again to a new annual gift from **Todd Davis** (Temple History PHD), CENFAD now has an established source of funding for the recurring one-day conferences/workshops that it is planning. In 2021, it held a workshop (online because of the pandemic) for PHD students working on Latin American international relations, pairing them with “dream” mentors. In 2024, CENFAD held a well-attended one-day conference at Temple's Center City campus that highlighted recent work on the battle of Gettysburg. Todd visited this last event and was inspired by it to help fund future ones.

So CENFAD is looking for ideas! What should the next conference, likely held in 2027, be about? Something the History Department specializes in? A current event whose history needs illuminating? A long-forgotten event worth remembering? A special commemoration? Let me know if you have any ideas. If we don't use your idea at the next conference, then maybe it'll be the next one.

Emerging Scholar Award

Thanks—again—to the generosity of Todd Davis, CENFAD funds a yearly Emerging Scholar Graduate Award, a scholarship for applicants to the Temple University MA Program in History. The purposes of the award are to recruit and support MA-level students interested in diplomatic and military history and to do so especially among underrepresented candidates, including women.

Each year, one awardee receives \$12,000 in tuition remission over a two-year period (covering about one 3-credit course per semester at in-state rates). If the awardee's GPA is below a 3.5 after his/her first year of studies, second-year funding is subject to review.

The competition is now open for the 2025-2026 academic year, and the deadline to apply to the Temple MA Program in History is February 15, 2025. There is no application procedure. All students admitted to the MA program, including the MA Concentration in Public History, will automatically be considered.

This year's Emerging Scholar is Ella Scalese. *Strategic Visions* will feature her in its next issue.

Spring 2025 Lecture Series Schedule

Come join us for another great lineup! All lectures will be held in the Weigley Room, Gladfelter 914, at 4:30pm.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23:

David Suisman, University of Delaware, author of *Instrument of War: Music and the Making of America's Soldiers*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11:

Kate Epstein, University of Rutgers-Camden, author of *Analog Superpowers: How Twentieth-Century Technology Theft Built the National Security State*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21:

Samuel Moyn, Yale University, "Making War Humane"

THURSDAY, MARCH 13:

Osamah Khalil, Syracuse University, author of *A World of Enemies: America's Wars at Home and Abroad from Kennedy to Biden*

THURSDAY, MARCH 27:

Michael Kimmage, Catholic University, *Collisions: The Origins of the War in Ukraine and the New Global Instability*

MONDAY, APRIL 7:

Heather Venable, U.S. Air Force, "Flying into the Future: The Role of Airpower in Today and Tomorrow's Warfare"