

# REFLECTIONS ON THE NEW ERA: REASSESSING THE 1920S



NOVEMBER 15, 2014

WILLIAMS COLLEGE

THIS CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY THE STANLEY KAPLAN PROGRAM IN  
AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND THE PROGRAM IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES AT  
WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

# Conference Schedule

**Saturday, November 15**

*All events take place in Griffin Hall, Room 3*

**9:00 AM**

**Roundtable #1 - Legacies of Wilsonianism and Progressivism in the 1920s**

*Comments:* George H. Nash, The Russell Kirk Center

*Panelists:* Christopher McKnight Nichols,  
Oregon State University  
Justus Doenecke, New College of Florida  
John Fox, The Federal Bureau of Investigation

**10:45 AM**

**Roundtable #2 - Foreign Relations and Political History**

*Comments:* Marc Gallicchio, Villanova University

*Panelists:* Robert David (KC) Johnson, Brooklyn College  
Richard G. Frederick, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford  
James McAllister, Williams College

**1:45 PM**

**Roundtable #3 - Social, Economic, and Cultural History**

*Comments:* Alex Pavuk, Morgan State University

*Panelists:* Ruth Clifford Engs, Indiana University  
Carol Jackson Adams, Webster University  
Derek Hoff, Kansas State University

**3:30 PM**

**Roundtable #4 - First Ladies**

*Comments:* Maurine Beasley, University of Maryland

*Panelists:* Katherine A.S. Sibley, Saint Joseph's University  
Teri Finneman, Missouri School of Journalism  
Nancy Beck Young, University of Houston

## Keynote Speaker



DAVID GREENBERG is an associate professor of History and of Journalism & Media Studies at Rutgers University and a frequent commentator in the national news media on politics and public affairs. His books include *Nixon's Shadow: The History of an Image* (W.W. Norton, 2003), which won the Washington Monthly Book Award, the American Journalism History Association Book Award, and the Bancroft Dissertation Award from Columbia University; and *Calvin Coolidge* (Times Books, 2006), a part

of the American Presidents series. Formerly a full-time journalist, he served as managing editor and acting editor of *The New Republic*, where remains a contributing editor, and has been a regular contributor to *Slate* since its founding. He has written for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Daedalus*, *Raritan*, and other scholarly and popular publications. His awards and honors include the Hiatt Prize in 2008, given each year to a single junior scholar in the humanities whose work has had a public influence, a fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Research Fellowship for Scholarly Excellence. He graduated from Yale, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and earned his PhD from Columbia. He is writing a history of the rise of political spin and the American Presidency in the 20th century.

## Conference Participants

**Carol Adams** is the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Webster University. She oversees 31 campuses across the U.S., monitoring enrollment, budget and program development to ensure academic integrity and consistency. Dr. Adams came to Webster in 2008 from Ottawa University, Kansas City, where she was Associate Professor of History and worked on several university-wide collaborative efforts, including assessment and curriculum development. While at Ottawa, she also worked with international programs and served as Professor in Charge of Ottawa's Health Care Management program. She holds a BA in history, an MA in history, an MA in secondary education, and a PhD in history with a specialization in foreign relations, all from the University of Alabama.

**Maurine H. Beasley** is Professor Emerita of Journalism at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism where she has specialized in the history of women in journalism and journalism education. She is the author/editor/coeditor of eight books dealing mainly with that topic including *Taking Their Place: A Documentary History of Women and Journalism* (American University Press, 1993). Her most recent work is *The Eleanor Roosevelt Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2000), which depicts Roosevelt as a media figure. Beasley has won numerous awards for advancing women in journalism and journalism education. She holds a Ph.D. degree in American Civilization from George Washington University, a master's degree from Columbia University, New York, which gave her an Alumni Award in 2000, and bachelors' degrees in history and journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

**Justus Doenecke** is Professor Emeritus of History at the New College of Florida. He has written books on American-Far Eastern relations in the early 1930s, two US presidents of the Gilded Age, American anti-interventionism during World War II and the Cold War, the New Deal, and Franklin D. Roosevelt's general foreign policy. His documentary edition of the America First Committee won the Arthur S. Link Prize for Documentary Editing by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. His book *Storm on the Horizon: The Challenge to American Intervention, 1939-1941* (2000), received the annual Herbert Hoover Book Award from the Hoover Presidential Library, West Branch, Iowa, as the best book on any topic of American history within the years 1914-1964.

## Conference Participants Cont'd

**Ruth Engs** is Professor Emeritus of Applied Health Science at Indiana University. Dr. Engs taught for 30 years in the Department of Applied Health Science. She retired from teaching in 2003 but continued to be an active researcher. Over her career, she explored hypotheses concerning the determinants of behavior. This involved investigating the history of cycles of prohibition, eugenics, and other social/health movements with moral overtones. In her first twenty years, she primarily used quantitative sociological and applied research methods to examine drinking patterns in relationship to sexuality, women's health, and other health issues. Consequently, in the early-1990 she began to explore the history of drinking within the cultural context of Western Europe and North America. This line of study evolved into the exploration of other health related issues and health reform crusades, such as Eugenics, and their reformers during the Progressive Era.

**Teri Finneman** is a doctoral student at the Missouri School of Journalism. Her research focuses on women and media with an emphasis on three main subfields: historical analysis of news coverage of U.S. first ladies; historical and contemporary analysis of women journalists; and historical analysis of news coverage of U.S. women politicians. Finneman is a former political reporter and multimedia correspondent as well as the 2009 Kaplan fellow at ABC News in Washington, D.C.

**John F. Fox Jr.** is a historian for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Dr. Fox has made a wide range of presentations on FBI history and Intelligence history to a variety of FBI audiences including new FBI employees every two to three weeks on average; FBI intelligence and counterterrorism analysts, foreign law enforcement officials, and Citizen's Academy groups. Fox is a regular consultant on all things related to the FBI's history. He has appeared on C-Span, CBS Sunday Morning News, Good Day Houston, Turner Classic Movies, Fox News, National Public Radio, and a number of radio programs, and other media venues as an expert on FBI history. Fox has also been interviewed for documentaries that have appeared on the History Channel, the Military History Channel, the BBC, French television, and the Discovery Channel.

## Conference Participants Cont'd

**Richard G. Frederick** is a Professor of History in the Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. In the area of research, Dr. Frederick is the author or co-author of books on President Warren G. Harding, Ellis Island and Theoretical Concepts in Biology. He most recently completed a biography of President William Howard Taft and is currently working on a study of the Presidential election of 1920. In the area of teaching, Dr. Frederick has received the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Pittsburgh and the Teaching Excellence Award from the Pitt-Bradford Alumni Association. Dr. Frederick enjoys jazz music, classic movies, mysteries, and college basketball.

**Marc Gallicchio** is a Professor of History at Villanova University. Dr. Gallicchio focuses on U.S. Foreign Relations with East Asia, modern military history, and modern U.S. History. His personal knowledge of Japan, having twice taught there as a J. William Fulbright Lecturer, has given him invaluable firsthand insight into the once mighty empire's place in history -- past, present and future. His knowledge of modern military history, with an emphasis on Japan's role in World War II, as well as the post-World War II East Asian conflicts that continue to shape international relations to the present day are Gallicchio's forte. His most recent book is *The Scramble for Asia: U.S. Military Power in the Aftermath of the Pacific War* (2008).

**Derek Hoff** is an Associate Professor of History at Kansas State University. Dr. Hoff is K-State's economic historian; but he also considers himself a cultural historian — of the ways in which economic, environmental, and legal ideas work their way through society and are used and misused by politicians in the formation of public policy. Hence he has researched such diverse topics as the role that “natural monopoly” theory played in the rise of the regulation of the telephone industry in the nineteenth century, the history of noise pollution, the development of the inheritance tax, and the history of income inequality across the industrialized nations. He is the author of *The State and the Stork: The Population Debate in US History* (University of Chicago Press, 2012), which was awarded the American Historical Association–Pacific Coast Branch's PCB Book Award in 2013 for the best first book in American history. His second book, *Fighting Foreclosure* (with John Fliter; University Press of Kansas, 2012), details the mortgage and agricultural crises of the 1930s and the Supreme Court's upholding of Minnesota's mortgage moratorium in the landmark *Home Building & Loan Association v. Blaisdell* (1934) decision.

## Conference Participants Cont'd

**Robert David Johnson** (KC) is a Professor of History at Brooklyn College. Before moving to Brooklyn, Johnson taught at Arizona State and Williams; and also served as a visiting professor at Harvard University and at Tel Aviv University, as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities. To the general public, Johnson is probably best known for the major role he played in disseminating the facts about the Duke University lacrosse rape case as it unfolded in 2006-7. In 2007 he co-authored a book, *Until Proven Innocent: Political Correctness and the Shameful Injustice of the Duke Lacrosse Rape Case* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2008). Johnson has written and edited numerous books about American history. He also co-edited several volumes of declassified transcripts and tapes from the administration of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

**James McAllister** is Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Stanley Kaplan Program in American Foreign Policy at Williams College. He is the author of *No Exit: America and the German Program, 1943-1954* (Cornell, 2002) and his articles on various aspects of the Vietnam War have been published in *Modern Asian Studies*, *Pacific Historical Review*, *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, and *International Security*. He is currently a member of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation.

**George H. Nash** is an independent scholar, historian, and lecturer, with specialities in twentieth century American political and intellectual history. He is a graduate of Amherst College and received his doctorate in history from Harvard University. He is the author of *The Conservative Intellectual Movement in America Since 1945*, first published in 1976, and of other studies of American conservatism. Dr. Nash is also an authority on the life of Herbert Hoover. His writings on Hoover include Volumes 1-3 of *The Life of Herbert Hoover*, a comprehensive, scholarly biography. Recently Dr. Nash has edited and published two previously unseen manuscripts: *Freedom Betrayed: Herbert Hoover's Secret History of the Second World War and Its Aftermath* (Hoover Institution Press, 2011) and *The Crusade Years, 1933-1955: Herbert Hoover's Lost Memoir of the New Deal Era and Its Aftermath* (Hoover Institution Press, 2013). In 2014 he joined the National Advisory Board of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation. He lives in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

## Conference Participants Cont'd



**Christopher McKnight Nichols** is an Assistant Professor of History at Oregon State University. He specializes in the history of the United States and its relationship to the rest of the world. He is an expert on modern U.S. intellectual, cultural, and political history, with an emphasis on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (1880-1920) through the present. He is the author of *Promise and Peril: America at the Dawn of a Global Age* (2011); co-editor and co-author of *Prophesies of Godlessness: Predictions of America's Imminent Secularization from the Puritans to the Present* (2008); senior editor of the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History* (2013); and author of the forthcoming *Republican Revival*. Nichols is co-editor of the new *Wiley Blackwell Companion to the Gilded Age and Progressive Era: The Making of Modern America*. He is also a frequent writer and commentator on American foreign and domestic policy and on historical insights regarding contemporary political and diplomatic events.



## Conference Participants Cont'd

**Katherine A.S. Sibley** is a Professor of History at Saint Joseph's University. Most recently, she edited *A Companion to Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover*, which serves as the basis for this conference. She is the author of four other books: *First Lady Florence Kling Harding: Behind the Tragedy and Controversy* (2009), *Red Spies in America: Stolen Secrets and the Dawn of the Cold War* (2004); *The Cold War* (1998) and *Loans and Legitimacy: The Evolution of Soviet-American Relations, 1919-1933* (1996). Sibley edits a book series, the *U.S. in International Perspective*, with Paradigm Publishers, and serves on the editorial board of *American Communist History*, as well as on the Historical Advisory Committee to the Office of the Historian at the U.S. State Department. In 2012 she guest edited an issue of *Diplomatic History* on gender and sexuality.

**Alex Pavuk** is an Assistant Professor of History at Morgan State University. His in-print and forthcoming publications span religion; science; race and public policy; and mass media in interwar American culture. He is presently working on a manuscript examining how liberal-progressive Catholic thinkers engaged broader American intellectual life via the sciences in the early decades of the twentieth century. He sits on the Executive Editorial board of *History: Reviews of New Books* (Taylor and Francis).

**Nancy Beck Young** is the Department Chair and Professor of History at the University of Houston. She is a historian of twentieth-century American Political Development. Her research questions how ideology has shaped public policy and political institutions. Much of her work involves study of Congress, the presidency, and first ladies. Dr. Young is also interested in Texas political history, especially Texans in Washington. She joined the faculty of the University of Houston in 2007 after teaching for ten years at McKendree College in Illinois. Dr. Young's current book manuscript, *100 Days that Changed America: FDR, Congress, and the New Deal*, is under contract with Oxford University Press. She has also signed a contract with Oxford University Press to edit the *Oxford Handbook of the New Deal*, an anthology of historiographic essays that explicate the state of the field. Dr. Young is also developing another book project, tentatively entitled *The Transformation of American Politics: From Lyndon B. Johnson to George W. Bush*.