

Public Lecture Series

- 2/15 Public Schools and American Democracy**
Why do we have public schools? What do we want from them? At a time when Americans seem to be hopelessly divided, Western Washington University Professor of History **Johann Neem** asks us to take stock. Drawing on his new book, *Democracy's Schools: The Rise of Public Education in America*, Neem will explore the historic purposes for the development of public education—educating citizens, developing human capabilities, and forging a nation—in order to address whether or not these purposes continue to guide our educational institutions and why we seem to be losing faith in them.
Mumford Hall 133, 5:30 pm
- 3/20 Civil Discourse in an Uncivil Age**
For the Kinder Institute's second public lecture of the Spring 2018 semester, **Alexander Heffner**, host of PBS' *The Open Mind*, will examine the divisiveness that plagues contemporary discourse and governance, as well as the clickbait, fake news, and filter bubbles that social media channels proliferate, in hopes of answering the kinds of questions that might correct this vicious cycle: How can our digital footprint translate into prosocial behavior? How can the press restore faith in the democratic process? And ultimately, how can we achieve post-partisan citizenship? Immediately following the lecture, the Kinder Institute and Truman School will host a panel discussion on speech on campus moderated by MU Professor and Chair of Black Studies **Stephanie Shonekan**.
Leadership Auditorium, 5:30 pm

Town & Gown Dinner Lecture

- 4/10 Jeffersonian Constitutionalism: Words to Protect Our Liberties**
Our Spring 2018 Town & Gown Dinner Lecture will bring Rice University William P. Hobby Professor of History **John Boles** to Columbia to give a talk on how Thomas Jefferson's evolving attitudes about government power, free expression, and protection of liberties reflected his overarching belief that the Constitution could (and should) change as the nation matured.
Contact Kinder Institute Communications Associate Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, for details about attending the Town & Gown lecture.

Academic Workshops

Anyone interested in attending the academic workshops listed below should contact Thomas Kane, KaneTC@missouri.edu, for a copy of the papers to be discussed.

- 2/2 Exemptions as a Mechanism for Political Stability**
Participants in the first Spring 2018 workshop will discuss Kinder Institute Postdoctoral Fellow **David Golemboski's** recent work on religious exemptions from generally-applicable laws, which moves away from the moral or rights-based terms on which debate about this topic typically takes place and instead fashions a defense of exemptions as mechanisms to enhance political stability.
Jesse Hall 410, 9 am
- 3/5 Reagan Revisited**
The semester's second academic workshop will feature discussion of a chapter from University of Texas Clements Center for National Security Executive Director **Will Inboden's** current book project, which focuses on the sources and themes of the Reagan Administration's World War II-influenced, multi-pronged national security strategy for waging the Cold War and promoting democratic capitalism worldwide.
Jesse Hall 410, 2 pm
- 3/9 Religion and the Postwar Politics of Immigration Reform**
The Kinder Institute will host Binghamton University Associate Professor of History **Wendy Wall** on campus for a workshop discussion of her recent research on the religious actors and organizations whose post-WW II efforts to build support for and shape the contours of immigration reform contributed to the passage of the transformative Immigration Act of 1965.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm

Colloquium Series

- 1/31 Thinking about Gerrymandering**
University of Oklahoma Professor of Political Science **Keith Gaddie** will be on campus for a talk that uses recent litigation in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina to raise questions concerning the constitutionality of gerrymandering and to explore the potential for different empirical and constitutional tests that might tame egregious abuses in the redistricting process.
Jesse Hall 410, 10 am
- 2/2 Gateway to Equality**
In discussing her recent book, which investigates black working-class women in St. Louis' struggle for racial and economic justice from the rise of New Deal liberalism through the social upheavals of the 1960s, MU Assistant Professor of History **Keona K. Ervin** will shed light on unexplored aspects of community activism, as well as the complex overlapping of the civil rights and labor movements during the first half of the twentieth century.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm

- 2/9 Constituent Instructions and the Evolution of Representation in America, 1778-1900**
MU Professor of Political Science **Peverill Squire** will draw on unique datasets he has gathered on actionable communications—instructions or requests for state and congressional lawmakers to pursue certain policies—to challenge prevailing wisdom about the historical scope and function of constituent instructions and to explore what the real story of these instructions can tell us about the evolution of representation in America during the nineteenth century.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm
- 2/23 The Emergence of Routinized Elections in the Early Republic**
MU Professor of Political Science **Jay Dow** will discuss the driving forces behind the transition that occurred during the first party era from “deferential” politics, in which local elites exercised great influence over elections, to an electoral politics in which the enfranchised increasingly became self-determining, organized along party alliances, and responsive to political issues and events.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm
- 3/16 Settler Colonialism and the History of U.S. Women's Property Rights**
In partnership with the MU Department of Women's and Gender Studies, the Kinder Institute will host Western University Assistant Professor of History **Laurel Shire** on campus to discuss her research on white women's indispensable place in the history of U.S. settler colonial regimes, such as early-nineteenth century Florida, as well as the implications, both historical and contemporary, of the rights and benefits these women sometimes enjoyed as a result of supporting colonization.
Leadership Auditorium, 4:00 pm
- 4/9 The American Empire**
Making a stop in Columbia on his scholarly world tour, University of Cambridge Emeritus Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History **A.G. Hopkins** will give a talk on his most recent book, *American Empire: A Global History*, which “goes beyond the myth of American exceptionalism to place the United States within the wider context of the global historical forces that shaped the Western empires and the world” from the colonial era to the present.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm
- 4/27 Democracy: America's Other Peculiar Institution**
CUNY-Graduate Center Professor of History and 2017-18 Kinder Institute Distinguished Research Fellow **Andrew W. Robertson** will provide an overview of the work he completed while in residence at Mizzou for his current book project, which uses the early national voting records unearthed by *New Nation Votes* mastermind **Philip Lampi** to provide fresh insight into the electoral history and political culture of late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century America.
Jesse Hall 410, 3:30 pm

Conferences

- 3/1-4 Religion and Politics in Early America, Beginnings to 1820**
Along with the John C. Danforth Center, the Kinder Institute will co-sponsor a March 2018 conference in St. Louis that takes a rigorously interdisciplinary approach to exploring how religion shaped politics and politics shaped religion in early America, from pre-contact through the early Republic.
- 4/20 Shawnee Trail Regional Conference**
An annual gathering of scholars of American politics and constitutionalism, the 2018 Shawnee Trail Regional Conference will travel to the home city of this year's co-host, the Center for Government and the Individual at University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.
- 4/21 Speech Unbound**
As part of Columbia's Unbound Book Festival, the Kinder Institute will co-curate a panel discussion on free speech moderated by our own **Carli Conklin** and featuring *Washington Post* columnist **David Von Drehle**, MU Law School Dean **Lyrisa Lidsky**, and Washington & Lee Professor of Politics **Lucas Morel**. See www.unboundbookfestival.com for details.
- 5/17 Cambridge History of America and the World**
From May 17-19, the Kinder Institute will host almost three dozen leading scholars of nineteenth-century American and transnational history on campus to workshop chapters for the second volume of Cambridge University Press' revolutionary five-volume collection, *Cambridge History of America and the World*. See democracy.missouri.edu for information concerning public talks and workshops that will be held as part of the conference.

Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History

A twice-per-semester meeting of scholars of American political history, the MRSEAH will convene on February 16 in St. Louis, to discuss Western Washington University Professor of History **Johann Neem's** paper, “From Polity to Exchange: The Fate of Democracy in Early American Historiography,” and again on April 6 in Columbia for our yearly double-header, which will feature a discussion of University of Pennsylvania Assistant Professor of History **Sarah Gronningsater's** “Expressly Recognized by Our Election Laws’: Certificates of Freedom and the Multiple Fates of Black Citizenship in the Early Republic,” followed by a dinner talk (details TBA).

