

KINDER INSTITUTE EVENTS SPRING 2020

“Pursuit of Happiness” Friday Colloquium Series, Sponsored by Logboat Brewing

All public talks detailed in this section will be held at 3:30pm in Jesse Hall 410

- 1/24 James Madison’s Hands: A Symposium**
In a follow-up to Mary Sarah Bilder’s 2017 talk in Jesse Hall on *Madison’s Hand*, we kick off the semester with a double-header on the political thought and career of James Madison. Cal State-Chico Professor and KICD Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow **Alan Gibson** will discuss Madison’s conception of an impartial republic and **Michael Zuckert**, Nancy Reeves Dreux Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Notre Dame, will explain Madison’s “third hand clapping” interpretation of the Constitution’s “necessary and proper” clause.
- 1/31 Montesquieu’s Moderation: A Liberal Art for the Commercial World**
Kinder Institute Postdoctoral Fellow **Constantine Vassiliou** (Ph.D., University of Toronto) will show us there was much more to Montesquieu’s thought than the separation of powers, focusing in his talk on how Montesquieu’s reflections on 18th-century economic crises and anxieties about unchecked modern commerce informed a vision for how “fellow-feeling” and “empathy” might promote a healthy liberal society.
- 2/14 Constructing Colonial Identities: Architecture and Power in the British Atlantic World**
What can we learn about the way American colonists related to the British Empire from the places they lived and worked? KICD Postdoc **Erin Marie Holmes** (Ph.D., University of South Carolina) will tackle this question by exploring both how slavery transformed the built environment in South Carolina and Barbados and how this illuminates the reasons South Carolina became one of the 13 colonies to join the American Revolution while Barbados sat out the fight.
- 2/21 Slavery and Politics at the University of Missouri, 1839-1856**
Zachary Dowdle, a 2019-20 KICD Teaching Fellow and incoming Assistant Professor of History at William Woods, will examine the University of Missouri’s experience as a public institution in a slave state, looking specifically at its ties to the slave economy, its initial conception as an institution that did not work to support slavery intellectually or politically, and the proslavery turn it took under second MU president James Shannon.
- 2/28 Justice Grayed, Delayed, and Aged**
University of Wisconsin Professor of American Politics **Ryan Owens** will present on his recent research, which connects neuroscience theory on human cognitive aging to the work of federal appellate judges to reveal the problematic constitutional consequences of cognitive aging and raise important questions about the institution of lifetime tenure for federal judges.
- 4/17 The Creation of the President’s Cabinet**
White House Historical Association historian **Lindsay M. Chervinsky** (Ph.D., UC-Davis) will present her brand-new Harvard University Press book, *The Cabinet: George Washington and the Creation of an American Institution*, exploring how and why Washington formed the cabinet two and a half years into his presidency, after discarding the advisory options provided in the Constitution, as well as the legacy of this history.
- 5/1 Divided Houses: The Long History of American Secession Movements**
University of Illinois-Springfield Prof. **Ken Owen’s** Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow lecture will take us down the rabbit-hole of secessionism in America, looking at the dozens of movements before and after the Confederate States that have contemplated secession and focusing specifically on why these breakaway movements formed in the first place, why so few have attempted outright rebellion, and how they have been used to debate and question the meaning of American identity.

Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History

Spring meetings of the MRSEAH will be held on February 7 in St. Louis, for a discussion of Notre Dame historian **Katlyn Carter’s** book chapter, “Debating State Secrecy during the American Revolution,” and on April 9 in Columbia, with Oxford (St. Anne’s College) Associate Professor of American History **Gareth Davies** presenting his work on “Dealing with Disaster Before ‘Disaster Politics.’”

BrANCH Conference

In celebration of the new M.A. in Atlantic History & Politics, the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians will cross the Atlantic to meet in Columbia for a special conference. In conjunction, the Kinder Institute will host the following public lectures.

- 4/10 Mother is a Verb: An Unconventional History**
Indiana University Associate Professor of History **Sarah Knott** will give a talk on her recent book, *Mother Is a Verb*, which blends history, memoir, and anecdote into a precise, lyrical examination of how one of human existence’s most essential experiences—maternity—has changed over time and cultures.
Swallow Hall 101, 5:00 pm
- 4/11 Champions of Righteousness: The Conflicting Voices of Religious Nationalism in the Age of Lincoln**
Richard Carwardine, Emeritus Rhodes Professor of American History at Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford, and the world’s pre-eminent biographer of Abraham Lincoln, will deliver the conference’s keynote, exploring how America’s religious divisions laid the foundations of competing nationalisms in the run-up to the Civil War.
Center for Missouri Studies, 5:00 pm

Check democracy.missouri.edu in March for a full schedule of conference panels.

Graduate Student Conference

For the second annual Kinder Institute Graduate Student Conference, presenters will push beyond the temporal restrictions typically applied to study of the Atlantic World in asking how a longer view of Atlantic history, one that penetrates beyond the Age of Revolutions to consider 19th- and 20th-century transnational dimensions of empire and nation, might look. Check democracy.missouri.edu in March for a schedule for the conference, which will feature an April 24 keynote on “Moderation in an Age of American Populism” and a series of panels on April 25 in Jesse Hall 410.

Biennial Distinguished Lecture

- 5/5 Churchill: Walking with Destiny**
Andrew Roberts, acclaimed popular historian and author of the award-winning, *New York Times* best-selling 2018 Winston Churchill biography, *Walking with Destiny*, will deliver the Kinder Institute’s third Distinguished Lecture, sharing hidden insights into the life of an iconic, visionary leader who was immune from the consensus of his day and uniquely prepared for the crucible of the Second World War.
Missouri Theatre, 7:00 pm

Unbound Book Festival

- 4/25 Pursuing Happiness in Troubled Times**
For the third year running, the Kinder Institute will sponsor a panel at Columbia’s Unbound Book Festival, this time bringing together the authors of four recent books, political theorists **Jennie Ikuta** and **Aurelian Craiutu** and historians **Carli Conklin** and **Daniel Mandell**, to discuss their work on how the Founders, and countless other thinkers both before and since them, have tried to work out the tensions between individual ambition and collective harmony in order to keep democracy in balance. More details will be made available at unboundbookfestival.com.

Co-Sponsored Events

- 2/6 The State of Constitutional Democracy in Jamaica and the Caribbean**
The Most Honorable **Andrew Michael Holness**, ON, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica, will deliver the MU Black History Month Distinguished Lecture, giving a public talk focused on key struggles of the Jamaican people to establish constitutional government and contemporary strategies for making this government responsive to the needs of the people. The talk is free and open to the public, but tickets are required and can be found at blackstudies.missouri.edu.
Bush Auditorium (Cornell Hall), 5:00 pm
- 3/13 Haiti in the Atlantic World**
MU’s Afro-Romance Institute will host an all-day symposium exploring Haitian history and culture in Atlantic context, featuring film screenings, poetry readings, and talks on topics ranging from “Unsettling Genealogies of the Haitian Revolutionary History” (Prof. **Marlene Daut**, UVA) to “Minette’s Worlds: Theatre and Revolution in Saint-Domingue” (Prof. **Laurent Dubois**, Duke University).
Tiger Hotel, 8:30 am – 9:30 pm

