

Centre for American Studies

News Archives 2010

Don Abelson Presentation in Heidelberg

Don Abelson presented an overview of think tanks and US foreign policy at the University of Heidelberg on December 3, 2010. His prepared remarks were made at a conference entitled, "Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World: Past, Present and Future." The conference was organized by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. A volume based on the proceedings will be co-edited by Professor Abelson and Professor Martin Thunert of the University of Heidelberg.

Department of National Defence (DND) Policy Officer Recruitment Programme

A representative from the Policy Group at the Department of National Defence (DND) will be hosting an information session for Masters and PhDs on the Policy Officer Recruitment Programme. Monday, November 29, 2010, University Community Center, Room 210 (The Student Success Centre), 12:30-2:00pm. Interested students must register through Career Central: <https://careercentral.uwo.ca>.

Geography Guest Speaker Cancelled

Professor Heidi J. Nast, DePaul University, Chicago, "[Reagan, Race, and the Geography of the Pit Bull Fight in the US](#)." Friday, November 19, 3:00pm, SSC 2333 (*Cancelled with regrets*).

Speakers' Series

The CAS is pleased to present Michael Arntfield, Lecturer and Doctoral Candidate, UWO, and London Police Officer, "[The Last of the Gunfighters: The L.A.P.D. in American Culture and Myth](#)". Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 3:30pm, SSC 9420.

Guest Speaker at King's

The J. M. S. Careless History Club, King's University College presents Professor Michael Marrus, "Some Measure of Justice": The Case of Egon Shiele and the *Portrait of Wally*. Marrus' book, *Some Measure of Justice*, on the Holocaust era, restitution campaign of the 1990's, raises critical questions about justice for historic wrongs, the encounter of memories of past atrocities within the American civil litigation system and the place of disputes over the ownership of famous works of art. November 11, 2010, 6:00pm, King's University College, Labatt Hall 105

Recent Scholarly Activities

Aldona Sendzikas presented a paper in Sydney, Australia at the "Idea of Home" Symposium, sponsored by the School of History and Philosophy, University of New South Wales. The title of her paper was " 'I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Canadian': American War Resisters in Canada During the Vietnam War." November 1, 2010.

Don Abelson was invited to participate in an email interview by the editor of *Exploring Geopolitics*. The published interview "Think Tanks: Definition, their Influence, and U.S. Foreign Policy" can be found [here](#). October, 2010.

Speakers' Series: Christopher Hedges

The CAS is pleased to welcome American journalist, author, and war correspondent **Christopher Hedges** as the second guest of the 2010-11 Speakers' Series. Hedges spent fifteen years as foreign correspondent to the *New York Times* in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans. In 2002 he was part of the team of reporters for the *NY Times* awarded the Pulitzer Prize for the paper's coverage of global terrorism, as well as being the recipient of the Amnesty International Global Award for Human Rights Journalism. He has taught at Columbia, NYU, and Princeton, and is also a best-selling author. *Empire of Illusion: The End of Literacy and the Triumph of Spectacle* (2009) is his most recent book. Wednesday, October 27, 3:30pm, SEB 2100. A book sale and signing will follow the talk.

Internships with The Washington Center

Sonia Ziade from the **Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars** will be hosting an information session about their programs and opportunities available to graduate and undergraduate students. The session will take place Wednesday, October 27, 10:30-11:30am, TH 3102.

Department Representatives 2010-11

Congratulations to third-year students Brendan Clements and Ross Heft who were elected as our Department Representatives during last night's Student Council elections. Brendan and Ross will act as a liaison between the Centre for American Studies and the Social Science Student's Council for the year 2010-11. If students or faculty have any issues or concerns that they would like raised at Social Science Student Council meetings please contact Ross (rheft@uwo.ca) or Brendan (bclemen2@uwo.ca) by email. Posted October 7, 2010.

Presentation on Fulbright Awards: October 6

Brad Hector, Program Officer from **Fulbright Canada** will be hosting an open information session on awards that are available for study and research in the United States. Details of both faculty and student awards will be presented. The session will take place on Wednesday, October 6, 12:30-1:30pm, SSC 4105.

Aldona Sendzikas Receives Nomination for Henry Adams Prize

Professor Aldona Sendzikas' latest book *Lucky 73: USS Pampanito's Unlikely Rescue of Allied POWs in WWII* has been nominated for the 2010 Henry Adams Prize. This award is presented annually for an outstanding book on some aspect of the history of the U.S. federal government, by the Society for History in the Federal Government. Aldona Sendzikas is an Associate Professor in the Department of History, and teaches the second-year course Advanced American Studies. Congratulations on this achievement!

Upcoming Guest Speaker

Paula Uruburu, Professor of English at Hofstra University will be the first guest of the 2010-11 Centre for American Studies Speakers' Series. Professor Uruburu will be speaking on her book *American Eve: Evelyn Nesbit, Stanford White, The Birth of the "It" Girl, and the Crime of the Century*. The murder case of famed New York City architect Stanford White rocked the city's elite, and was headline news for months. The scandal "signaled the beginning of a national obsession with youth, beauty, celebrity, and sex." Paula Uruburu is widely published, and has been featured in documentaries on A&E (Biography), PBS, and the History Channel. Thursday, September 30, 10:30am, SSC 9420.

Paper Add/Drop Period

The September paper add/drop period runs September 20 & 21st. Centre for American Studies add/drop hours: **9:30am-3:30pm** both days.

Don Abelson's Recent Scholarly Activities

The Second Edition of **Donald Abelson's** book, *Do Think Tanks Matter? Assessing the Impact of Public Policy Institutes* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2009) has been translated into Simplified Chinese by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). The SASS is the largest and most prestigious think tank in China.

Professor Abelson also recently made two presentations in China: "Measuring the Influence of Think Tanks." Presentation made at a workshop entitled, *Think Tanks Impact and Its Measurement*, sponsored by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) Think Tanks Research Center, Shanghai, China, August 27, 2010, and "Do Think Tanks Matter?" Presentation made at an International Workshop entitled, *Think Tanks in Global Comparison- Modes of Operation*, sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, August 25, 2010.

Western Professor to Participate in US State Department Conference on the Vietnam War

Geoff Stewart will be a panelist at the upcoming conference "The American Experience in Southeast Asia, 1946-1975" to be held at the United States Department of State on September 29-30. He will be presenting on community development--a South Vietnamese nation-building program--that draws on research he conducted in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The conference will feature scholars from North America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and includes presentations former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke, and correspondent Morley Safer.

<http://history.state.gov/conferences/2010-southeast-asia>

Graduate Student Orientation Sessions

There will be a welcome and orientation session for incoming American Studies MA students on Tuesday, September 7, 11:00am, SSC 9434, and a welcome reception will take place at Michael's Garden (Somerville House, Room 3320) from 3:30-5:00pm.

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will be hosting an orientation session for all graduate students on Saturday, September 11, 10am-2pm, HSB 40. Registration:

<http://grad.uwo.ca/events/?id=20>

Speakers' Series 2010-11 Announced

The 2010-11 CAS Speakers Series once again features an exciting lineup of guest speakers, highlighted by the fifth annual Morrison Lecture in American Studies with special guest, journalist and best-selling author **Linda McQuaig**. Visit the **Speakers' Series** page for more information.

New Look for CAS Website

Welcome to the newly redesigned Centre for American Studies website! The new site was developed to be consistent with a web design template used by many other departments at Western. The site was launched in July, 2010.

MA Program Approved

We are delighted to announce that on June 18, 2010, the Centre for American Studies received final approval from OCGS to formally admit students to its new MA Program. We look forward to welcoming our first group of graduate students this September. The MA in American Studies at Western will be the first of its kind in Canada. For more information, visit the [Graduate Program](#) page.

Programs Offered for Incoming Graduate Students

The **360° Graduate Student Professional Development Initiative** offers orientation activities, conferences, and teaching assistant programs to incoming graduate students. Visit the [website](#) for more details of these programs and a calendar of events.

Fall/Winter 2010 Registration

Attention returning undergraduate students. Information for fall/winter 2010 course registration can be found on the [Office of the Registrar](#) website.

New Course Offerings 2010-11

Please visit the [Undergraduate Courses](#) page for information on new course offerings for 2010-11.

Paper Presented at the University of Warsaw

[Professor Don Abelson](#) presented a paper entitled, "Do Policy Experts Matter? Lessons from Canada and the United States," at a conference entitled, *Political Expertise in Contemporary Democracies: A Comparative Approach: Canada, Germany, Poland*, at the University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland, on May 21, 2010.

Canada-U.S. Institute Launch

The official launch of Western's newly established [Canada-U.S. Institute](#) took place on April 13, 2010 at the [Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars](#). The results of the Institute's first study, "Moving Closer or Drifting Apart? Assessing the State of the U.S.-Canada Relationship", were presented by the authors; Political Science Professors Laura Stephenson and Cameron Anderson.

CAS WEBSITE UPDATE April 21, 2010

The Centre for American Studies website will soon be getting a new look. We are changing our website to a new format that more closely resembles other Social Science departments. The new website will be going live sometime during the summer.

NEW! AMERICAN STUDIES STUDENT CLUB: March, 2010

A group of American Studies students are forming a student club for all students interested in the history, culture, and politics of the United States. Undergraduate and graduate students welcome. Please contact [Laura McGee](#) or [Ross Heft](#) if you would like more information about the club.

The Canada-U.S. Institute:

DON ABELSON APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF THE CANADA-U.S. INSTITUTE: March 25, 2010

Dr. Julie McMullin, Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Science announced that Professor Donald Abelson will be the inaugural Director of the Canada-U.S. Institute for an initial three-year term. Donald Abelson is a Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, and Director, Centre for American Studies at UWO, who specializes in the study of American politics and foreign policy. He is the author of several books and is a regular commentator on CBC Radio and other media outlets where he discusses current developments in American politics and Canada-U.S. relations.

INSTITUTE OFFICIAL LAUNCH: WASHINGTON D.C. APRIL 13, 2010

The official launch of Western's newly established Canada-U.S. Institute took place on April 13, 2010 at the [Woodrow Wilson Center International Center for Scholars](#). The results of the Institute's first study, "Moving Closer or Drifting Apart? Assessing the State of the U.S.-Canada Relationship", were presented by the authors; Political Science Professors Laura Stephenson and Cameron Anderson. The complete study can be found at http://uwo.ca/local_files/downloads/20100413-can-us-study.pdf. The entire presentation can be viewed [here](#). An evening reception at the Canadian Embassy in Washington followed.

WESTERN TO CREATE CANADA-U.S. INSTITUTE: Jan 7, 2010

A proposal to establish a Canada-U.S. Institute at UWO has been approved by the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International Relations) for an initial 3 year period, beginning January 1, 2010. The primary objective of the Institute will be to produce and disseminate timely and policy-relevant research on a host of important bi-lateral issues, and to educate policy-makers, journalists, business leaders, and the public about the differences and similarities between our two countries. Articles about the newly established Canada-U.S. Institute have been featured in the *Western News*, the *Western Gazette*, and the *London Free Press*.

Faculty Publications, Presentations and Media Appearances

Don Abelson presented a paper entitled, "Do Policy Experts Matter? Lessons from Canada and the United States," at a conference entitled, *Political Expertise in Contemporary Democracies: A Comparative Approach: Canada, Germany, Poland*, at the University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland, May 21, 2010.

Faculty Books

Aldona Sendzikas (History) *Lucky 73: USS Pampanito's Unlikely Rescue of Allied POW's in WWII* will be released in March 2010. Published by University Press of Florida. View [book cover](#).