

COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL

NATIONS, SAVOIRS ET IDÉOLOGIES DU 18^E SIÈCLE À NOS JOURS

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

RICHARD BOURKE (KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE)

STEFAN BERGER (RUHR UNIVERSITÄT, BOCHUM)

GUY BEINER (MASSACHUSETTS)

WEBSITE



14 - 16 OCTOBRE 2026

CAMPUS LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES
NANCY

Wednesday 14 October 2026

Keynote: Stefan Berger, Ruhr-Universität Bochum: “History and the (re)construction of national identity in twentieth-century Britain, US and Australia – comparative perspectives”

This paper will discuss the development of historiographical master narratives and their contestations in Britain, the US and Australia in comparative perspective highlighting both differences and similarities. It will discuss the impact of the British empire on these historiographical national master narratives and discuss the tensions between empire and national master narratives. It will also analyse the impact of the two world wars on these narratives as well as the influence of transnational alliances, in particular in the Cold War world.

Stefan Berger is Professor of Social History and Director of the Institute for Social Movements at Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany. He is also executive director of the Foundation History of the Ruhr. After completing his D.Phil. at the University of Oxford in 1991, he held various lectureships, senior lectureships and professorships at the Universities of Plymouth, Cardiff, Glamorgan and Manchester in the UK. In 2011 he accepted his current position in Germany. He held visiting professorships in France, Germany, Australia and China. His research focusses on comparative labour history, the history of nationalism, the history of historiography, historical theory, the history of deindustrialization and British-German relations. His last monograph was ‘History and Identity: How Historical Theory Shapes Historical Practice’, Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Chair: Stéphane Guy

Stéphane Guy is the associate director of IDEA and a full professor in British history at the University of Lorraine. A specialist in the history of ideas, he has published works on British intellectuals and political thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He has authored the monograph *Genèse du travaillisme* (Michel Houdiard, 2019), which examines the philosophy of history of the Fabian socialists, and has co-edited several publications, including *Liberalism and Socialism since the Nineteenth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) and *Power and Knowledge from the Eighteenth Century to Today* (EDUL, 2026).

LES SAVOIRS ET LA CONSTRUCTION DE LA NATION // SHAPING KNOWLEDGE, FRAMING NATIONHOOD

Richard Somerset (Université de Lorraine) - The power of the past: polemics of nationhood-construction in late 18th century England

In the aftermath of the quarrel between ‘ancients’ and ‘moderns’ in the Augustan age, the nature of ‘culture’ was in the following decades increasingly organized, shifting the

debate away from the absolute terms of philosophical debate and towards the relativising terms of historical debate. Far from uniting civilised peoples under a cosmopolitan banner, ‘culture’ now could and did become the basis for the differentiation of peoples into distinctive races and nations. This shift was operated at the intersection of a variety of emergent or transforming disciplines: anthropology, sociology, archaeology, philology, cultural history, literary history are just the most obvious examples. Each in their own way, these disciplines brought the empirical methods of Enlightenment science to bear upon some aspect of the ‘culture’ question, in the hope and expectation that a hitherto vague metaphysical concept would be made to mean something definite. Arguably, however, the result was a simple transfer of the control of the concept from the domain of philosophical speculation to the domain of political expediency: if the analysis of ‘culture’ required the analytical differentiation of humanity into distinct groupings, then the study of the processes of formation becomes eminently political.

The paper proposes to examine the workings of this process in mid to late 18th century England, focusing on the work of antiquarians and folklorists and the polemics they provoked as they set about defining the canons of material and immaterial culture, and elaborating narratives constitutive of national identity. A variety of figures will be mentioned, but the main focus will probably be on William Stukeley, Thomas Percy, Thomas Warton and Joseph Ritson.

Richard Somerset is a lecturer at the Université de Lorraine. He is primarily interested in the concept of historicity in the nineteenth century as manifested in the fields of natural science, historiography and literature. This interdisciplinary work naturally led to an interest in the history of disciplines and disciplinarity, and to the co-editing of two collections of essays: *Mapping Fields of Study: the Cultural and Institutional Space of English Studies* (Presses universitaires de Nancy, 2019) and *Ordering Knowledge: Disciplinarity and the Shaping of European Modernity* (Presses universitaires de Strasbourg, 2023). He has also published articles on evolutionary thought and evolutionary popularisation in France and in Britain, and on illustration and narrative form used as argumentative strategy in popular science and popular history writing; as well as pieces on specific 19th-century authors, both French and British.

Camille Auboin (Université Paris Nanterre) - La ‘question de l’alcool’ dans les colonies allemandes

Postcolonial studies have shown that European nations were formed in close connection with their empires and that colonization profoundly transformed Western societies themselves, rather than being a one-way process. This paper examines the case of Germany, which became a nation-state relatively late (in 1871) and, compared to its European neighbors, embarked on the colonial adventure just as late. It aims to examine how the rapid development of the sciences around 1900 (geography, anthropology, ethnology, biology, zoology, physiology, etc.) supported colonial policy and affirmed Germany’s role in the world. However, these sciences also led some Germans to adopt a

critical stance towards their country, highlighting the shortcomings and even the failures of colonial policies, to the point where some questioned Germany's ability to fulfill its "civilizing mission."

Camille Auboin is a German teacher and a postdoctoral researcher at Paris Nanterre University. In 2025, she defended her dissertation in German studies, titled "Rethinking Germany Through Its Colonial Margins: Hans Paasche (1881–1920), Life Reformer and Revolutionary," at the University of Strasbourg. Her work focuses on the connections between German colonization and socio-cultural reform movements around 1900, particularly the Life Reform movement (vegetarianism, naturopathy, nudism). Papers:

- Camille Auboin «Hans Paasche (1881-1920), (Großwild-)Jäger und Vegetarier», in: Eva Locher/Stefan Rindlisbacher/Damir Skenderovic (Hg.), *Transnational, kolonial, aktuell. Neue Perspektiven auf die Geschichte der Lebensreform*, Basel, 2025, S. 215-230.
- Camille Auboin, «De l'hétérotopie coloniale à la Lebensreform», *Recherches germaniques*, 54/2024, p. 147-159.
- Camille Auboin, «Hans Paasche (1881-1920) et le féminin», *Recherches germaniques*, 52/2022, p. 57-72.

Rémi Boucay (EHESS) - "A work that should grow with the country": military Science and national interests at the U.S.-Canada border in the 19th century.

To what extent is it possible to produce universal knowledge from a transnational and contested scientific field? From the standpoint of the history of science and technology, drawing on a wealth of archival material, this paper offers a reflection on the ambiguity of the marine mapping operations carried out by U.S. Army engineers in the 19th century in the Great Lakes region, which was then in the process of being incorporated into the United States and Canada. Moving beyond a historiography that viewed this program, the US Lake Survey (1841–1882), as a major contribution to a precise, neutral, and objective American science, we aim to show how, in this border context, this cartographic science operated for half a century in a state of tension between the production of universal knowledge in surveying and hydrography (through cooperation with British engineers) and the geopolitical stakes of defending U.S. "national interests," sometimes at the expense of its credibility with local populations.

Rémi Boucay holds a Ph.D. in History from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris). In November 2025, I defended a dissertation titled *Des eaux capitales. Les ingénieurs de l'armée des États-Unis et la région nord-américaine des Grands Lacs, 1840-1882* (Capital Waters: US Army Engineers and the North American Great Lakes Region, 1840-1882). In 2026, I published an article: "Spreading the Maps: U.S. Army Engineers, State-building and Capitalism in the North-American Great Lakes", 1850–1880. *USAbroad – Journal of American History and Politics*, 9(1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.60923/issn.2611-2752/23751>. My research interests include the history of the United States and Canada, the history of science and technology, the history of the state, the history of borders, the environment, and capitalism.

LES SAVOIRS ET LA CONSTRUCTION DE LA NATION (2) // SHAPING KNOWLEDGE, FRAMING NATIONHOOD (2)

Elsbeth Heaman (McGill University) - Knowledge and the American Multilateral Turn in 1940

The American turn to lend-lease and multilateralism in 1940 isn't generally portrayed as a victory for knowledge. I'll argue that highly networked knowledge was determinative and historical knowledge particularly so. I draw on W.H. Dray's work on the origins of the Second World War to connect historical knowledge and causative agency, and on David Edgerton's work on "the nation" between the outbreak of war in 1939 and the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Edgerton debunks the "England alone" story as postwar conservative nationalism, instead situating the UK in networks of "power and plenty." That phrase comes from lectures by the Montreal-born Chicago economist Jacob Viner during and after WWII, and my story connects Viner to the American multilateral turn, grounding it in prewar financial diplomacy, and the theory-laden, empirically-grounded policy advice delivered by Viner directly to the US Treasury, State Department, and White House in autumn 1940.

Elsbeth Heaman is a professor of history at McGill University with a longstanding interest in knowledge claims, pursued in articles and monographs across different but connected fields: French epidemiology, English hospital medicine, Canadian projects of development and taxation, and Enlightenment discourses of civilization carried into the emergence of social statistics and Canadian settler colonialism. She is currently completing a book about Jacob Viner, Chicago economics, and intellectual history. Her bibliography is on her website: <https://www.mcgill.ca/history/elsbeth-heaman>

Louise Dalingwater (Sorbonne Université) - Nation and narration: The case of the National Health Service (NHS)

The National Health Service (NHS) has long been lauded as a "national treasure" and key to national identity. The symbol of inclusion, equity, equality and accessibility to health care regardless of ability to pay are a key part of the nation-building narrative and have resulted in the NHS being a source of pride ever since its conception. At the same time, this has given rise to protectionism within the NHS. National entrenchment is a natural reaction when a national symbol is seen to be under attack. This has come in two forms: first through defenders of creeping privatisation of the NHS and second in relation to attacks on public health services through increased trade and investment in the health sector. Protectionist narratives draw on the emotional charge of the NHS as a national object. Yet the NHS and its importance as national heritage is also used as a marketing tool by private sector actors to further economic gains. This article thus proposes to conduct qualitative content analysis to study the use of these narratives (relayed through discourse and image) and how they contribute to the building of the myth of a nation.

Louise Dalingwater is full professor at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Sorbonne Université. Her work is focused on health policy, healthcare delivery and wellbeing with comparative research on European health systems and global health policy research. She is Principal Investigator (PI) for the Digital Health Systems IITD Delhi-Sorbonne Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Project, a member of the steering group for the 4EU+ global outreach project Meta-UN and Chair of the Health Wellness and Society research network based in Illinois, United States. Her research interests also include the dynamics of trade in services, including the links between trade and health. Recent publications include a book on the UK service economy, a monograph on the NHS and several book chapters and articles on well-being and health.

Émilie De Witte (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle) - From Statistics to the Nation: The Invention of the “White Working Class” in British Knowledge on Educational Inequalities

From the early twenty-first century onward, the low educational attainment of pupils identified as White British FSM (Free School Meals) became a prominent concern within British research on educational inequalities. Initially developed as a statistical category designed to measure the combined effects of social class and ethnicity on educational achievement, this population was progressively redefined in institutional reports, academic research and political discourse as a “white working class” allegedly neglected by multicultural policies. Drawing on a corpus of Department for Education reports, academic publications and political interventions produced between 2000 and 2019, this paper examines the trajectory of this category and the interactions between knowledge production and political uses of research. It argues that a socio-economic issue was gradually reframed in racial and national terms, contributing to the racialisation of the social question, and explores the role of knowledge in legitimising a white conception of the British nation.

Emilie de Witte recently completed a PhD in British and Commonwealth Civilisation at Sorbonne Nouvelle University (2025). Her research examines the historical development and contemporary uses of “backlash” narratives against multiculturalism in the United Kingdom and Australia. She focuses on the construction, circulation and political mobilisation of the “white working class” as a racialised category, as well as its connections to British imperial legacies, whiteness and competing conceptions of the nation. Her work combines discourse analysis, history of political ideas and postcolonial approaches. She has published in *Observatoire de la société britannique*, *Cahiers du MIMMOC* and *Interfere Journal*.

Thursday 15 October 2026 (morning)

LES FRONTIÈRES AU DÉFI DES SAVOIRS, LES SAVOIRS AU DÉFI DES FRONTIÈRES // BORDERWORK: FRONTIERS AND THE SHAPING OF KNOWLEDGE

Céline Sabiron (Université de Lorraine) - The Making of National Identities: Travel Translation, Periodical Criticism and Franco-Scottish Mediations in the 1820s

This paper examines the cross-Channel circulation of travel, historical and literary knowledge in the 1820s, and its role in the mutual construction of French and Scottish national imaginaries. Focusing on Lady Morgan, Walter Scott, Charles Nodier and Amédée Pichot, it argues that knowledge of the other was not simply transferred from one national space to another, but selected, rewritten, framed and ideologically redirected through translation and periodical criticism. Particular attention will be paid to the periodical press as a space in which translations were discussed, evaluated and instrumentalised, and in which travel writing became a vehicle for broader debates on national character, cultural authority and political legitimacy.

Drawing on the idea of translators and travellers as liminal figures moving between cultures (Tim Youngs, *The Cambridge Introduction to Travel Writing*), the paper will show how translation and travel writing functioned as closely related forms of textual mediation, both open to ideological manipulation. Reviews in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, the *Revue encyclopédique* and later the *Revue des Deux Mondes* thus appear not as secondary commentaries, but as active sites of knowledge production, where images of France and Scotland were shaped, contested and made nationally meaningful.

Céline Sabiron is a Senior Lecturer in British Romantic literature and translation at Université de Lorraine (Nancy, France). She directs its Master's programme in translation and co-organises the ARIEL international author's residency. Her research examines translation and literary mediation between Scotland and France in the late 18th, mid-19th centuries. She published *Unveiling Lady Scott* (Cambridge University Press, 2025) and is co-editing (with Antonella Braida Laplace) *Polyglot Women as Agents of Transfers* to be published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Eyup Ozveren (independent scholar / Middle East Technical University), Alp Kaya (Ege University) & Ozgur Erdem (Dokuz Eylül University) -The Drivers and Limits of the Shift from French to German Influence in Turkish Economic Thought

This article examines the intellectual transformation of Ottoman-Turkish economic thought from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid- twentieth century, focusing on the gradual shift from French liberal political economy to German-inspired protectionism

and nationalism. Early Ottoman economists and public intellectuals, such as Serandi Archigenes and Sakızlı Ohannes Pasha, introduced the ideas of Pellegrino Rossi and Jean-Baptiste Say and, indirectly, Adam Smith into the Ottoman context, defending liberalism, free trade, and private property within the framework of Tanzimat modernization. Yet Ottoman receptions of Smith were largely filtered through Say's pedagogical and pragmatic interpretation of classical economics. By the late nineteenth century, however, the economic and geopolitical crises of the empire, combined with growing German–Ottoman political relations, increased the appeal of the German Historical School and the protectionist ideas of Friedrich List. The article argues that this transition was driven by developmental anxieties, industrial backwardness, and nationalist concerns.

Eyüp Özveren is an independent scholar and retired full professor from Middle East Technical University. He received his PhD in Sociology from State University of New York at Binghamton in 1990 and participated in the activities of the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems and Civilizations. Joining METU in 1991, he later served as Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (2009–2015). His teaching and publications focused on institutional political economy, history of economic thought, and economic history. His current interdisciplinary research centers on Mediterranean and Black Sea studies.

Alp Kaya is a professor of Economic History at the Department of Economics, Ege University, İzmir. He studied at Middle East Technical University in Ankara and at École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. His research focuses on the conflictual world of property and labour relations in the Mediterranean from 18th to 21st centuries. He has recently edited *Coup-d'œil sur les conditions de la production de la richesse en Turquie, Articles publiés dans le Journal de Constantinople par Jon Ionesco* (Ion Ionescu de la Brad) 1849–1857 (2022) and published “Bourgeois revolution in Turkey (1908–1923)” in *Revolutionary Marxism* (2023).

Erdem Özgür completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at Middle East Technical University and received his PhD from George Mason University in 2005. Since 2012, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Business, Dokuz Eylül University. Since 2014, he has served as the head of the Economic History branch. His main research interests are economic history and the history of economic thought. In addition to edited volumes to which he has contributed chapters, he has published articles in both national and international journals.

Trung Thien Kim Nguyen (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle) - From Hutcheson to Reid: The National Dimensions of Knowledge in the Scottish Enlightenment

From Francis Hutcheson's pioneering lectures on moral philosophy in the 1730s to Thomas Reid's systematic defence of common sense philosophy fifty years later, the Scottish university classroom was a crucible for the formation of a national intellectual identity. This paper proposes to examine how four thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment, viz. Francis Hutcheson, Adam Smith, Adam Ferguson, and Thomas Reid, professors at the Universities of Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh, collectively shaped a pedagogy that

claimed universal validity while bearing the distinctive marks of a specifically Scottish institutional culture. Hutcheson's break with scholastic Latin instruction, Smith's integration of ethics and political economy, Ferguson's historical account of civil society, and Reid's philosophical synthesis together constituted a distinctively Scottish intellectual tradition, whose methodological innovation set it apart from Oxford's insularity and the continental academies. This paper argues that the Scottish university in the eighteenth century was at once a space of genuine inquiry and a vehicle of national self-fashioning.

Trung Thien Kim NGUYEN is Assistant Professor in English at CY Cergy Paris University, France. She has passed the advanced competitive examination for English professors in higher education (Concours de l'Agrégation externe d'anglais). She holds a Master's degree in English studies and a doctorate in British Intellectual History from University Sorbonne Nouvelle. Her research focuses on intellectual history and on moral and political philosophy in Great Britain in the eighteenth century.

ÉDUCATION, ENSEIGNEMENT ET DISCIPLINES AU SERVICE DE LA NATION // TOOLS IN THE SERVICE OF NATIONHOOD: EDUCATION, PEDAGOGY, DISCIPLINES

Yuetong Li (Cambridge University)- Merely Auxiliary? The Hilfswissenschaften and the Hierarchy of National Historical Knowledge in Germany, 1830–1900

When German historians professionalised their discipline, they did not only write the nation's story; they sorted the knowledge that made it tellable. This paper takes a single, much-used and little-read object — the Dahlmann–Waitz Quellenkunde der deutschen Geschichte (Dahlmann 1830; revised by Georg Waitz from 1869) — and asks what its taxonomy did. Diplomatics, palaeography, sphragistics and chronology were institutionalised as “auxiliary sciences” (Hilfswissenschaften): foundational to source-critical history yet ranked beneath it, and the name itself encoded the rank. I argue that this auxiliary was a knowledge-political settlement. It let a transnational, universal technique be enframed as national — Bresslau's diplomatics “für Deutschland und Italien”, a corpus bounded as deutsche Geschichte — while keeping it subordinate to the interpretive national historian. The hierarchy of historical knowledge, not the master narrative, was where the discipline reconciled its claim to scientific universality with its commitment to the nation.

Yuetong Li is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Cambridge, writing a thesis on the popularisation of historical knowledge in Germany, 1848–1914. Her work centres on German historiography and the history of knowledge, and she has studied the professionalisation of German historical scholarship since her bachelor thesis at Sichuan University on its periodicals, associations and controversies (1859–1914), and then turning to history textbooks research in her master programme at Peking University. In 2026 she holds a visiting scholarship at the IZEA, Halle-Wittenberg.

Michael Schiefelbein (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn) - Landscapes, Bodies and Written Artifacts: On the geophilosophical Principles of historiography and institutionalised teaching of history in early Israel

The Zionist movement of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as the subsequent founding of the State of Israel, present the social and historical sciences with a theoretical problem of emergence: the largely secular narrative of a national and cultural collective broke with the previously dominant identity of Jewdom as a religious and diasporic community. To this day, the tension between secular and religious definitions of citizenship and statehood continues to shape Israeli politics, while also revealing deeper, pre-discursive, and thus cultural-technical roots. Agricultural and architectural practices are affected by this tension just as much as the creation of a national canon of knowledge in the country's museums and academies. This lecture examines this opposition through historiographical and educational practices in early Israel, showing how the idea of history as the foundation of national or religious narratives is constituted through specific constellations of landscapes, bodies, and objects.

Michael Schiefelbein studied psychology, sociology, history and cultural studies at the Universities of Konstanz, Leipzig, and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Santiago de Chile. Since 2024, he has been working on his PhD under Prof. Dr Jens Schröter at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn. His doctoral thesis examines a critique of the cultural-technical forms of reading and writing, which he develops on the basis of ethnographic research in North and South America and in Israel. He also explores the cultural history of indigenous cultural techniques, as well as the practices and artefacts of Jewish writing and book culture since 1800.

Daniel Tröhler & Nicole Gotling (University of Vienna) - Educating the nation, and the nation in education

We live in a time when nationalism not only determines the politics of many countries but is sometimes even postulated by researchers as the only ethically legitimate form of political order (Hazony, 2018). It has also held its own as an ideology against that of “globalization.” For the past half-decade especially, collective efforts have been made to develop overarching interpretations to understand nations and nationalism (Ichijo & Uzelac, 2005) and approaches to research them (Özkırmı, 2017). However, this has rarely been done at the intersection of the nation and its essential modern institution of education (Tröhler & Maričić, 2023). Therefore, we will discuss how the “nation” can be used as a category of analysis in educational historiography for nation-building and citizen-making purposes. Based on Özkırmı's constructionist approach to nationalism as discourse, we will focus on the nation in educational materials through such themes as “love,” “the heart,” “progress,” and “heroes.” We live in a time when nationalism not only determines the politics of many countries but is sometimes even postulated by researchers as the only ethically legitimate form of political order (Hazony, 2018). It has also held its own as an ideology against that of “globalization.”

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Professor of Foundations of Education at the University of Vienna, **Daniel Tröhler** has been a visiting researcher at the University of Chicago and Stanford University, and visiting professor in Oulu, Granada, and Oslo. In 2012, he received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award from the American Educational Research Association for Languages of Education (Routledge, 2011). His research focuses on the transnational history of education over the past 250 years, linking political ideas, institutions, curricula, and textbooks. His recent work examines the relationship between education, curriculum, and nationalism.

Nicole Gotling is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vienna, Department of Education. She is currently co-editing the *Handbook on Nationalism, Patriotism, and Education* (Edward Elgar, in progress), including co-authoring entries at the intersection of nationalism and education. Other recent publications of hers include “Nationalism and Education,” co-authored in the *Handbook on Education History, Philosophy and Theory* (Edward Elgar, 2026); her book, *Interrogating Nation-Statehood and the Citizen in Curriculum Development: Comparative Historical Cases* (Routledge, 2025); and chapters in *Education, Curriculum and Nation-Building* (Routledge, 2023) and *National Literacies in Education: Historical Reflections on the Nexus of Nations, National Identity, and Education* (Springer, 2023).

SITUER LA FRONTIÈRE: POLITIQUES DE LA GÉOGRAPHIE // SITUATING THE FRONTIER: THE POLITICS OF GEOGRAPHY

Asis Mistry (Calcutta University) - Knowing the Border, Imagining the Nation: Knowledge Circulation and the Construction of National Identity in the Indo-Nepal Borderland

National histories frequently represent borders as the outer limits of sovereign communities and national identities as expressions of territorially bounded cultures. The Indo–Nepal borderland, however, reveals a different epistemic dynamic. Characterised by the continuous circulation of people, religious traditions, languages, memories, and political ideas, the region constitutes a shared epistemic space in which multiple forms of knowledge—vernacular, religious, historical, and administrative—are produced, transmitted, and contested across borders. This paper examines how such circulating knowledges are not merely transnational residues but active resources in the making of

national identity. Using a historical and interpretive analysis of borderland practices and narratives, it argues that knowledge produced in the borderland is selectively appropriated, translated, and stabilised within competing national epistemologies in India and Nepal. In this process, fluid and overlapping forms of knowledge are reconfigured into bounded narratives of nationhood. The paper, therefore, conceptualises the borderland as a site of knowledge production rather than mere circulation, showing how national identity emerges through the domestication of transboundary epistemic flows. In doing so, it challenges methodological nationalism and rethinks the relationship between knowledge, territory, and the nation in postcolonial contexts.

Dr Asis Mistry is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Calcutta, India. His research lies at the intersection of nationalism studies, political theory, borderland studies, and environmental politics. His work examines the relationship between identity, territory, knowledge, and power, with a particular focus on the Himalayan region and the Indo-Nepal borderland. He has published in journals such as *Asian Survey*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Ethnicities*, *Asian Ethnicity*, *Political Studies Review*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*. His books include *The Idea of Injustice* (Palgrave Macmillan) and *Rethinking Social Science Research* (Peter Lang). He has also published on civilizational nationalism, ethnic politics, nation-building, border governance, and climate justice in South Asia. His current research investigates the circulation of knowledge, mobility, and identity formation in transboundary spaces and their implications for contemporary understandings of nationhood.

Philippe Cauvet (Université Bourgogne Europe)- Science, nation & democracy: rethinking Irish constitutional nationalism's approach to partition after Sunningdale

This paper aims at analysing Dublin's Northern Irish policy from Sunningdale to the Anglo-Irish Agreement. More specifically it questions the extent to which Dublin and the SDLP were aligned and defended a common nationalist approach to resolving the Northern Irish issue democratically and constitutionally.

Even if the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed by Dublin and London in 1985 was a great political victory for the SDLP and more particularly for John Hume, analysing the period from Sunningdale to the Anglo-Irish Agreement shows that Dublin had doubts and misgivings on the Irish Dimension defended by the SDLP. This paper will argue that for the Republic of Ireland, the priority since Sunningdale was first and foremost an internal solution in Northern Ireland and the preservation of law and order south of the Border. Such disagreements between the two "partners" reveal how, by the mid-1970s, Irish constitutional nationalism was divided over the Northern Irish question and more generally over the question of partition.

The conclusion of the paper will touch upon some theoretical questions this raises: was such divergence caused by the recent destabilisation of Northern Ireland since the late 60s or was it the result of older and more fundamental debates within constitutional nationalism? In other words, to what extent were constitutional nationalists, North and South, united around one common conception of the Nation?

Professor **Philippe Cauvet** specialises on democracy in the British Isles. His publications focus mainly on Irish constitutional nationalism, the Northern Irish border question, the peace process and consociational democracy in Northern Ireland, Devolution, Brexit. His latest article was published in 2026: Cauvet, P. (2026). Devolution in Northern Ireland twenty-five years on: the more things change, the more they stay the same. *Parliaments, Estates and Representation*, 46(1), 143–154. DOI.

Reia Farrall-Anquet (Université de Nouvelle Calédonie)- Australia and the Indo-Pacific: Knowledge, Anxiety, and Naming

The «Indo-Pacific» has been put to the world as a fact of geography. Yet it is no natural region. The Indian and Pacific oceans have their own peoples, histories and exchanges; to combine them into one space is not to define a region but to invent one. Australia was among the first nations to perform this naming, and it did so in the language of defence. What joins the two oceans in this concept is a shared anxiety: the rise of China. Earlier regional namings had left Australia at the edge: a far-flung bastion of the British Empire, then an outsider to the «Asia-Pacific.» The Indo-Pacific, built around Australia's own two-coastline geography, moves it to the centre. The map is drawn from Canberra outward and does not ask how the peoples already living in those waters name their own regions. The naming of the Indo-Pacific raises an epistemological question: what happens to knowledge when a nation, anxious about its place, draws its own regional map?

Dr **Reia Farrall-Anquet** is a Franco-Australian researcher working on the reconciliation policy regime in settler-colonial states and the governance of the Indo-Pacific. She lectures in English cultural studies at the Université de la Nouvelle-Calédonie and holds an Australia–France Indo-Pacific Studies Early Career Research Fellowship, funded by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and awarded by the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, and is hosted at RegNet, Australian National University. Her current project, *Rising Seas*, brings together a multidisciplinary team from across the Indian and Pacific Oceans to analyse mitigation policies for sea-level rise — and the place, or displacement, of those oceans' peoples within them.

Thursday 15 October 2026 (afternoon)

Keynote: Guy Beiner, Visiting Professor, Globalization Program, Venice International University & Professor of History and Sullivan Chair of Irish Studies, Boston College

Guy Beiner is the Sullivan Chair of Irish Studies at Boston College. Formerly professor of modern history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, he has held research fellowships at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Notre Dame, Central European University, University of Oxford, and is currently a visiting professor at Venice International University. He specializes in the historical study of remembrance and forgetting in the late modern period. His main publications include the multiple prize-winning books *Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory* (University of Wisconsin Press), *Forgetful Remembrance: Social Forgetting and Vernacular Historiography of a Rebellion in Ulster* (Oxford University Press), and the edited volume *Pandemic Re-Awakenings: The Forgotten and Unforgotten 'Spanish' Flu of 1918–1919* (Oxford University Press).

Chair: Pauline Collombier

Pauline Collombier has been a Professor in British and Anglo-Irish studies and history) at the university of Lorraine (Metz) since September 2024. She teaches nineteenth- and twentieth-century history of the British Isles and English language. Her past and current research work is focused on Irish parliamentary nationalism, Anglo-Irish relations in the «long» nineteenth century, the home question and on the relationship between Irish nationalists and the British Empire. One of her latest publications is a book entitled *Imagining Ireland's Future, 1870-1914: Home Rule, Utopia, Dystopia*, published in January 2023 by Palgrave Macmillan. An upcoming publication in the spring of 2027 with be a special issue of the French journal of Irish Studies *Etudes Irlandaises*, co-edited with Claire Dubois (univ. Lille) and Virginie Roche-Tiengo (univ. Artois), entitled: "Moving from the margins and dissolving boundaries: women and Irish politics in the long nineteenth century".

LA CULTURE ET SES SUPPORTS: (RE)DÉFINIR LES CONTOURS DE LA NATION // THE FORMATS OF CULTURE AND THE FRAMING OF NATIONHOOD

Juliana Lopoukhine (Sorbonne Université)- Stateless writers: challenging national classifications

The unprecedented phenomenon of mass statelessness that emerged after the First World War in the Europe of nation-states plunged international law into a state of perplexity that persists to this day. Despite the 1954 New York Convention, the legal definition of statelessness remains ambiguous even now, while the phenomenon itself endures. Deprived of their nationality by totalitarian regimes, writers such as Vladimir Nabokov,

Stefan Zweig, and Hannah Arendt described the unthinkable experience of suddenly finding themselves without a homeland. This paper proposes to read these writers as emblematic of the challenge stateless people pose to the system of nation-states, following the analysis formulated by Arendt in 1951, far from cosmopolitanism as privilege. By reading their works alongside the contemporary activist poetry of the Bedoons, a stateless population resulting from postcolonial legislation in the Gulf countries, this paper argues that writing without a homeland undermines the idea of belonging, and becomes a counter-narrative that resists the national fictions described by Benedict Anderson and Homi K. Bhabha as imagined constructions.

Juliana Lopoukhine is a Senior Lecturer in British literature at Sorbonne University. She is also co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Sillages critiques*. A specialist in modernist literature, her research has expanded to include contemporary postcolonial literature through the lens of migration and exile. In 2026, she is a visiting researcher at the Migrinter unit in Poitiers, and a researcher-in-residence at the National Museum of the History of Immigration in Paris, where she is developing a research project on statelessness and literature through a cross-reading of literary texts and museum collections from a transdisciplinary perspective.

Lise Jaillant (Université de Lorraine)- Archives and AI: Rethinking National and Imperial Narratives in the Digital Age

This paper examines how digital archives and artificial intelligence are currently reshaping the production of knowledge about nations, empires and collective identities. Drawing on recent projects conducted with cultural heritage institutions in Britain and France, it investigates the material, legal and ethical conditions that shape access to born-digital archives and photographic collections related to colonial conflicts. The argument is twofold. First, technical infrastructures, descriptive standards and AI models may reproduce inherited national or imperial categories, thereby stabilising particular narratives of the past. Secondly, these same tools can make marginalised actors and events more visible. The paper therefore offers an interdisciplinary reflection, at the intersection of cultural history, book and media history, digital humanities and heritage studies, on the nation as an unstable framework for the production, preservation and legitimization of knowledge.

Lise Jaillant is currently Full Professor in American Studies at the Université de Lorraine. Her research focuses on twentieth- and twenty-first-century Anglo-American culture, book and publishing history, literary institutions, digital archives and artificial intelligence for cultural heritage. She is the author of four monographs, including *Literary Rebels: A History of Creative Writers in Anglo-American Universities* (Oxford UP, 2022) and *Women Poets, Male Publishers* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025), and the editor of several edited collections and journal special issues on AI applied to digital archives. She has led several funded international projects on archives, AI and access to cultural heritage.

Joachim Danaxon (Université Grenoble Alpes) - Redéfinir la civilisation, combattre la barbarie: le journalisme comme instrument de contestation des discours coloniaux européens et du pouvoir monarchique dans le Royaume du Nord d'Haïti

This paper is based on the archives of *L'Abeille Haytienne*, Haiti's first political and literary journal, edited by J.S. Milscent. It highlights a discursive strategy articulated between international recognition and nation-building. On the one hand, it demonstrates how Milscent counters European postcolonial prejudices to establish the legitimacy of the Haitian State. By redefining "Civilization" not as a racial heritage, but as a political conquest founded on education and liberty, he disqualifies the civilizational model of slave-holding powers (*L'Abeille*, no. 16, 1818). On the other hand, the paper explores how the journal promotes the republican model within a political landscape fragmented between the Republic of the West and the Kingdom of the North. The Republic is established as the exclusive guarantor of the «public spirit» (*L'Abeille*, no. 10, 1817), while the monarchy is depicted as a relapse into «despotic barbarism» (*L'Abeille*, no. 4, 1817). Through these commitments, journalism becomes an instrument of sovereignty, invested with a mission of surveillance and patriotic instruction (*L'Abeille*, no. 11, 1818).

Joachim Danaxon holds a PhD in Information and Communication Sciences. He is an Associate Researcher at the Gresec (Groupe de recherche sur les Enjeux de la Communication) and a member of the UNESCO Chair in International Communication. His research is rooted in the socio-historical and socio-economic analysis of journalism. His work primarily focuses on the study of journalism in Haiti and within its diaspora, exploring the transnational dynamics that connect these various centers of production.

LA NATION AU CROISEMENT DE LA THÉORIE ET DE LA PRATIQUE // NATIONHOOD: THEORY AND PRAXIS

Laurie Bréban (Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne)- De la fiction à la pratique coloniales: le projet utopique de Vasco de Quiroga

This communication looks at the influence of Thomas More's thought on the Spanish judge and bishop, Don Vasco de Quiroga (1477/8-1565), in his project to bring together the Indians of New Spain in villages organised according to rules supposedly inspired by Utopia. In parallel with this project, Don Vasco de Quiroga founded two hospital-villages called Santa Fe - one near the city of México and the other in Michoacan. He formalised the rules governing these hospital-villages in ordinances whose utopian intention has been emphasised by several commentators (see, for example, S. Zavala, 1937 and P. Serrano Gassent, 2002).

However, there are few contributions that question whether Quiroga's colonial project was in line with the principles defended in Utopia. Interestingly, in writing Utopia, More drew inspiration from the travel accounts written at the time of the discovery of the New World,

and in particular Amerigo Vespucci's descriptions. Furthermore, he addressed the issue of slavery and colonisation. In particular, the humanist legitimised Utopian colonisation in sparsely populated territories for demographic and ideological reasons. He justified the use of force against unwilling Indigenous people on the grounds of the superiority of Utopian laws and customs, which were faithful to the «law of nature» that fertile land should not be left unexploited.

The question of the legitimacy of the use of force to conquer and convert the populations of Americas was at the heart of the Valladolid controversy, which took place in 1550 and 1551 and in which Vasco de Quiroga took part. The aim of this contribution is to gain a better understanding of the criticisms he levelled at one of the famous protagonists of the Valladolid controversy, Las Casas, and to reassess the proximity of his colonisation project to Utopia. *This communication is part of the CHES (Colonisation in the History of Economic and Social Sciences) project, which received financial support from the Sorb'Rising Program, under the Investment for the Future program (ANR-21- EXES-0015).*

Laurie Bréban is Associate Professor of Economics at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University (PHARE Research Centre). A historian of economic thought, part of her research explores the relationship between morality and economics, primarily in the eighteenth century, and extends to contemporary debates on the economics of happiness, theories of justice, and decision theory. Her work focuses on the writings of authors such as Adam Smith, Sophie de Grouchy, Amartya Sen, and Denis Diderot. More recently, another strand of her research has examined the history of economic thought on colonization. She was honoured with the European Society for the History of Economic Thought Young Researcher Award in 2023.

Colin Tyler (University of Hull)- The Role of Knowledge(s) in National Reconstruction: Viscount (R.B.) Haldane, philosopher ideologue, and institutional economist

Knowledge production is a key determinant of the shifting ideologies, structures and processes that constitute a nation. Very few people were as clear as Richard Burdon Haldane (1856-1928) regarding the interrelation of the three forms of knowledge that are at the heart of this process: the philosophical, the ideological, and the technical / organisational. Haldane was almost uniquely well-placed to grasp these interactions, as he was simultaneously the author of key works of British idealist philosophy, a key Liberal ideologue, and key Cabinet member in three UK governments. Serving under Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith, and McDonald, he was successively Secretary of State for War, Lord Chancellor and Leader of the House of Lords. This paper explores of the ideological and practical dimensions of Haldane's use to knowledge as a key dynamic within national institutions. It frames this analysis as an alternative formulation of the evolutionary institutional economics now usually associated with Thorstein Veblen (1857-1929).

Colin Tyler is Professor of Applied Ethics and Political Theory at the University of Hull, where he is also the Associate Dean (Research and Enterprise) in the Hull University Business School. Colin has published more than 80 peer reviewed monographs, critical editions, articles and book chapters. His core area of research is common good politics, in both its historical and contemporary variants. He has an international reputation in the political thought and practice of the British idealists and the New Liberals. His current research focuses on civil disobedience and social deviance.

Julie Mommeja (Université de Lorraine) – A New Cyber-Nation: Ideologies and Utopias of a Cyberspace Under Construction

We must declare our virtual selves immune to your sovereignty, even as we continue to consent to your rule over our bodies. We will spread ourselves across the Planet so that no one can arrest our thoughts. We will create a civilization of the Mind in Cyberspace. (Barlow 1996)

When he wrote A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace at the 1996 Davos Economic Forum, John Perry Barlow described digital technologies that had ceased to be symbols of U.S. bureaucracy and military research and had instead become democratic tools for sharing and for resistance, independent of the offline world. As a lyricist for the Grateful Dead and co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation - an organization that has fought for the protection of citizens' rights online - Barlow advocated for a digital medium, newly accessible to the masses, that had built its own "cyber" culture, autonomous, and free from all forms of censorship. Through this techno-utopian vision, cyberspace thus had to resist federal laws and regulations, promoting the fundamental right to civil disobedience (dissent), and becoming what will here be analyzed as a "cyber-nation", with its own frontiers and social contract. This presentation will explore the origins of the digital space of the 1980s and 1990s, drawing on interviews and research conducted in the San Francisco Bay Area - and particularly in Barlow's personal archives at Stanford University. Through several case studies, it will examine the utopian visions of its libertarian pioneers and reflect on the virtual territory they left behind.

Julie Momméja is an Associate Professor of US Studies and Media Studies at the Université de Lorraine. She received her PhD from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, where she wrote her dissertation «From the Whole Earth Catalog to the Long Now Foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area: coevolution on the creative 'Frontier' (1955-2020)». A visiting researcher at UC Berkeley from 2014 to 2017 and research fellow at the Long Now Foundation since 2015, Julie Momméja focuses on pioneers and thinkers within the San Francisco Bay Area counterculture and cyberculture spheres. From the authors of the Beat Generation to DIY hackers, she studies the emergence of technology as a social tool on a creative territory rooted in utopian and libertarian ideologies. Her research also explores bonds, connections and fusions between offline and virtual communities within a context of Braudelian *longue durée* and human-machine coevolution favored by the specificity of the local Californian and Bay Area mindset.

LA CULTURE ET SES SUPPORTS: (RE)DÉFINIR LES CONTOURS DE LA NATION (2) // THE FORMATS OF CULTURE AND THE FRAMING OF NATIONHOOD (2)

Leonor Veiga (independent researcher & art curator)- Venice Biennale (1895-2026)

The concept of the nation is closely linked to processes of inclusion and exclusion. As Eric Hobsbawm argued, nation-states foster belonging through "invented traditions" such as flags, anthems, and commemorative rituals, while often marginalizing women, Indigenous peoples, and other underrepresented groups. The Venice Biennale, founded in 1895 and often described as the "Olympics of the Art World," offers a unique lens through which to examine these dynamics. This paper analyzes how ideas of nationhood, knowledge, and ideology have been articulated through the Biennale's system of national representation from 1895 to 2026, its 61st edition. Particular attention is paid to changing forms of inclusion and participation, including the growing presence of countries from (Southeast) Asia and Africa, the participation of Timor-Leste since 2024, and the status of Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau as Official Collateral Events. The 2026 Biennale, marked by protests, boycotts, censorship, and withdrawals, provides a timely case study of the tensions surrounding national and cultural representation today.

Leonor Veiga is an art historian, curator, and lecturer based in Montpellier, France, specializing in contemporary art, decolonial studies, and Southeast Asia. A collaborating member of CIEba since 2010, she holds a PhD from Leiden University (2018), awarded the ICAS IBP Humanities Prize (2019). She was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Lisbon (2020–23) and a visiting professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil (2025). Her research examines art, tradition, and colonial histories, particularly between Southeast Asia and the Portuguese-speaking world. Veiga has curated exhibitions internationally and regularly publishes on contemporary and world art and exhibition studies.

Hanna Steinert (Heidelberg University)- Art as soft power – The Roma Pavilions at the Venice Art Biennale

My presentation focuses on the Roma Pavilions (2007, 2011, 2019, 2022, 2024) at the Venice Art Biennale. To this day, the Venice Art Biennale is structured by national pavilions. By analysing the narratives and knowledge constructed and negotiated within the exhibitions of the Roma Pavilions as well as examining the entanglements of main actors (artists, curators, institutions, donors and political actors) I want to show how the Roma are integrated into this nation state framework and presented to an international art audience. The findings are discussed against the backdrop of the societal and cultural shifts of post-1989 Europe. Since then, the art world saw a growing globalised influence of major art events, such as biennials, on the formation and understanding of contemporary art. For Roma communities this was a period of a rise of anti-Roma violence as well as

EU-governmentalization and a prevalence of an ethnicizing-transnational Roma activism. By connecting these contexts, the project seeks to contribute to and broaden the present discussions around the multifaceted dynamics and ambivalences between art, nation and politics.

Hanna Steinert is pursuing a PhD in art history at Heidelberg University. In her research project, she examines the constructions of Roma Art within the framework of major contemporary art exhibitions and in the context of the societal transformations in (Eastern) Europe after 1989. She studied Art and Visual History, Cultural Studies, Sociology and Philosophy in Berlin, Vienna, and Mannheim. Her texts appeared in *Texte zur Kunst*, *kritische berichte*, *Frauen und Film*, and *FKW // Zeitschrift für Geschlechterforschung und visuelle Kultur*. Grants and awards include the PhD scholarship from the Research Center on Antigypsyism at Heidelberg University, the Humboldt Prize from Humboldt University in Berlin and a Library Research Grant from the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles.

Emilie Seguin (Université Gustave Eiffel) - Painting the territory and defining the contours of the nation: J.M.W. Turner's Picturesque Views in England and Wales

Between 1825 and 1838, J.M.W. Turner collaborated with Charles Heath on *Picturesque Views in England and Wales*. Aimed primarily at a middle-class audience with a taste for topographical books, *England and Wales* was not only an aesthetic project — its main objective was indeed to showcase and promote the heritage and territory of England and Wales through ninety-six illustrations, each accompanied by a descriptive text combining history and topography. Thus, the work becomes a composite of images representing a portion of the national territory to delineate its contours. In doing so, it contributes to redefining British national identity during a period when, as Linda Colley argues, the United Kingdom could no longer be conceived in opposition to a French and Napoleonic Other (1992 ; 329). In this paper, I will present the educational ambition of this collection and then examine what images of the British nation it conveys.

Emilie Seguin passed the agrégation in English and is currently preparing a doctoral dissertation entitled “Imagining the Nation in British Landscape Painting, 1790-1851”. After completing a *contrat doctoral* at the University of Lille, she has been working as a Teaching and Research Assistant (ATER) at Gustave Eiffel University since September 2025. In 2024, she presented a paper at the SAES, entitled “The Representation of Southern England as a Synecdoche of the Nation in John Constable's *English Landscape Scenery*”. In 2025, she curated the exhibition “The Ruins of Detroit” by Yves Marchand and Romain Meffre at the Rêves d'Ailleurs Gallery in Saint-Étienne, as part of an international conference organised by Vincent Jaunas.

LA NATION AU CROISEMENT DE LA THÉORIE ET DE LA PRATIQUE (2) // NATIONHOOD: THEORY AND PRAXIS (2)

Alessandro Dividus (University of Turin) - Meritocracy as a Technology of National Legitimation: Institutions, Elites, and the Politics of Selection

This paper investigates meritocracy as a historically situated technology of state legitimacy and national institution-building. Focusing on the history of political thought and administrative institutions from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, it argues that meritocracy should not be understood as a neutral or universal principle of selection, but as a contingent political language through which modern nation-states have organized bureaucratic elites and justified hierarchical inclusion and exclusion. By framing competence, expertise, and educational achievement as objective criteria, meritocratic discourse has contributed to the production of “neutral” administrative orders while simultaneously embedding specific national assumptions about value, identity, and belonging. In this sense, meritocracy operates at the intersection of epistemology and governance, mediating between claims to universality and the situated nature of national institutions. Engaging with recent scholarship that emphasizes the ideological and distributive effects of meritocratic systems, the paper highlights how merit functions as a mechanism of national homogenization and political legitimization.

Alessandro Dividus is a researcher at the University of Turin, where he teaches the History of Political and Social Institutions and the History of Political Thought. His most recent works include *The Spiritual Structure of Society. L'organicismo sociale nel pensiero di Sir Henry Jones* (Edizioni ETS, Pisa, 2024); “Spontaneity and the Sublime in Liberty in J. S. Mill, Edmund Burke and Henry Jones”, in *History of Political Thought*, Vol. XLV, no. 3 (2024), pp. 563–582; and “Democracy and the Role of Civic Religion: A Study on the Implications of Melvin Richter's Research from British Idealism to A. de Tocqueville”, in *The Tocqueville Review/La Revue Tocqueville* (2026, forthcoming).

Cyril Hédoin (Université Reims Champagne-Ardenne) - The Borders of Public Reason: National Identity and Nationalism in Public Reason Liberalism

The article addresses the following question: to what extent national identity is relevant from the perspective of public reason liberalism and how should it be considered with respect to other identity-based reasons in the public justificatory endeavor? While liberalism has historically been associated to a form or another of cosmopolitanism ignoring nationalist considerations, I argue that public reason liberalism is in position to acknowledge the moral and political relevance of nationalism. The analysis draws on Pierre Manent's distinction between two forms of expression of nationalism as identity on the one hand, and as political community on the other hand. I contend that the former, insofar as it excludes other identity and non-identity based reasons for justification, is

incompatible with the idea of public reason. However, the expression of nationalism in terms of political community poses an important question: who are the relevant “members of the public” that can legitimately accept or object to political principles and institutions within a territory? While I conclude against Manent’s quasi-anthropological thesis that the nation is nowadays the only appropriate democratic body, I also underline that the idea of public reason does not vindicate cosmopolitanism.

Cyril Hédoin is Professor of Economics at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, France. His research spans the philosophy of economics, political economy, and political and social philosophy, with a particular focus on public reason, social choice, and the foundations of liberal democracy. He is the author of *Social Choice and Public Reason: On the Possibility of Agreement and Justification in Open Societies* (Oxford University Press, 2026) and *L'institutionnalisme historique et la relation entre théorie et histoire en économie* (Classiques Garnier, 2014). His work has appeared in journals including *Economics and Philosophy*, *The Austrian Review of Economics*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Constitutional Political Economy*, and the *Journal of Institutional Economics*.

Friday 16 October 2026

Keynote: Richard Bourke, University of Cambridge: “Europe in Universal Histories from Voltaire to Hegel”

This paper addresses the rise of “philosophical history” in the eighteenth century. Philosophical histories should be contrasted with sacred histories, although they were also “universal” in scope. That is, they claimed to address the fortunes of mankind. As such, their focus was on the sequence of civilisations, privileging European cultural and intellectual achievements. The genre of philosophical history encompassed – besides Voltaire and Montesquieu – writings by Hume, Rousseau, Smith, Robertson, Burke, Herder, and Hegel. Between them, they developed narratives of emancipation, emphasising liberation from despotism and superstition. My talk will present Voltaire’s account of this deliverance, contrasting his narrative with that of Montesquieu, and indicating the wider purpose which their philosophical histories served.

Richard Bourke is Professor of the History of Political Thought and a Fellow of King’s College at the University of Cambridge. His recent books include: *Empire and Revolution: The Political Life of Edmund Burke* (Princeton, 2015) and *Hegel’s World Revolutions* (Princeton, 2023). He is currently completing *The Right Side of History: Orientation in Politics*.

Chair: Stéphane Guy

RÉCITS D’IDENTITÉ ET HÉRITAGE COLONIAL // NARRATIVES OF IDENTITY AND THE COLONIAL LEGACY

Jennifer Nielsen (Southern Cross University, Australia) - Who calls Australia home? The racial logics of being “Australian”

The Australian Nation State is founded on racist logics (Moreton-Robinson, 2000; Watson, 2014) that recast the invasion and theft of First Nations lands as a banal acquisition through an ‘act of state’ (Mabo [No 2] 1992).

Likewise, Australian citizenship is defined by racial logics, initially, as defined overtly in the White Australia Policy, but now via a hidden ideology of whiteness as the true basis of belonging and rights to inclusion (Moreton-Robinson, 2003).

Australian law operationalises this racist logic when it determines questions of belonging and citizenship. In 2020, the tensions inherent in these racial logics were tested in the cases of *Love and Thoms*. Both cases interrogated whether Aboriginal men – who did not hold Australian citizenship – could be regarded as ‘aliens’ in their own country. This paper critiques the racial logics embedded in the High Court’s reasoning on the question of how Aboriginal peoples ‘belong’ (or not) to country/place.

Jennifer Nielsen is an Associate Professor in Law at Southern Cross University, Gold Coast, Queensland in Australia. She is a socio-legal scholar with a solid record of publications and grant funding. Her work applies critical race and whiteness theory to reveal how mainstream Australian law privileges 'white' interests over those of First Nations' peoples and 'non-white' groups. She also works with the Minjerribah Moorgumpin Elders-in-Council's Justice & Healing Team to design a Quandamooka Justice Reinvestment strategy as part of the federal government's National Justice Reinvestment program.

Jean Dellemotte (Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne)- Quatre nuances d'eurocentrisme: regards du XVIII^e siècle sur le retard économique des populations autochtones

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, following the colonization of the "New World" and the intensification of the Atlantic slave trade, populations labelled as "savage" or "barbarous" became a recurring theme in European scholarly literature. Among the many questions raised by the discovery and awareness of a new alterity, the apparent economic backwardness of conquered and enslaved populations was a major theme for reflection, as well as a problem that Western political and moral philosophy sought to solve.

From the theories of natural law of the seventeenth century, which almost invariably present the condition of Amerindians as an exemplification of the state of nature, to the developments of conjectural history in the second half of the eighteenth century, authors put forward a wide range of hypotheses. Innate inferiority, deleterious characters or exogenous circumstances were some of the factors advanced in a body of literature encompassing social contract theory, essays on the diversity of mores and national characters, early treatises on political economy and so forth.

I will distinguish four main lines of interpretation put forward by the scholarly literature of the period, depending on whether the authors explain what they consider to be a backwardness of indigenous populations by the predominance of substantial [1], "physical" (climate and natural environment), "moral" (i.e. socio-political) or material (i.e. economic) causes. To do this, I will draw on the writings of authors such as Smith, Ferguson, Lord Kames, Hume, Diderot, Voltaire, Buffon, Montesquieu, and Kant, as well as some of the major debates of the time, such as the opposition between monogenism and polygenism, the question of 'national characters', or that of an alleged hierarchy between human "species". My conclusion is that the emerging eighteenth-century economic literature, though not free of Eurocentrism, contributed to enriching the discussion by promoting a more universal and more inclusive vision of humanity's capacity to progress, thanks notably to Smith's emphasis on the phenomenon of the division of labour. *This communication is part of the CHES (Colonisation in the History of Economic and Social Sciences) project, which received financial support from the Sorb'ising Program, under the Investment for the Future program (ANR-21- EXES-0015).*

¹By this I mean essentialist discourses on human "races" or "species".

Jean Dellemotte is Assistant Professor in economics at Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne University (PHARE research unit). After a doctoral dissertation on the issue of social regulation in Adam Smith and Thomas Hobbes, he published several articles on the relationship between economics and moral philosophy in Smith's thought and on the French reception of his works, as well as a handbook on the history of economic ideas. His most recent research focuses on natural law theory and scholarly discourses on indigenous populations during the colonial period of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Laura Singeot (Université de Tours)- Truth-Telling Beyond the Nation: Decolonial Knowledges and Conflicting Histories in Sharlene Allsopp's *The Great Undoing* (2024)

In Sharlene Allsopp's dystopian novel *The Great Undoing* (2024), Australian protagonist Scarlet Friday questions the selective memorialization of war and colonial violence: "how was the loss of [Indigenous] life after invasion any less of a war than the conflicts remembered here?" This paper examines how the novel challenges national historiographies and colonial epistemologies through Indigenous truth-telling practices. Set in a future where global data systems collapse and migrants become stranded across borders, the narrative exposes the fragility of national narratives and information regimes. Drawing on decolonial theory, Indigenous methodologies, and Indigenous science fiction studies, this paper argues that the novel reconfigures history as a contested site of epistemological sovereignty and relational belonging. By intertwining speculative fiction with critiques of colonial memory, *The Great Undoing* ultimately interrogates the nation as both an ideological construct and a framework shaping the production, circulation, and legitimacy of knowledge.

Laura Singeot is an Associate Professor in Anglophone Literatures and Visual Studies at Université de Tours, France. She is interested in the representations of Indigeneity in contemporary Indigenous literatures from Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. She is also researching new museology and Indigenous visual art, focusing on its integration into global networks of creation, curation and reception. Her latest research project seeks to integrate both of her research interests by examining the ways in which contemporary Indigenous literatures and visual arts engage with and critically reflect upon ethnographic museums. She is the guest-editor of an upcoming special issue of *ARIEL*, entitled "Decolonizing Museums, Collections and Archives in Postcolonial and Indigenous Literatures in English" (2027).

NATION ET ÉCONOMIE : DU CONCEPT À LA DISCIPLINE ÉCONOMIQUE //

ECONOMICS AND THE NATION : EMERGENCE OF A DISCIPLINE

Marc Deschamps & Joël Ravix (Université Marie and Louis Pasteur) - Retour sur l'idée d'économie politique nationale

Recent debates on globalization and economic patriotism implicitly raise questions about the relevance of the economic concept of the nation. Indeed, modern economics does not seem to offer a true definition of it, since it equates the nation with an agent possessing the same characteristics as homo economicus. This conception did not become established until the mid-20th century. Debates from the previous century, on the contrary, reveal a clash—even among the dominant liberal economists—between two radically different approaches. On the one hand, there is the approach supporting la *Ligue du libre-échange*, and on the other, the one opposing it through la *Société d'Économie nationale*. The first part of this paper will explain the roots of this rift among 19th-century liberal economists on the emblematic issue of free trade. The second part will outline the methodological arguments that led to the decline of national political economy and their implications for current analyses of international economic relations. The paper will be delivered in French.

Marc Deschamps, Professor of Economics at Marie and Louis Pasteur University (Besançon) and member of CRESE (UR 3190). He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis and is certified to supervise research by the University of Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne. His research focuses on: law and economics, applied game theory, history of thought, and the sustainable and equitable use of outer space.

Joël Ravix, Professor Emeritus of Economics at the Université Côte d'Azur (Nice) and member of GREDEG (UMR 7321). He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis and obtained the national certified university professor habilitation. His research focuses on the history of economic analysis, industrial organization, and international economics.

Quentin Savignat (Université Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne)- What is a nation for an economist? The notion of productive power in France, Germany and the United-States around 1820

The notion of “productive forces” was popularized by Friedrich List in *The National System of Political Economy* in 1841. For List, they were a substitute for the notion of value on which the wealth of nations rested. However, he argued that measuring the wealth of nations on the basis of the notion of value does not make it possible to understand the real laws governing relations between nations. To do so, one must focus on the power of nations. And it is by productive power that it is measured. The notion of “productive power” thus appears as an attempt to measure the power of the “economic nation.” It raises, for economists, the question of what a nation is. The notion of “productive power,”

however, predates List's National System. What is remarkable about this notion is that it was mobilized at the same time, around the turn of the 1820s, in France by Louis Say (1818) and Charles Dupin (1827), in Germany by Friedrich List (1820), and in the United States by Daniel Raymond (1820), for the same purpose and in strikingly similar terms. This presentation aims to explore the circulation of knowledge between France, the United States, and Germany in order to understand the genesis of the notion of productive power; the reasons why it emerged; how its definition took shape; and how it was integrated into economic theory in opposition to classical economics and the theory of value.

Ph.D student at PHARE laboratory (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), **Quentin Savignat's** thesis, under the direction of Nathalie Sigot (PHARE, Paris 1) and Victor Bianchini (PHARE, Paris 1), is about French protectionist economists in the first half of the 19th century. First he explores how they developed a theory aimed at integrating national identities into economics, thereby justifying protectionist policies; second, their influence on the determination of France's trade policy; and finally, how protectionist ideas circulated in France, Germany and the United States.

Marlyse Pouchol (Université de Reims Champagne Ardennes)- The Nation and the Concept of Society in the History of Economic Thought

The nation served as the framework for early economic theories, which sought to articulate how to enrich this entity—already constituted and unified by politics—particularly as a territory governed by a single law. Smith, in his *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776), breaks free from this national framework and presents a vision of a society whose unity is forged by economic ties. This society, the result of the division of labor established by trade, extends far beyond a national territory and seems capable of expanding ever further as trade develops and connects increasingly numerous populations, foreshadowing the emergence of a global society. After him, particularly with Ricardo, economic thought returned to the nation—but a nation that continued to be conceived as a productive system.

Marlyse Pouchol is a lecturer emeritus in Economics at the University of Reims and co-editor of the *Revue d'histoire de la pensée économique*. She has published a series of articles comparing Hannah Arendt's conception of politics with the major figures in economic theory, ranging from the edited volume *Économie et démocratie*, (L'Harmattan, 2003) to her most recent work: “Capital Accumulation and Desecrated Humanity: Luxemburg, Robinson, Arendt,” *Cahiers d'économie politique*, 2024, and “Arendt and Hayek: Two Forms of Opposition to the Myth of the Cave,” in *Power and Knowledge from the 18th Century to Today*, University of Lorraine, 2026.

Round table

Karine Bigand (Aix Marseille Université), Pauline Collombier (Université de Lorraine), Karin Fischer (Université d'Orléans): “Nation building on the island of Ireland: narratives and mediators”/ « Constructions nationales sur l'île d'Irlande: récits et passeurs »

Chair: Philippe Cauvet

Dr **Karine Bigand** is a Senior Lecturer in Irish Studies and a member of the LERMA (Laboratoire d'Études et de Recherche sur le Monde Anglophone) at Aix-Marseille Université. She holds a PhD in Irish Studies from the Sorbonne Nouvelle and an MA in Cultural Heritage and Museums Studies from Ulster University. Her research interests lie in the connections between history, memory and politics in Ireland, with a particular focus on how the legacy of conflict in Northern Ireland is represented in museums, exhibitions and the public space.

Professor **Karin Fischer** lectures on Irish and British history and society at the University of Orléans, France. Her research focuses on Irish education policy in international comparative perspective, with a wide range of articles and books published over the years on issues of education policy, democracy and human rights, intercultural education, school history and historiography, identity and inclusion in Ireland. Recent work focuses on citizenship education and the promotion of values in France, England and the Republic of Ireland.

Chairs:

Karina Bénazech Wendling is Associate Professor at the University of Lorraine and IDEA. She is the PI of the ANR JCJC MIRCOM project 'From alienation to belonging? Religious minorities and the heterogenisation of 'imagined communities' in France, Italy, Britain, Ireland and Finland (1789–1948).' Her recent publications include *De la Bible au soupérisme : éducation religieuse, missions protestantes et nationalisme en Irlande, 1800–1853* (Honoré Champion, 2025), *Converting Ireland: Religious Education, Language and Colonialism* (Manchester University Press, 2026), and *Les Droites chrétiennes: nouvelles convergences?*, co-edited with Sébastien Fath (Classiques Garnier, 2026).

Vanessa Boulet is a Senior Lecturer in Irish studies at Université de Lorraine in Nancy, France.

Her research focuses on Irish studies and on the interactions between economy, society and politics in Ireland. She has developed an interest in the cross-border workers in Ireland, well-being and cooperation between the north and the south of the island and the impact of multinationals on the Irish economy. She is the co-editor of the books *Liberalism and Socialism since the 19th century, Tensions, Exchanges, and Convergences* (Macmillan, 2024) and *Assessing The Unequal Costs of Covid-19 on Well-Being in Europe* (Springer, 2022). She also tries to develop research in Business and Modern Languages departments in France and is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Revue Internationale des Langues Etrangères Appliquées*.

Marilyne Brun is a senior lecturer in postcolonial and Australian studies at the University of Lorraine in Nancy, France. Her research interests include Australian literature, postcolonial and decolonial theory, and the history of academic fields and disciplines. She has published articles on critical race theory and Australian literature and culture.

François Doppler-Speranza is a Associate Professor at the University of Lorraine in Nancy. A researcher at the IDEA laboratory (Interdisciplinarity in Anglophone Studies, UR 2338), he works on the cultural and diplomatic history of the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. His publications include *Une armée de diplomates. Les militaires américains et la France (1944-1967)* published by Presses universitaires de Strasbourg (2021), with the support of the Institut des hautes études de défense nationale (IHEDN) and the Association pour les études sur la guerre et la stratégie (AEGES).

Julie Momméja is an Associate Professor of US Studies and Media Studies at the Université de Lorraine. She received her PhD from the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, where she wrote her dissertation «From the Whole Earth Catalog to the Long Now Foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area: coevolution on the creative 'Frontier' (1955-2020)». A visiting researcher at UC Berkeley from 2014 to 2017 and research fellow at the Long Now Foundation since 2015, Julie Momméja focuses on pioneers and thinkers within the San Francisco Bay Area counterculture and cyberculture spheres. From the authors of the Beat Generation to DIY hackers, she studies the emergence of technology as a social tool on a creative territory rooted in utopian and libertarian ideologies. Her research also explores bonds, connections and fusions between offline and virtual communities within a context of Braudelian *longue durée* and human-machine coevolution favored by the specificity of the local Californian and Bay Area mindset.

Eleanor Parkin-Coates is a doctoral student under the supervision of Professor Stéphane Guy at the Université de Lorraine, and in cotutelle with Professor Rohan McWilliam at Anglia Ruskin University. Her PhD focuses on the nineteenth-century artist and illustrator George Cruikshank and his engagement in public debate. She has been co-responsible for a student research club, "Culture and Politics," since its creation in 2023 at the Université de Lorraine, where she is currently a graduate teaching fellow.



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