

“Transitions & Transformations in the U.S. Imperial State: The Search for New Synthesis”

**Conference: University of Madison-Wisconsin
November 9-11, 2006**

CONFERENCE INFORMATION & SCHEDULE

[Updated: November 9, 2006, 12:15 p.m.]

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I. ABSTRACT--AMERICA’S RISE TO WORLD POWER:

At this troubled historical moment, a broad, inter-disciplinary working group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, reaching from the English Department to the Medical School, has developed a three-year program to draw scholars from across the country and across the globe for a comprehensive reassessment of America’s rise to world power during the 20th century.

We have planned this project as a four-phase enterprise with: (1.) a national conference on America’s early rise as a colonial power on November 9-11, 2006; (2.) a follow-up series of campus writing workshops in 2007-08 to engage issues raised at this conference; (3.) a smaller second gathering, a working colloquium sometime in the summer or fall of 2008, to discuss our findings, revise our papers, and review drafts of the proposed introduction to the conference volume; and, (4.) a second, separate conference, chaired by Professor Jeremi Suri of this University, sometime in fall 2008 on the US conduct of the Cold War in the Third World that will complete this analytical survey of America’s rise to world power in the twentieth century.

The opening conference, here in Madison from November 9-11, 2006, will take a first step toward understanding the pervasive, persistent effects of early twentieth-century U.S. empire, not only upon the social fabric of its island colonies or even on geopolitical relations among states and interstate institutions, but, crucially, upon the practice of statecraft in the United States itself. In sum, this conference is asking in what ways the early experience of overseas empire within this diadem of islands, spanning from Caribbean to Western Pacific, influenced the evolution of the American state in the first, formative decades of the twentieth century.

II. ACADEMIC AGENDA—NOVEMBER 2006 CONFERENCE:

The working assumption for the initial conference this November is, then, that the complex of transformative processes engendered by U.S. colonial practices in the Caribbean, the Pacific and elsewhere was not limited to the colonial periphery. Over time, they percolated homeward through the capillaries of empire, ultimately shaping the metropolitan American state in profound, albeit less obvious ways. The purpose of this conference is to render visible some of those historical transformations, thereby filling lacunae not only in our understanding of the meaning of imperialism but also in the historical character of the United States as an empire and as a democracy. The convenors for this conference, drawn from six different departments at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, feel that present geopolitical circumstance makes a retrospective approach to questions of empire and the U.S. state both useful and urgent for an understanding of the challenges facing a world in which this particular nation state has assumed a role of hegemonic importance.

As we reexamine America's imperial past from the perspective of its present, a single, central question emerges, one generally overlooked by historians of both metropole and periphery: How was the U.S. state influenced by this early experience of overseas empire? In exploring this problem we will be moving beyond the usual unilateral perspective of traditional imperial history, with its revealing yet myopic focus on colonialism's impact on the colonized, to explore whether the experience of empire was mutually transformative, changing the metropolitan state in ways both specific and substantial.

To explore this question, we will move beyond the usual nation-state frame to examine the dynamics of change across the breadth of this early U.S. empire of islands--in Cuba, Hawaii, Panama, Puerto Rico, Guam, Philippines, and, of course, America itself. While acknowledging the patent similarities across this colonial network—the legacy of Spanish colonialism, to cite one example—we aim to pay special attention to the particularities and anomalies that in their own ways shaped these interactions both locally and systematically. To engage this ambitious agenda, the conference will draw together historians of each of these locales with scholars of American foreign policy, in effect promoting a dialogue among historians of the United States and its former overseas territories in the Caribbean and Pacific.

III. CONFERENCE FORMAT:

To engage this ambitious intellectual agenda, we have framed a conference that pairs broad, historiographic reflections with specific inquiries into discrete arenas of colonial nation building. By drawing upon the intellectual diversity of convenors from six separate departments, the conference has, from the outset, aspired to a new transnational, multi-disciplinary synthesis. Then, by inviting leading scholars of the half-dozen island nations that once comprised the early U.S. empire, the conference hopes to achieve the sheer geographical and cultural range necessary for such an ambitious inquiry. Finally, by pairing scholars of colonial periphery with those of the imperial nation, in panels focused on specific aspects of state formation, the conference hopes to distill such intellectual and geographic breadth into case studies that will yield conclusions that are wide-ranging yet focused.

IV. PANEL PROCEDURES:

Posting Papers: All panelists are to submit their draft papers, with full citations for possible future publication, in advance of the conference to Joshua Gedacht at:

<gedacht@wisc.edu>

Reading Papers: All panelists need to read the papers in advance of each session to ensure productive discussion and exchange. Although all conferees will have read the papers, UW faculty and students in the audience might not have had a similar opportunity. Therefore, paper presentations should open with a short summary of the full paper's key points and then use the balance of time for reflection on the paper topic in the context of the conference.

Panel Format (Panel No. 1): Given the plenary nature of this session, paper givers in Panel #1 will deliver 15 minute presentations. After the last presentation, panel chair Francisco Scarano will call for questions from the floor for the balance of time available.

Panel Format (Panels Nos. 2-9): All other panels will use the following format:

- a.) All conferees will deliver 10 minute presentations, providing a brief overview of the paper and using the remainder of time on issues not covered in draft paper.
- b.) Next, the panel chair will allow each paper give 2 minutes to reply and/or reflect.
- c.) Then, the panel chair will allocate 20 minutes for conferees' responses.
- d.) Finally, the panel chair will turn to the floor for questions from the general audience for 30 minutes or the balance of time available.

V. REGISTRATION & CONTACT:

Although the conference is free and open to the public, space is limited and will be allocated, first, to presenters and panel chairs, next to UW students and faculty involved in related instructional courses, and then to individuals who wish to attend. To insure a place, both UW faculty and students in related courses and interested individuals are advised to email the conference manager Joshua Gedacht in advance at <gedacht@wisc.edu>, indicating the session or sessions they wish to attend. If attendees are interested in reading particular papers, they should write Joshua Gedacht for the password.

Those who have other questions about registration, attendance, or access to papers not appropriate for email should call Joshua Gedacht, Brian Bengtson, or Mary Jo Studenberg at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UW Madison at (608) 263-1755.

VI. SCHEDULE OF PANELS:

PART A--Framing Imperial Transitions: Comparative Character of Empires

Thursday, November 9, 2006: 5:00 pm--Plenary Lecture, Pyle Center, Room 121, Vandenberg Auditorium

Susanne Wofford (Center for Humanities, UW-Madison)

Title: Introduction to the Conference

Stanely Payne (UW-Madison)

Title: Introduction for Professor Josep Ma. Fradera

Josep Ma. Fradera (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona)

Title: “Reading Imperial Transitions: Spanish Contraction, British Expansion & American Irruption.”

Thursday: 7:30-9:30 pm: Pyle Center, Room 121, Vandenberg Auditorium.

1.) Transition from Old to New Empires [Panel Chair: Francisco Scarano]

- a.) Alfred McCoy (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Introduction to the Conference
- b.) John David “Jody” Blanco (UC San Diego)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Race formation and the state of war between the U.S. and the Philippines at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”
- c.) Josep Ma. Fradera (Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Reading Imperial Transitions: Spanish Contraction, British Expansion, and American Irruption”
- d.) Kristin Hoganson (University of Illinois-CU)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Buying into Empire: The Imperial Turn and U.S. Consumption at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”
- e.) Christopher Schmidt-Nowara (Fordham University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “From Columbus to Ponce de León, 1893-1908: Puerto Rican Commemorations between Empires”

PART B--Panels & Topics: Exploring Colonial Governance, Periphery & Metropole

Friday, November 10, 2006: 8:30-10:00 am, Friedrick Center, Room 16.

2.) Law Enforcement & Police [Panel Chair: Alfred McCoy]

- a.) Patricio Abinales (Kyoto University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The US Army as Occupying Force: Muslim Mindanao, 1899-1913”
- b.) Anne Foster (Indiana State University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Prohibiting Opium in the Philippines and United States: Creation of an Interventionist State”
- c.) Alfred McCoy (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Policing the Imperial Periphery: US Colonial Conquest of the Philippines and the Rise of the National Security State”
- d.) Kelvin Santiago-Valles (SUNY Binghamton)
 - 1.) **Title:** “U.S. Penal Forms and Spanish Custodial-Regulatory Practices in Late 19th-Century Puerto Rico”

Friday: 10:00 am--Coffee Break, Friedrick Center, Room 16.

Friday: 10:15-12:15 pm, Friedrick Center, Room 16.

3.) Education & Language [Panel Chair: Courtney Johnson]

- a.) Amílcar A. Barreto (Northeastern University; Presented in absentia)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Enlightened Tolerance or Cultural Capitulation?: Contesting

- Notions of American Identity”
- b.) Courtney Johnson (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Understanding Empire: Colonialism, Latin Americanism and the Professional Social Sciences in the United States, 1900-1920”
 - c.) Glenn May (University of Oregon)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Corn, Pigs, Lace, and Baskets: Practical Education in the American Empire, c. 1910-1925”
 - d.) Solsirée del Moral (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Benevolent Imperialism and Cultural Nationalism: Negotiating Empire in Early 20th Century Puerto Rican Schools”
 - e.) Pablo Navarro-Rivera (Lesley University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Acculturation Under Duress as Educational Policy in Colonial Puerto Rico 1898-1918”
 - f.) Adam Nelson (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant

Friday: 12:15 pm—Lunch Break

Friday: 1:00-3:00 pm, Friedrich Center, Room 16.

4.) Population, Race, Census, Anthropology [Panel Chair: Clare Corbould, Sydney]

- a.) Alejandro de la Fuente & Matthew Casey (Pittsburgh)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Race and the Suffrage Controversy in Cuba, 1898-1901”
- b.) J. Kehaulani Kauanui (Wesleyan University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Native Hawaiians, American Indians, and Assimilation: Through the Other End of the Telescope”
- c.) Paul Kramer (Johns Hopkins)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Race, Empire, and Transnational History”
- d.) Francisco Scarano (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Racialized Households, Peasant Solidarities: An Archeology of the 1910 and 1920 U.S. Censuses of Puerto Rico”
- e.) Eric Love (University of Colorado-Boulder)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant

Friday: 3:00 pm--Coffee Break, Friedrich Center, Room 16.

Friday: 3:15-5:30 pm, Friedrich Center, Room 16.

5.) Public Health [Panel Chair: Warwick Anderson]

- a.) Warwick Anderson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Pacific Crossings: Imperial Logics in United States’ Public Health Programs”
- b.) Mariola Espinosa (Southern Illinois University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “A Fever for Empire: U.S. Disease Eradication in Cuba As Colonial Public Health”
- c.) Natalie J. Ring (University of Texas at Dallas)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Mapping Regional, Racial, and Imperial Geographies: Tropical Disease in the U. S. South”
- d.) Gabriela Soto Laveaga (University of California-Santa Barbara)

- 1.) **Title:** “The Conquest of Molecules: Wild Yams and American Scientists in Mexican Jungles”
- e.) Paul Sutter (University of Georgia)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Tropical Conquest & the Rise of the Environmental Management State: The Case of U.S. Sanitary Efforts in Panama”
- f.) Nancy Tomes (SUNY Stony Brook)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant.

Saturday, November 11, 2006: 8:30-10:15 am, Ingraham Hall, Room 206.

6.) Polity, Law, & Constitution [Panel Chair: Michael Cullinane]

- a.) Victor Bascara (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “‘In the future of any third power’: ‘Most favored nations’ and ‘domestic dependent nations’ in the Emergence of United States Imperialism at *Yick Wo v. Hopkins* [1886]”
- b.) Vicente Rafael (UW-Seattle; presented by Michael Cullinane, UW Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The Afterlife of Empire: Sovereignty and Revolution in the Philippines”
- c.) Leia Castañeda (Harvard Law School)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The Public, Police Power, and the Constitutional Law of the Philippine Islands, 1900-1935”
- d.) Paul Hutchcroft (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** "State Building in the American Empire: The Hazards of Jeffersonianism"
- e.) Owen Lynch (Center for International Environmental Law, Washington, DC)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The U.S. Constitution and Philippine Colonialism: An Enduring and Unfortunate Legacy”

Saturday: 10:15 am--Coffee Break, Ingraham Hall, Room 206.

Saturday: 10:30 am-12:15 pm, Ingraham Hall Room 206.

7.) Military [Panel Chair: Alfred McCoy]

- a.) Christopher Capozzola (MIT)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Colonial Roots of the Modern Army: Military Reforms, National Guard, and Mass Conscription”
- b.) Humberto García-Muñiz (University of Puerto Rico)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The Caribbean in World War II: French Guiana’s Experience and the Role of Puerto Ricans, 1940-1945”
- c.) Brian Linn (Texas A&M)
 - 1.) **Title:** “The Impact of the Imperial Wars (1898-1907) on the US Army.”
- d.) Jana Lipman (St. Joseph’s College)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Guantánamo and the Case of Kid Chicle: Labor, Privatization, and the Law in the Expansion of US Empire”
- e.) Jorge Rodríguez-Beruff (University of Puerto Rico)
 - 1.) **Title:** “From Winship to Leahy: Crisis, War and Transition in Puerto Rico”

Saturday: 12:15 pm—Lunch Break

Saturday: 1:00-3:00 pm, Ingraham Hall, Room 206.

8.) Environmental & Economic Management: [Panel Chair: Owen Lynch]

- a.) Greg Bankoff (Auckland University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Conservation and Colonialism: Gifford Pinchot and the Birth of Tropical Forestry in the American Philippines”
- b.) Dan Doeppers (UW-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Manila’s Imperial Makeover: Health, Security, and Symbolism”
- c.) Stuart McCook (Guelph University, Ontario)
 - 1.) **Title:** “ ‘The World Was My Garden’: Tropical Botany and Cosmopolitanism in American Science”
- d.) James Warren (Murdoch University)
 - 1.) **Title:** “Father Jose Algue, Jesuit Meteorology and the Philippines under American Rule, 1897-1924”
- e.) John McNeill (Georgetown University)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant

Saturday: 3:00--Coffee Break, Ingraham Hall, Room 206.

PART C--Reflections

Saturday: 3:15-5:30 pm, Ingraham Hall, Room 206.

9.) Transforming the U.S. State At/From its Periphery [Panel Chair: John M. Cooper, UW Madison]

- a.) Warwick Anderson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant.
- b.) Josep Ma. Fradera (Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant.
- c.) Francisco Scarano (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant
- d.) Jeremi Suri (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 - 1.) **Title:** Discussant

VII. CONFERENCE CONTACTS & CONVENORS:

Professor Warwick Anderson, Robert Turell Professor of Medical History.

Professor Victor Bascara, English and Asian-American Studies, UW-Madison.

Dr. Michael Cullinane, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UW-Madison.

Professor Dan Doeppers, emeritus, Geography, UW-Madison.

Joshua Gedacht, conference manager, UW-Madison.

Professor Paul Hutchcroft, Political Science, UW-Madison.

Professor Courtney Johnson, Spanish and Portuguese, UW-Madison.

Professor Alfred McCoy, J.R.W. Smail Professor of History, UW-Madison.

Professor Francisco Scarano, History, UW-Madison.

VIII. CONFERENCE SPONSORS AT UW MADISON:

--The Convenors of the November 2006 Conference are grateful to the following institutions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, listed in alphabetical order below, for their generous financial and administrative support.

The Anonymous Fund, College of Letters and Science

The Brittingham Fund, College of Letters and Science

The Center for the Humanities

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies

The Harvey Goldberg Center for the Study of Contemporary History

The History Department with the support of the George W. Mosse Fund

Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program (LACIS)

A.W. Mellon Interdisciplinary Workshops in the Humanities.

The Robert Turell Fund of the Department of Medical History and Bioethics