



**The United States and World War One:  
Exploring Political, Economic and Cultural Entanglements**

**American Studies Symposium**

**The British Academy, Monday, 13 November 2017**

**Convenors:**

**Professor Gary Gerstle FBA, University of Cambridge  
Professor Desmond King FBA, University of Oxford**

**Summary**

The symposium brings together a group of distinguished scholars to reflect on aspects of the US's participation in World War One on the occasion of the centenary of America's entry. Four broad themes of US involvement in the Great War are examined: the politics of America's entry; the cultural contours of US engagement in the war; the journeys or movements prompted by wartime; and the settlements reached at the war's conclusion. The list of speakers includes specialists from the United States and the UK, each of whom has made important scholarly contributions to our understanding of this important historical event.

9.00 Registration & refreshments

9.30. Introductory remarks:

Professor Gary Gerstle FBA, University of Cambridge and  
Professor Desmond King FBA, University of Oxford

9.45 **The Cultures of War**

Chair: Dr Kasia Boddy, University of Cambridge

*Hello Central, Give Me No Man's Land: American First World War Aesthetics*  
Dr Alice Kelly, University of Oxford

*A Century Gone By: American Art and the First World War*  
Professor David Lubin, Wake Forest University

Discussant: Dr Mark Whalan, University of Oregon

11.15 *Refreshments*

11.30 **The Journeys of War**

Chair: Professor Desmond King FBA, University of Oxford

*If We Must Die: African Americans and the War for Democracy*  
Professor Adriane Lentz-Smith, Duke University

*The Dillingham Commission, "The Immigration Problem," and World War I*  
Professor Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University

Discussant: Professor Christopher Capozzola, MIT

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 **The Politics of War**

Chair: Professor Gary Gerstle FBA, University of Cambridge

*Learning Surveillance: What World War I Taught J. Edgar Hoover*  
Professor Beverly Gage, Yale University

*The War Against War: What It Accomplished, Why It Failed*  
Professor Michael Kazin, Georgetown University

Discussant: Dr Jennifer Luff, Durham University

16.00 *Refreshments*

16.30 **The Settlements of War**

Chair: Professor Peter Trubowitz, LSE

*The Many Strands of Isolationism*

Dr John Thompson, University of Cambridge

*False Start: American Power and the Wilsonian Settlement*

Professor Andrew Preston, University of Cambridge

Discussant: Dr Stephen Wertheim, Birkbeck, University of London

18.00 Drinks reception