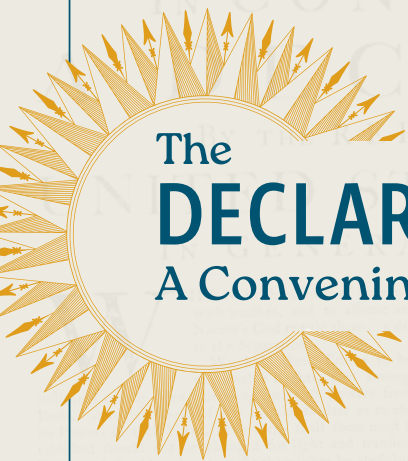


★ MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ★

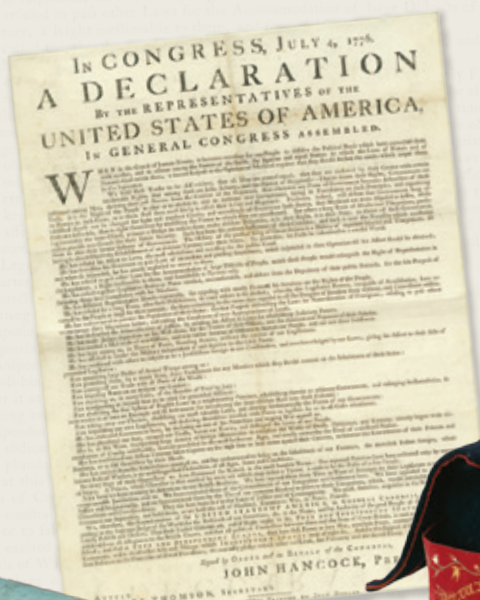


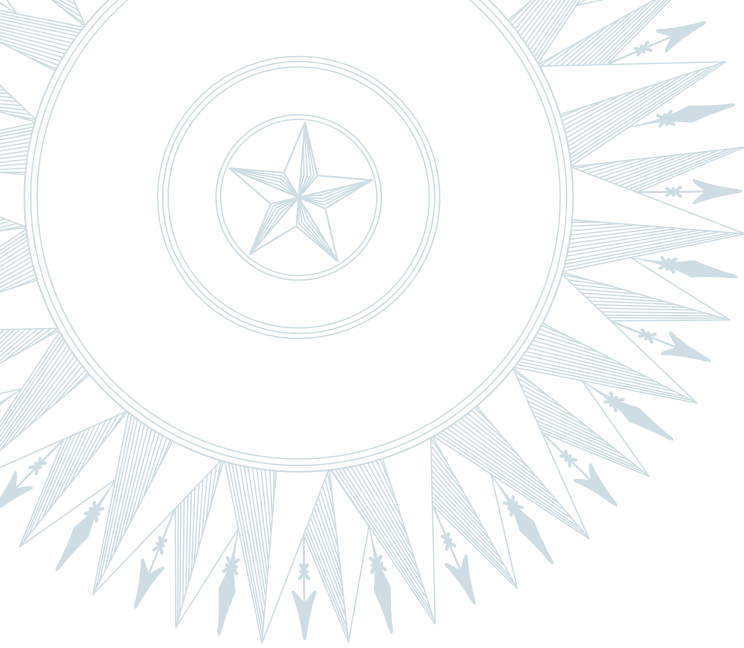
The

DECLARATION'S JOURNEY

A Convening *on the* International Legacy

SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026





The Museum of the American Revolution is pleased to welcome you to *The Declaration's Journey: A Convening on the International Legacy*.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, the Museum created *The Declaration's Journey*, presented by Griffin Catalyst, a landmark exhibition that traces the evolution and global impact of this founding document since 1776. The exhibition features artifacts, documents, and works of art related to the declarations of independence issued by France, Haiti, Mexico, Chile, Korea, and more.

As the Museum's curators and scholarly committee worked to develop *The Declaration's Journey*, it was clear that the international aspect of the story represented an exciting area of new research and presented opportunities for future study. This Convening is the realization of that idea. We are proud to welcome an international slate of scholars to the Museum to share their research and exchange ideas.

If you haven't already, I hope that you'll take time to visit *The Declaration's Journey* and explore our core galleries, where we uncover and share compelling stories about the diverse people and complex events that sparked America's ongoing experiment in liberty, equality, and self-government.

R. Scott Stephenson, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Program Committee

Caitlin Fitz
Eliga Gould
Matthew Skic
Emily Sneff
Chris Suh

The Declaration's Journey: A Convening on the International Legacy is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

This project was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

PENNSYLVANIA
THE GREAT AMERICAN GETAWAY

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries.

He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance.

He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;

For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World;

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent;

For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences;

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it at once an Example and fit Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

He is, at this Time, transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and Perfidy, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the Executioners of their Friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

No man have we been wanting in Attention to our British Brethren. We have warned them from Time to Time of Attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable Jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. We have appealed to their native Justice and Magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the Ties of our common Kindred to disavow these Usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our Connections and Correspondence. They too have been deaf to the Voice of Justice and of Consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the Necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of Mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace, Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Signed by ORDER and in BEHALF of the CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.

ATTEST.
CHARLES THOMSON, SECRETARY.

PHILADELPHIA: PRINTED BY JOHN DUNLAP.

John Dunlap, an Irish immigrant, produced the first printed version of the Declaration on the night of July 4, 1776. Only 25 copies of the "Dunlap Broadside" printed the night of July 4 are known to exist today. Find the copy shown here on display in The Declaration's Journey.

CONVENING SCHEDULE

Friday, September 25

Sessions take place in Liberty Hall unless noted.

Welcome Remarks | 8:50 - 9:00 am

Matthew Skic
Museum of the American Revolution

New Insights on the Declaration of Independence | 9:00 - 10:30 am

Chair: Dr. Eliga H. Gould
University of New Hampshire

Dr. Sarah M.S. Pearsall
Johns Hopkins University

Talk: "Pursuing Happiness in the Revolutionary Atlantic"

Dr. Emily Sneff
Museum of the American Revolution

Talk: "Content and Dissemination of the Declaration of Independence"

Dr. Helena Yoo-Roth
The McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania

Talk: "Timing Revolution: Temporal Dimensions of the Declaration of Independence"

The Declaration in Europe | 10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Chair: Dr. Patrick Griffin
University of Notre Dame

Dr. Scott C. Breuninger
Virginia Commonwealth University

Talk: "The Declaration in Ireland"

Dr. Csaba Lévai
University of Debrecen

Talk: "Two Revolutions and Two Declarations:
The Different Fates of the American and the
Hungarian Declaration of Independence"

Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin
University of Kentucky, emeritus

Talk: "The Declaration and the French Revolution"



This wool cap belonged to a member of the French National Guard. It is embroidered with symbols of revolution, and on the top of the cap is a tricolor cockade.

© Musée de l'Armée, Dist. RMN-GrandPalais / Art Resource, NY

Lunch Break | 12:15 - 1:45 pm

Visit the registration table for a list of local restaurants.

Lunch Lecture | 12:30 - 1:30 pm

This ticketed lunch and lecture will be held in Founders Boardroom.
The lecture will also be livestreamed into Liberty Hall.

Dr. Eliga H. Gould
University of New Hampshire

Lecture: "Peace and Independence:
The Forgotten History of the
United States' Founding Treaty"

John Jay, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Henry Laurens (left to right) negotiated the 1783 peace treaty with Great Britain on behalf of the United States. William Temple Franklin (right), Benjamin Franklin's grandson, served as the secretary for the American delegation.



American Commissioners of the Preliminary Peace Negotiations with Great Britain (detail). Painted by Benjamin West, 1783. Gift of Henry Francis du Pont. Courtesy Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.

The Legacy of the Declaration of Independence in West Africa 1:45 - 3:15 pm

Chair: Dr. Nemata Blyden
University of Virginia

Alison McCann
University of Miami
Talk: "Echoes of Independence:
African American Aspirations in
Liberia's Frontier"

Dr. Marie Stango
Idaho State University

Talk: "The Declaration of Independence
and Slave Trade Suppression in Liberia"

Dr. Andrew Wegmann
Texas Tech University

Talk: "'We, the People of the Republic of Liberia': The Liberian Declaration of Independence, Jeffersonian Republicanism, and the Reimagining of a Continent"

Dr. Ben Wright
The University of Texas at Dallas

Talk: "Liberty's Long Shadow: Christianity, the Declaration of Independence, and Black Migration to West Africa"



Jane Roberts emigrated as a child with her free Black family from Virginia to Liberia. Her husband, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, served as the first president of the independent Republic of Liberia from 1848 to 1856. Educated in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, Jane Roberts was an advocate for women's education.

Library of Congress, LC-USZ6-1922

Roundtable: Curating *The Declaration's Journey* | 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Chair: Susan R. Stein
Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello

Dr. Amy Noel Ellison
Los Altos History Museum

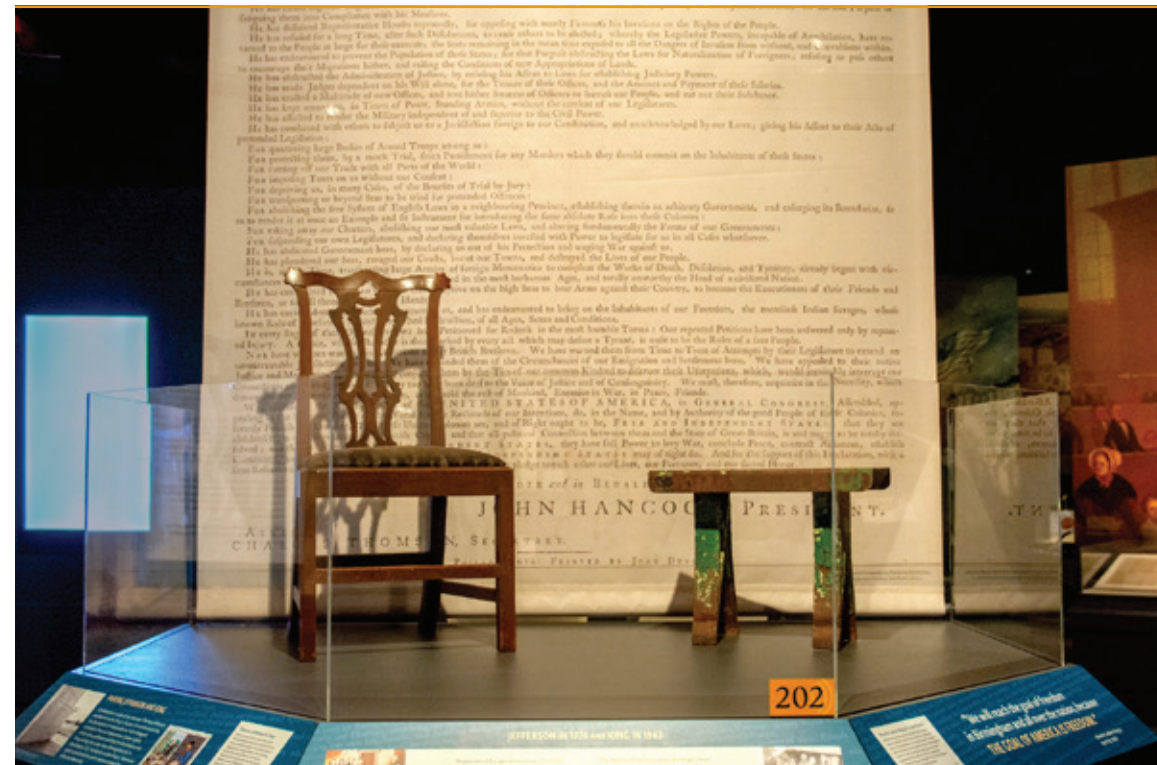
Dr. Philip Mead
Independent Scholar

Matthew Skic
Museum of the American Revolution

Dr. Emily Sneff
Museum of the American Revolution

Reception | 5:00 - 6:00 pm

The reception will take place in Cross Keys Cafe (first floor) with access to Patriots Gallery to view *The Declaration's Journey*. The core galleries (second floor) will be closed.



The Declaration's Journey opens with the juxtaposition of two objects, a chair and a bench, in front of an oversized printing by John Dunlap of the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson owned the chair on display as he worked on the rough draft of the Declaration in 1776. While being held in a jail cell in Birmingham, Alabama, Martin Luther King Jr. sat on the bench as he wrote an open letter about civil disobedience in April 1963.

(Chair) American Philosophical Society; (Bench) On loan from Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Saturday, September 26

Sessions take place in Liberty Hall unless noted.

Exhibiting the “Age of Revolutions”: Latin American Museum Narratives

9:30 - 11:30 am

Chair: Dr. Caitlin Fitz
Northwestern University

Dr. Gabriel Di Meglio
Universidad de Buenos Aires

Talk: “Reframing Independence: New Perspectives on a Traditional Subject in Argentine Museums”

Dr. Michelli Cristine Scapol Monteiro
Museu Paulista, University of São Paulo

Talk: “Curating Independence in Brazil: Memory and Commemoration”

Dr. Macarena Ponce de León Atria
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Talk: “Hijos de las Independencias: The Impacts of Discourse and the Weight of Collections at the Chilean Museum of National History in the 21st Century”

Dr. Daniel Gutiérrez Ardila
Universidad Externado de Colombia

Talk: “Knowledge and Emotion: Columbian Independence in the 21st Century”

Carmen Saucedo
Palacio Nacional

Talk: “The Act of Independence of the Mexican Empire: Between Veneration and Misunderstanding”

Lunch Break | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Visit the registration table for a list of local restaurants.

Lunch Lecture | 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

This ticketed lunch and lecture will be held in Founders Boardroom.
The lecture will also be livestreamed into Liberty Hall.

Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson
Baylor University

Lecture: “Diplomacy and the Declaration: Haiti’s Contribution to the American Revolution”



At Fourth of July celebrations across the United States in the 1820s, people raised toasts to Simón Bolívar, the “Washington of South America.” Born in colonial Spanish Venezuela, Bolívar became a revolutionary military leader and is remembered as “The Liberator.”

Library of Virginia, State Artwork Collection

Roundtable: The Declaration and Haiti

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Chair: Dr. Julia Gaffield
William & Mary

Dr. Leslie Alexander
Rutgers University

Dr. Marlene Daut
Yale University

Dr. Chelsea Stieber
Tulane University

Haiti’s declaration of independence was issued as a broadside in 1804.

The National Archives, UK, MFQ1/184



The Declaration and Asian Independence Movements | 2:45 - 4:15 pm

Chair: Dr. Chris Suh
Emory University

Dr. Christopher Capozzola
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Talk: “Declaring Independence in the Philippines: July 4, 1946”

Dr. Juman Kim
Towson University

Talk: “The 1919 First Korean Congress in Philadelphia: Decades of Korean-American Engagement and the Contested Legacy of 1776”

Dr. Lori Watt
Washington University in St. Louis

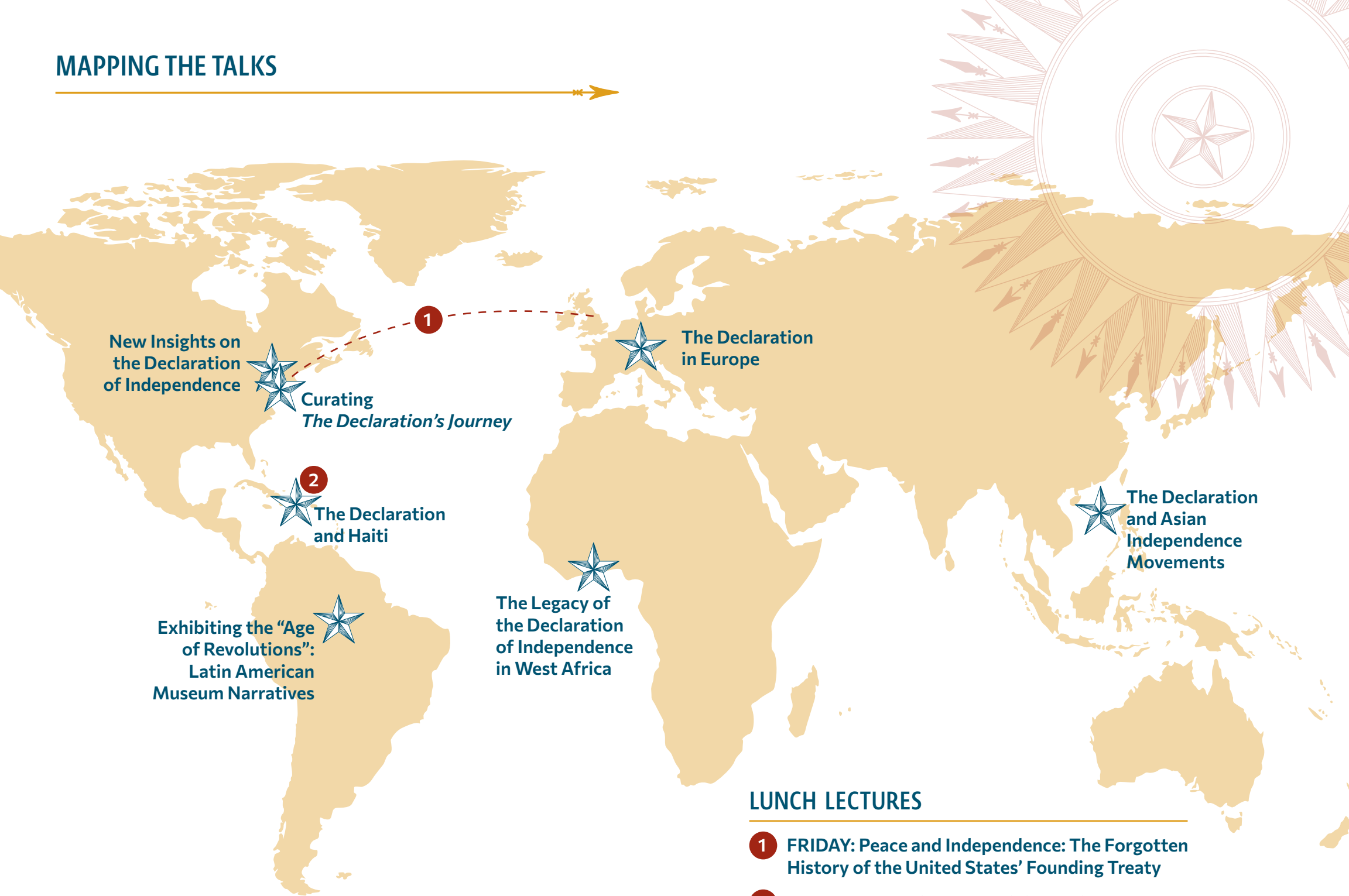
Talk: “The Declaration of Independence and Japan: Anti-colonial Language and the End of Empire”

This trunk was owned by Philip Jaisohn, a pathbreaking Korean immigrant. Jaisohn settled in the United States as a political exile, became a citizen, and earned a medical degree. During the effort for Korean independence in 1919, Jaisohn organized the First Korean Congress in Philadelphia.

On loan from the Philip Jaisohn Memorial House



MAPPING THE TALKS



LUNCH LECTURES

- 1** FRIDAY: Peace and Independence: The Forgotten History of the United States' Founding Treaty
- 2** SATURDAY: Diplomacy and the Declaration: Haiti's Contribution to the American Revolution

KEYNOTE LUNCH SPEAKERS

Dr. Eliga H. Gould

Professor of History

University of New Hampshire

Chair: New Insights on the Declaration of Independence

Lecture: “Peace and Independence: The Forgotten History of the United States’ Founding Treaty”



Eliga Gould’s scholarship focuses on the American Revolution, with an emphasis on the entangled history that Americans shared with the rest of the Americas and the wider world. His current book project, *Peace and Independence* (under contract with Oxford), examines the Treaty of 1783, which ended the American Revolutionary War. In *Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire* (Harvard, 2012), he explored how the early American republic’s quest to be accepted as a “treaty worthy” nation by Europe’s colonial powers shaped American thinking about federalism, Native American treaty rights, and the abolition of slavery. Gould’s other books include *The Persistence of Empire: British Political Culture in the Age of the American Revolution* (University of North Carolina, 2000) and *Empire and Nation: The American Revolution and the Atlantic World*, co-edited with Peter S. Onuf (Johns Hopkins, 2005). In 2025–26, he was the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford. He also served as a scholarly advisor for *The Declaration’s Journey*.

Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson

Ralph and Bessie Mae Lynn Professor of History

Baylor University

Lecture: “Diplomacy and the Declaration: Haiti’s Contribution to the American Revolution”



Ronald Angelo Johnson’s work explores the intersection of diplomacy, race, and revolution in the Atlantic World with a particular focus on Haiti. His most recent book, *Entangled Alliances: Racialized Freedom and Atlantic Diplomacy During the American Revolution* (Cornell University Press, 2025), examines the fascinating story of how American patriots and rebels from Saint-Domingue (later Haiti) allied against European tyranny. He is also the author of *Diplomacy in Black and White: John Adams, Toussaint Louverture, and Their Atlantic World Alliance* (University of Georgia Press, 2014). Johnson’s current project, *We Are All Equal: Turmoil and Triumph in the Early United States and Revolutionary Haiti*, is under contract with Princeton University Press. During 2026–2027, Johnson is the Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the American Antiquarian Society.

CONVENING SPEAKERS

Dr. Leslie Alexander

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of History

Rutgers University

Participant: The Declaration and Haiti



Leslie Alexander specializes in early African American and African Diaspora history, particularly the history of slavery, Black political and intellectual thought, and resistance movements.

In *Fear of a Black Republic: Haiti and the Birth of Black Internationalism in the United States* (University of Illinois Press, 2022), Alexander reveals how free and enslaved Black people in the United States defended the young Caribbean nation from forces intent on maintaining slavery and white supremacy. *African or American?: Black Identity and Political Activism in New York City, 1784–1861* (University of Illinois Press, 2008) examines how Black activists sought to formulate an effective response to their unequal freedom. She is also the co-editor of *Ideas in Unexpected Places: Reimagining the Boundaries of Black Intellectual History* (Northwestern University Press, 2022).

Dr. Daniel Gutiérrez Ardila

Professor of History

Universidad Externado de Colombia

Talk: “Knowledge and Emotion: Columbian Independence in the 21st Century”



Daniel Gutiérrez Ardila’s research focuses on the political and social history of nineteenth-century Colombia, independence, and the Enlightenment. Much of his work has explored New Granada, the Spanish viceroyalty encompassing modern-day Colombia and Panama. His books include *Un Nuevo Reino. Pactismo, geografía política y diplomacia durante el interregno en Nueva Granada, 1808–1816* (Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2010); *El reconocimiento de Colombia, diplomacia y propaganda en la coyuntura de las Restauraciones, 1819–1831* (Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2012); and *La Restauración en la Nueva Granada, 1816–1819* (Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2016). Together with James Torres, he wrote *La Compañía Barrio y Sordo. Negocios y política en el Nuevo Reino y Venezuela, 1796–1820* (Universidad Externado de Colombia, 2021), which explores the history of a trading house. Ardila also curated the 2017 exhibition, *El reino frente al rey: Reconquista, Pacificación, Restauración. Nueva Granada (1815 – 1819)*, at the Museo Nacional de Colombia. The exhibition offered a new historical interpretation of these pivotal years.

Dr. Macarena Ponce de León Atria

Professor of History

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Talk: “Hijos de las Independencias: The Impacts of Discourse and the Weight of Collections at the Chilean Museum of National History in the 21st Century”



Macarena Ponce de León Atria’s research focuses on Chile’s social and political history, with an emphasis on cultural and historical heritage, poverty, civil society, education, and electoral practices. In her work, she seeks to understand the construction of civil and social equality from a citizen-centered perspective. From 2019 to 2024, Atria was the Director of the Museo Histórico Nacional and Counselor for the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales. Most recently, she served as the Head of the Department of Studies, Extension, and Publications at the Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile. She is the author of *Gobernar la pobreza. Prácticas de caridad y beneficencia en la ciudad de Santiago, 1830-1980* (Universitaria, Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos y Centro de Investigaciones Diego Barros Arana, 2011). Atria was also the principal investigator for a Fondecyt “Iniciación” project that examined political representation practices during the expansion of political citizenship in the 20th century.

Dr. Nemata Blyden

Armstead Robinson Professor of 19th Century

African American History

University of Virginia

Chair: The Legacy of the Declaration of Independence in West Africa



Nemata Blyden’s teaching and scholarship centers the experiences of African descended people by looking at their history through an often-neglected lens of “Global Black” history. Her work has explored nineteenth-century African American history, African American engagement with Africa, and African, American, and Caribbean migrations to Africa. In *African Americans and Africa: A New History* (Yale University Press, 2019) Blyden explored African American identities through their relationships with region, ethnicity, slavery, and immigration. *West Indians in West Africa, 1808-1880: The Diaspora in Reverse* (University of Rochester Press, 2000) examined the trans-oceanic migration of West Indians from the Caribbean to Sierra Leone in the decades following the abolition of slavery in the British colonies in 1807.

Dr. Scott C. Breuninger

Dean, Honors College

Virginia Commonwealth University

Talk: “The Declaration in Ireland”



Scott C. Breuninger’s research focuses on the social, moral, and economic dimensions of the Enlightenment, particularly how this movement was expressed in Ireland. In *Recovering Bishop Berkeley: Virtue and Society in the Anglo-Irish Context* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 20210), he examined how Berkeley, one of the leading philosophers of the eighteenth century, responded to the social and economic threats facing Ireland and Britain. He co-edited *The Bonds of Society: Sociability and Cosmopolitanism on the Fringes of the Enlightenment* (Routledge, 20212) and has written articles exploring aspects of the Enlightenment in Irish and Atlantic history during the eighteenth century. Breuninger also serves as director of VCU’s Public and Digital Humanities Lab and is currently working on a study of the intellectual and social networks of the Irish Enlightenment.

Dr. Christopher Capozzola

Elting E. Morison Professor of History

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Talk: “Declaring Independence in the Philippines: July 4, 1946”



Christopher Capozzola’s research interests encompass the history of citizenship, war, and the military in modern American history. His first book, *Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen* (Oxford University Press, 2008), examines the relationship between citizens, voluntary associations, and the federal government during World War I. *Bound by War: How the United States and the Philippines Built America’s First Pacific Century* (Basic Books, 2020) shows how war and military service forged an enduring, yet fraught, alliance between Americans and Filipinos. His public history work includes “The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I, 1914-1919” curriculum and “Under One Flag,” an online exhibition about Filipino World War II veterans and their fight for recognition. He also serves on the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. Mint on coins and medals issued by the federal government. Capozzola recently completed a four-year term as MIT’s Senior Associate Dean for Open Learning, coordinating MIT’s efforts in open education, online learning, and technology in the classroom.

Dr. Marlene Daut

Chester D. Tripp Professor of Black Studies and French
Yale University

Participant: The Declaration and Haiti



Marlene Daut is a literary and intellectual historian of the Caribbean, with a focus on the history of the Haitian Revolution, literary cultures of the greater Caribbean, and racial politics in global media. Her prize-winning biography, *The First and Last King of Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Henry Christophe* (Knopf, 2025), explores the fascinating life of Haiti's only king while delving into the complex history of a nineteenth-century Caribbean monarchy. Daut's other books include *Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution* (UNC Press, 2023), co-winner of the Frederick Douglass Book Prize; *Tropics of Haiti: Race and the Literary History of the Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World, 1789-1865* (Liverpool, 2015); and *Baron de Vastey and the Origins of Black Atlantic Humanism* (Palgrave, 2017). In April 2026, Daut was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in September, she will begin a nine-month residency at the Cullman Center for Scholars & Writers (NYPL) as the John and Constance Birkelund Fellow.

Dr. Gabriel Di Meglio

Professor of History
Universidad de Buenos Aires

Talk: "Reframing Independence: New Perspectives on a Traditional Subject in Argentine Museums"



Gabriel Di Meglio's research focuses on nineteenth-century Argentine popular politics and history. His books include *¡Viva el bajo pueblo! La plebe urbana de Buenos Aires y la política entre la Revolución de Mayo y el rosismo* (Prometeo Libros, 2006); *Historia de las clases populares en la Argentina desde 1516 hasta 1880* (Editorial Sudamericana, 2012); and *Manuel Dorrego. Vida y muerte de un líder popular* (Edhasa, 2014). Di Meglio served as the director of Argentina's Museo Histórico Nacional del Cabildo y de la Revolución de Mayo (2014-2018), and Museo Histórico Nacional (2020-2025). He has written and hosted several documentary series for Argentina's Canal Encuentro and co-created the animated show *Zamba*, which follows the adventures of a young boy who time travels through Argentina's past. Di Meglio is currently a Researcher at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas and is working on a project about the history of Argentine federalism.

Dr. Amy Noel Ellison

Curator and Director of Exhibitions
Los Altos History Museum

Participant: Curating *The Declaration's Journey*



Amy Noel Ellison is an American historian who specializes in the American Revolution and public history. She served as guest curator and historian on *The Declaration's Journey*, and also curated *The Spirit of '76: Reflecting on America's 250th* for the Los Altos History Museum (LAHM). As Curator and Director of Exhibitions at Los Altos History Museum, she manages the Museum's changing exhibitions and public programming. She has also held curatorial and research positions at the American Philosophical Society and Philadelphia Museum of Art and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Exhibit Envoy.

Dr. Caitlin Fitz

Associate Professor of History
Northwestern University
Chair: The Declaration and Latin American Independence



Caitlin Fitz is a historian of early America, in a broad and hemispheric sense. Her work explores early U.S. engagement with foreign communities and cultures, as well as the relationship between ordinary people and formal politics. Her award-winning first book, *Our Sister Republics: The United States in an Age of American Revolutions* (Norton/Liveright, 2016), shows how Latin America's independence wars shaped popular understandings of race, revolution, and republicanism in the United States. Her work has also appeared in *The William and Mary Quarterly*, *Diplomatic History*, *The Journal of American History*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She serves on the Advisory Council of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and the Editorial Board of *Diplomatic History*.

Dr. Julia Gaffield

Professor of History

William & Mary

Chair: The Declaration and Haiti



Julia Gaffield's work focuses on Haiti, the Atlantic World, and beyond. Her most recent book, *I Have Avenged America: Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Haiti's Fight for Freedom* (Yale University Press, 2025), offers a humane account of the slave turned revolutionary abolitionist who led Haiti to independence. In *Haitian Connections in the Atlantic World: Recognition after Revolution* (UNC Press, 2015), she illustrates how Haiti achieved a level of economic recognition even as it was shunned diplomatically. Her current project, which is under contract with the Omohundro Institute Press, explores how Haiti's state-sanctioned claim to Roman Catholicism after 1804 helped reshape the dominant understanding of international law. Gaffield recently served as the Interim Editor for the *William and Mary Quarterly* and was a scholarly advisor for *The Declaration's Journey*.

Dr. Patrick Griffin

Madden-Hennebry Professor of History

University of Notre Dame

Chair: The Declaration in Europe



Patrick Griffin's work explores the intersection of colonial American and early modern Irish and British history. In *The Age of Atlantic Revolution: The Fall and Rise of a Connected World* (Yale University Press, 2023), he explains how people in British North America, France, Haiti, Latin America, and West Africa struggled through violence, liberation, and war to reimagine themselves and sovereignty. His other books include *The Townshend Moment: The Making of Empire and Revolution in the Eighteenth Century* (Yale University Press, 2017); *America's Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2012); *American Leviathan: Empire, Nation, and Revolutionary Frontier* (Hill & Wang, 2007); and *The People with No Name: Ireland's Ulster Scots, America's Scots Irish, and the Making of a British Atlantic World* (Princeton University Press, 2001).

Dr. Juman Kim

Associate Professor of Political Science

Director of the Program in Law and American Civilization

Towson University

Talk: "The 1919 First Korean Congress in Philadelphia: Decades of Korean-American Engagement and the Contested Legacy of 1776"



Juman Kim's research and teaching interests revolve around democratic citizenship, identity and membership, and political ethos and pathos. His research has been published, or is forthcoming, in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Max Weber Studies*, *Comparative Political Theory*, *Korea Journal*, and the *Korean Journal of Humanities and the Social Sciences*. He is currently working on two book projects. The first book, tentatively called *Living with Frustration: The Quest for a Democratic Citizenship of Perseverance*, examines democratic frustration arising from different democratic aspirations including mutual respect, popular sovereignty, and progress. The second book project, *Suspect and Welcome: The First Koreans in America and the Americans Who Defined Them*, recovers the forgotten lives of a handful of interconnected Korean immigrants — Soh Kwang Pom, Philip Jaisohn, Penn Su, Yun Ch'i Ho, Kiu Beung Surh, and Esther Kim Pak — who navigated the legal, political, and social realities of late nineteenth-century America.

Dr. Csaba Lévai

Professor of History

University of Debrecen

Talk: "Two Revolutions and Two Declarations: The Different Fates of the American and the Hungarian Declaration of Independence"



Csaba Lévai's research focuses on the history of the British colonies in North America, the American Revolution, and the history of slavery in British North America and the United States of America. His latest book, *"The Execrable Commerce:" Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Emergence of the Slave Systems in British North America* (L'Harmattan, 2020, in Hungarian), explores the economic and social factors driving the growth of slavery. Other publications include *New Order in a New World* (Debrecen University Press, 1997), a collection of writings by the American Founding Fathers translated into Hungarian; *The Republicanism Debate. A Historiographical Discussion of the Intellectual Background of the American Revolution* (L'Harmattan, 2003, in Hungarian); and *American History and Historiography* (L'Harmattan, 2013, in Hungarian). Lévai's scholarship has been published in seven countries in Hungarian and English. He is the recipient of two Fulbright fellowships at the University of Virginia, and research fellowships at the International Center for Jefferson Studies and the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington. His forthcoming book examines James Madison and the problem of slavery.

Alison McCann

Doctoral candidate in History
University of Miami

Talk: “Echoes of Independence: African American Aspirations in Liberia’s Frontier”



Alison McCann’s work explores the experiences of African Americans who migrated to Liberia, Africa, and how they reconstructed their lives abroad. She will defend her dissertation, “Until Freedom Be Done: African American Place-Making in Liberia, 1790-1880,” this fall. It analyzes the transnational journeys of African American emigrants, and reveals how the lives of Black settlers offer a nuanced understanding of Black Atlantic migration and its broader implications for Afro-diasporic movements. Fellowships supporting her work include Pennsylvania State University’s Richards Civil War Era Center and the Library Company.

Dr. Philip Mead

Independent Scholar

Participant: Curating *The Declaration’s Journey*



Philip Mead specializes in the history of eighteenth-century America and served as guest lead curator of *The Declaration’s Journey*. From 2011 through 2023, he was a key member of the Museum of the American Revolution’s founding curatorial team, including serving as Chief Historian and Curator and leader of the development of *The Declaration’s Journey*. Mead currently works as an independent museum consultant and recently guest curated the Berkely Foundation’s *The Long Road to Liberty: The Declaration of Independence* at NYU’s Gray Art Museum, which focuses on the document’s 27 grievances. His current book project explores the experience of the Revolutionary War through diaries and memoirs of soldiers. He is the sole proprietor of Mead Americana, a business specializing in identifying and obtaining American historical objects for institutions and collectors.

Dr. Michelli Cristine Scapol Monteiro

Researcher and Historian

Museu Paulista, University of São Paulo

Talk: “Curating Independence in Brazil: Memory and Commemoration”



Michelli Cristine Scapol Monteiro’s work explores how Brazilian independence is expressed in public memory and monuments. She is the author of *São Paulo na disputa pelo passado: o monumento à independência, de Ettore Ximenes* (Edusp and Sesc, 2023), which analyzes the process of establishing the Monument to Independence as a “place of memory” of Brazilian political emancipation. Her work has been supported by fellowships at Università degli Studi Roma Tre in Italy. Between 2019 and 2023, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Museu Paulista and served as associate curator of the exhibitions *Uma história do Brasil*, *Passados Imaginados* and *Memórias da Independência*. She currently leads the audience research program at the Museu Paulista, coordinating studies on visitor profiles, visitor experience, and public engagement.

Dr. Sarah M.S. Pearsall

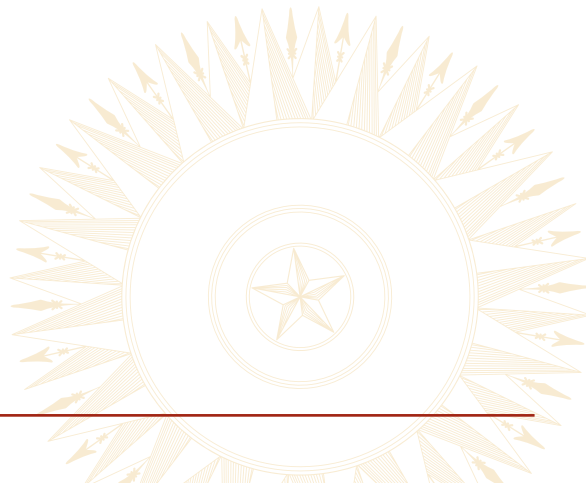
Professor of History

Johns Hopkins University

Talk: “Pursuing Happiness in the Revolutionary Atlantic”



Sarah M.S. Pearsall’s scholarship and teaching center on how transatlantic and global movements intersected with personal and intimate lives for all kinds of early Americans. Her most recent book, *Freedom Round the Globe: A World History of the American Revolution* (Knopf Doubleday, 2026) focuses on the effects of the world on the American Revolution. She traces how a range of different individuals — including but not limited to leaders, diplomats, and generals — in places as distant as Bkejwanong, Kolkata, and Anomabu influenced that famous course of human events. Her other books include *Polygamy: An Early American History* (Yale University Press, 2019) and *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2008).



Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin

Professor of History, emeritus

University of Kentucky

Talk: "The Declaration and the French Revolution"



Jeremy Popkin's scholarly interests include the history of the French and Haitian revolutions, autobiographical literature, and American Jewish history. His newest book, *The First Emancipation: The Forgotten History of Emancipation in Revolutionary France* (Princeton University Press, 2026), chronicles the dramatic French revolutionary debates about slavery and race. Some of his earlier works include *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution* (Basic Books, 2019); *From Herodotus to H-Net: The Story of Historiography* (Oxford University Press, 2015, 2019); *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery* (2010); *Revolutionary News: The Press in France, 1789-1799* (1990), and *History, Historians and Autobiography* (2005).

Carmen Saucedo

Head of Historical Research and Conservation

Palacio Nacional

Talk: "The Act of Independence of the Mexican Empire: Between Veneration and Misunderstanding"



Carmen Saucedo's research focuses on the history of Mexico, New Spain, and the struggle for Mexican independence. Since 2015, she has served as Head of Historical Research and Conservation at Mexico City's Palacio Nacional. Prior to that, Saucedo served as Deputy Director General at Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de las Revoluciones de México, the agency responsible for commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of Independence and the Centennial of the Mexican Revolution. She is the author of *Los restos de los Héroes en el monumento a la Independencia* (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia 2012), which recounts the history of the mortal remains of the heroes of Independence and how they were used in the construction of the national civic and patriotic discourse. Saucedo's public history work includes consulting on historical telenovelas, *El Vuelo del Águila* and *La Antorcha Encendida*, and writing *La Nueva España*, an illustrated book about the history of New Spain for young readers.

Matthew Skic

Director of Collections and Exhibitions

Museum of the American Revolution

Opening remarks

Participant: Curating *The Declaration's Journey*



Matthew Skic oversaw the final development and installation of *The Declaration's Journey* in his role as the Museum's Director of Collections and Exhibitions. He has curated multiple award-winning special exhibitions at the Museum including *Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier* (2019-2020); *Black Founders: The Forten Family of Philadelphia* (2023), and *Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent* (2024). His latest project is serving as lead curator of the special exhibition *Loyalists: Americans Against the Revolution*, which will open in November 2027.

Dr. Emily Sneff

Historian and Scholarly Consultant

Museum of the American Revolution

Talk: "Content and Dissemination of the Declaration of Independence"

Participant: Curating *The Declaration's Journey*



Emily Sneff is an early American historian and a leading expert on the United States Declaration of Independence. She is a Historian and Scholarly Consultant for the Museum of the American Revolution and was one of the guest curators for *The Declaration's Journey*. She is also Historian and Consulting Curator at Historic Trappe and managing editor of *Americana Insights*. Her book, *When the Declaration of Independence Was News* (Oxford, 2026), focuses on the nation's founding document at the moment of its creation in 1776, before anyone knew what the legacy of the Declaration would be or if the United States would win the war against Great Britain.

Dr. Marie Stango

Associate Professor of History
Idaho State University

Talk: “The Declaration of Independence and
Slave Trade Suppression in Liberia”



Marie Stango is a historian of nineteenth-century America, and her research focuses on gender, slavery, and emancipation in the United States and West Africa. Currently, she is completing a book, *Second Black Republic: Freedom and Family in the Making of Liberia*, which traces the lives of Black American women in early national Liberia. Her research has been supported by fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Association of University Women, and other organizations. Most recently, she received a grant to begin research for a biography of Jane Waring Roberts, the first “first lady” of Liberia. Stango is an award-winning teacher and was named Idaho State University’s Distinguished Teacher for 2024-2025, the highest teaching honor awarded to a faculty member at the institution.

Dr. Chelsea Stieber

Associate Professor and Kathryn B. Gore Endowed
Chair in French
Tulane University
Participant: The Declaration and Haiti



Chelsea Stieber specializes in nineteenth-century Caribbean literature, history, and culture with an emphasis on Haiti. She is the author of *Haiti’s Paper War: Post-Independence Writing, Civil War, and the Making of the Republic, 1804–1954* (New York University Press, 2020) and co-editor of the critical translation of Louis-Joseph Janvier’s *Haiti for the Haitians* (Liverpool University Press, 2023). She is currently working on two book projects. The first explores the writing of free people of color in the Antilles during the period of general emancipation and its aftermath. The second focuses on Caribbean fascism, for which she was awarded an ACLS fellowship. Stieber is associate editor for the journal *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*.

Susan R. Stein

Senior Curator and Vice President of Museum Programs
Thomas Jefferson Foundation/Monticello
Chair: Curating *The Declaration’s Journey*



Susan Stein has studied the material culture of Monticello — art, objects, and architecture — and Thomas Jefferson for forty years. As Vice President of Museum Programs at Monticello for most of her career, she was instrumental in the restoration, furnishing, and interpretation of this World Heritage Site. Her accomplishments include the landmark 1993 exhibition *The Worlds of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello*, the acquisition of hundreds of objects and art works for Monticello’s collection, the restoration and interpretation of Mulberry Row and Monticello’s dependencies, publications, numerous exhibitions, including the *Landscape of Slavery*, and the introductory film at the Visitor Center. Stein’s current research focuses on American visual culture in the early republic, including Jefferson’s role in shaping it.

Dr. Chris Suh

Associate Professor of History
Emory University
Chair: The Declaration and Asian Independence Movements



Chris Suh is a historian of race, ethnicity, and inequality, specializing in the transpacific connections between the United States and East Asia and Asian American history. In *The Allure of Empire: American Encounters with Asians in the Age of Transpacific Expansion and Exclusion* (Oxford University Press, 2023), Suh traces how American ideas about race in the Pacific were made and remade on the imperial stage before World War II. He reveals the surprising extent to which debates about Korea shaped the politics of interracial cooperation. Suh has also contributed articles to *Journal of American History* and *Pacific Historical Review*. He is currently working on his second book, *Asian Americans in a Decolonizing World: A Transpacific History of Self-Determination from the Atlantic Charter to the Bandung Conference*.

Dr. Lori Watt

Associate Professor of History and of Global Studies
Washington University in St. Louis

Talk: “The Declaration of Independence and Japan: Anti-colonial Language and the End of Empire”

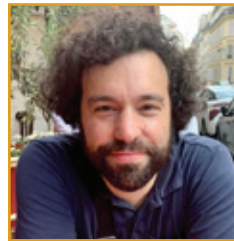


Lori Watt specializes in the history of modern Japan, with a focus on empire and decolonization. In *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan* (Harvard University Press, 2009), she narrates Japan’s transformation from an empire into a nation-state through an analysis of post-World War II repatriations in Asia. Her forthcoming book, *From Empire to Internationalism: Japan’s Integration into the Postwar World Order* (Cornell University Press, 2026), traces how the Allied dismantling of Japan’s settler colonies and the Occupation-era reforms produced new vocabularies of self-determination, sovereignty, and human rights that eased Japan’s transition away from empire. She is now writing a biography of Sadako Ogata (1927–2019), one of Japan’s most prominent diplomats.

Dr. Andrew N. Wegmann

Assistant Professor of History
Texas Tech University

Talk: “‘We, the People of the Republic of Liberia’: The Liberian Declaration of Independence, Jeffersonian Republicanism, and the Reimagining of a Continent”



Andrew N. Wegmann’s research and teaching interests include the Early American Republic and Atlantic World. He is the author or editor of three books: *French Connections: Cultural Mobility in North America and the Atlantic World* (LSU Press, 2020), which received the 2021 Wilson Prize for Canadian History; *An American Color: Race and Identity in New Orleans and the Atlantic World* (University of Georgia Press, 2022); and most recently *Met by the Love of Liberty: History and Identity in Americo-Liberian Memory* (Indiana University Press, 2026), which will be published in September. He is also co-editor-in-chief of the journal *History in Africa*. His current project focuses on the founding of Liberia and the lives and ideas of its colonial and national founders on both sides of the Atlantic.

Dr. Ben Wright

Associate Professor of History
The University of Texas at Dallas

Talk: “Liberty’s Long Shadow: Christianity, the Declaration of Independence, and Black Migration to West Africa”

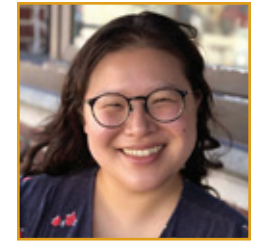


Ben Wright is a scholar of race and religion in the early United States and a practitioner, theorist, and historian of the digital humanities. His books include *Bonds of Salvation: How Christianity Inspired and Limited American Abolitionism* (LSU 2020), and the two-volume *American Yawp: A Massively Collaborative Open History of the United States* (Stanford 2019/2026). Wright is currently working on two projects: a history of religion in early colonial Sierra Leone, which is supported by the Barra Sabbatical Fellowship at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; and a book about how Southern Baptists created the separation of church and state, which is supported by the Lilly Religious Freedom Fellowship at the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon.

Dr. Helena Yoo-Roth

Barra Post Doctoral Fellow
The McNeil Center for Early American Studies,
University of Pennsylvania

Talk: “Timing Revolution: Temporal Dimensions of the Declaration of Independence”



Yoo-Roth is a historian of early America whose work explores the intersections of politics, culture, communications, and empire. Her first book project, *American Timelines: Imperial Communications, Colonial Time-Consciousness, and the Coming of the American Revolution*, reframes the origins of the American Revolution by illustrating how American colonists and imperial officials came to inhabit different temporal worlds and explores how the entanglement of time and space in the early modern Atlantic generated explosive political consequences. Her research has been supported by fellowships at American Philosophical Society, the Huntington Library, and the Massachusetts Historical Society.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

The DECLARATION'S JOURNEY

Through January 3, 2027

The Declaration's Journey, presented by Griffin Catalyst, is the most ambitious undertaking in the Museum of the American Revolution's near-ten-year history of special exhibitions. This visually captivating special exhibition gathers together for the first time in one place some of the most important and rare documents, works of art, and artifacts from around the world that reflect the complex 250-year history and legacy of the United States Declaration of Independence.



MADE BY *PHILADELPHIA*

Supplying the Revolution

April 10 to September 6, 2027

Opening during the Museum's tenth anniversary year, *Made by Philadelphia* examines how the city became the logistical and manufacturing center that sustained the fight for independence. As the Revolutionary War intensified and British supply networks were cut off after 1775, Philadelphia's artisans, laborers, and tradespeople answered an urgent call to feed, clothe, arm, and equip soldiers in the field. Victory depended not only on an army, but on gunsmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, saddlers, flag makers, shipbuilders, printers, bakers, and medical suppliers — many working at a scale unprecedented in America.



Museum of the American Revolution

Musket above: Museum of the American Revolution, Gift of The McNeil Americana Collection

Loyalists Americans Against the Revolution

November 6, 2027 to September 4, 2028

Loyalists will explore the complexity and international consequences of the American Revolution, particularly the entangled histories of the United States and Canada, by sharing and interpreting the stories of Americans — white, Black, and Indigenous — who did not support the Declaration of Independence and fought against American “rebels.” The exhibition will bring together objects, documents, and works of art from collections across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

EXPERIENCE THE REVOLUTION!

Explore the history of the American Revolution through the Museum’s rich slate of daytime and evening programs. The **Read the Revolution Speaker Series** brings celebrated authors and historians to the Museum for lively discussions of their work. The past comes to life in fun and engaging ways through the Museum’s indoor and outdoor **living history programs**. **AmRev Presents**, an evening program series, provides opportunities for deeper engagement with the Museum’s collections and exhibitions. **Gallery talks and tours** highlight key artifacts, people, and moments from the Revolution.

Use the QR code to learn more about our upcoming programs and exclusive events for Museum members!



Museum of the American Revolution (Brennighoff Collection)





101 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA
AmRevMuseum.org

