

**US Politics and Modern American History  
Schools Conference**

*We the People: Rights and Citizenship in Modern America*

Newcastle City Library, Newcastle Upon Tyne

October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11.00	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> Dr Patrick Andelic
11.15 – 12.00	<b>The ‘Circle of the “We”’: Who Gets to Be an American Citizen?</b> Prof. Brian Ward
12.00 – 12.45	<b>The Uphill Battle for Environmental Rights in the US</b> Dr. Elsa Devienne
12.45 – 13.45	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 14.30	<b>The 1960 Lunch-Counter Sit-Ins: Possibilities and Limits in Civil Rights</b> Dr. Ben Houston
14.30 – 15.00	<b>Studying American Studies in the UK</b> Dr. Patrick Andelic
15.00 – 15.45	<b>The US, the Vietnam War, and International Human Rights, 1965-1975</b> Prof. Barbara Keys
	Day End

## Speakers

**Patrick Andelic** is Assistant Professor of American History in Northumbria University's American Studies programme. His research focuses on American party politics during the late twentieth century, and particularly on liberalism and political institutions. He is the author of *Donkey Work: Congressional Democrats in Conservative America, 1974-1994* (University Press of Kansas, 2019). In 2022, he was a Visiting Scholar at the John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C.

**Elsa Devienne** is Assistant Professor of US History in Northumbria University's American Studies programme and a member of the executive board of the British Association of American Studies. A French native, she has lived and studied in New Hampshire, New York, California, and New Jersey. She is the author of *Sand Rush: The Revival of the Beach in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles* (Oxford University Press, 2024) which won the 2021 Willi Paul Adams Award given by the Organization of American Historians. Her greatest achievement to date is having lost (most of) her French accent when speaking English.

**Ben Houston** is Senior Lecturer in Modern US History at Newcastle University. His research focuses on the African American freedom struggle and the history of the post-1945 US. His first book, *The Nashville Way: Racial Etiquette and the Struggle for Social Justice in a Southern City* (University of Georgia Press, 2012) was awarded the Tennessee History Book Award and the Arthur Miller Centre First Book Prize. His next project draws from the oral histories collected during his time as director of the Remembering African American Pittsburgh (RAP) oral history project, a role he held before arriving at Newcastle.

**Barbara Keys** is professor of US history at Durham University. She is currently finishing a book about Henry Kissinger's legacy. Her 2014 book, *Reclaiming American Virtue: The Human Rights Revolution of the 1970s* (Harvard UP, 2014), offered an explanation of the rise of human rights in US foreign policy in the 1970s.

**Brian Ward** is Professor of American Studies at Northumbria University and a former chair of the British Association of American Studies (BAAS). He is a historian of the US South, the African American experience, and US popular music and radio. He is the author of 10 books, including works on radio and the civil rights movement, citizenship and identity in the nineteenth century South, and Martin Luther King's 1967 visit to Newcastle. His next book, *She Loves Y'All*, explores the relationship of the Beatles to the U.S. South in the 1960s. He is the recipient of numerous prizes, including the Organization of American Historians' James A. Rawley Prize for Best Book on US Race Relations, the Belmont Book Award for Best Book on Country Music, and the American Library Association's CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Award

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