

# **Pandemics, Public Health, and Statecraft in Twentieth-Century U.S. History**

*A two-day conference exploring the intersection between state  
development and contagious outbreaks.*

**July 4-5 2022, University College London**



Generously supported by the Royal Historical Society, the UCL  
Institute of Advanced Studies, and the UCL Institute of the Americas.



# Schedule:

## July 4:

*All panels and keynotes will take place at the Institute of Advanced Studies' Common Ground (see page six for a map of UCL).*

### **9:30-10:00am - Registration, Refreshments and Welcome**

### **10:00-11:30am - Panel Session 1: New Directions in the History of HIV/AIDS**

*Chair: Nic Ramos (Drexel University)*

**Tom Harper (Sheffield Hallam University): Exchange and Inadequacy: AIDS Policymaking in the U.S. and U.K., 1984-5**

**Nora Kassner (UC Santa Barbara): "Just a Normal Family": Queer Transracial Foster Placements and the Remaking of U.S. Family Policy**

### **11:30-11:45am - Tea and Coffee**

*Room: 105, Institute of the Americas*

### **11:45-1:15pm - Panel Session 2: Pandemics and the Politics of Health Reform**

*Chair: Stephen Colbrook (UCL)*

**Maura "Rosie" Poling (University of Cambridge): How the 1918 Influenza Outbreak Influenced American Attitudes Around Compulsory Health Insurance**

**Yifei Li (UCL): The Making of Entitled Consumers: Neoliberal Ideas in the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003**

**1:15-2:00pm - Lunch**

**2:00-3:30pm - Panel Session 3: Pandemics and the Carceral State**

*Chair: Jonathan Bell (UCL)*

Scott De Orio (independent scholar): **Fetishizing Ryan White: the Pedophilic Gaze and the Creation of a Hierarchy of People with HIV/AIDS**

Nic Ramos (Drexel University) and Alex Burnett (University of Michigan): **“One Out Gay Cop”: Gay Moderate Politics and Policing in Early AIDS Crisis Los Angeles**

Emily Hobson (University of Nevada, Reno): **“Fast Becoming a Warehouse’: AIDS, Prison Activism, and the History of the 1990s”**

**3:30-4:00pm - Tea and Coffee**

**4:00-5:30pm - Keynote: Beatrix Hoffman (Northern Illinois University), *The Statecraft of Mass Death: Essential Workers in US Pandemic Responses***

Beatrix Hoffman is Professor of History at Northern Illinois University. She is the author of *Health Care for Some: Rights and Rationing in the United States Since 1930* (Chicago University Press, 2012) and *The Wages of Sickness: The Politics of Health Insurance in Progressive America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015), among other publications.

## **July 5:**

*All panels and keynotes will take place at the Institute of Advanced Studies' Common Ground (see page six for a map of UCL).*

### **10:00-11:30am - Panel Session 4: The American State and Regimes of Disease Surveillance**

*Chair: Thomas Rath (UCL)*

**Alexis Bedolla (UNAM, Mexico City): A Genealogy of Global Disease Surveillance Technologies: U.S. Biosecurity within the WHO**

**Gwen D'Arcangelis (Skidmore College): U.S. Bio-imperialism During the War on Terror: From Bioterrorism Preparedness to Pandemic Preparedness**

### **11:30-11:45am - Tea and Coffee**

*Room: 105, Institute of the Americas*

### **11:45-1:15pm - Panel Session 5: The Cultural Politics of Pandemics**

*Chair: Gareth Davies (UCL)*

**Rona Cran (University of Birmingham): New York City Poetry and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic: 'The Unreconstructed Story'**

**Olga Thierbach-McLean (independent scholar): "Tough Enough to Beat the Virus": COVID-19 as a Staging Ground of American Masculinity**

**1:15-2:00pm - Lunch**

**2:00-3:30pm - Panel Session 6: Pandemics and the American State in Transnational Perspective**

*Chair: Beatrix Hoffman (Northern Illinois University)*

**Thomas Rath (UCL): Power and Ignorance: US Statecraft and Animal Disease in Postwar Mexico**

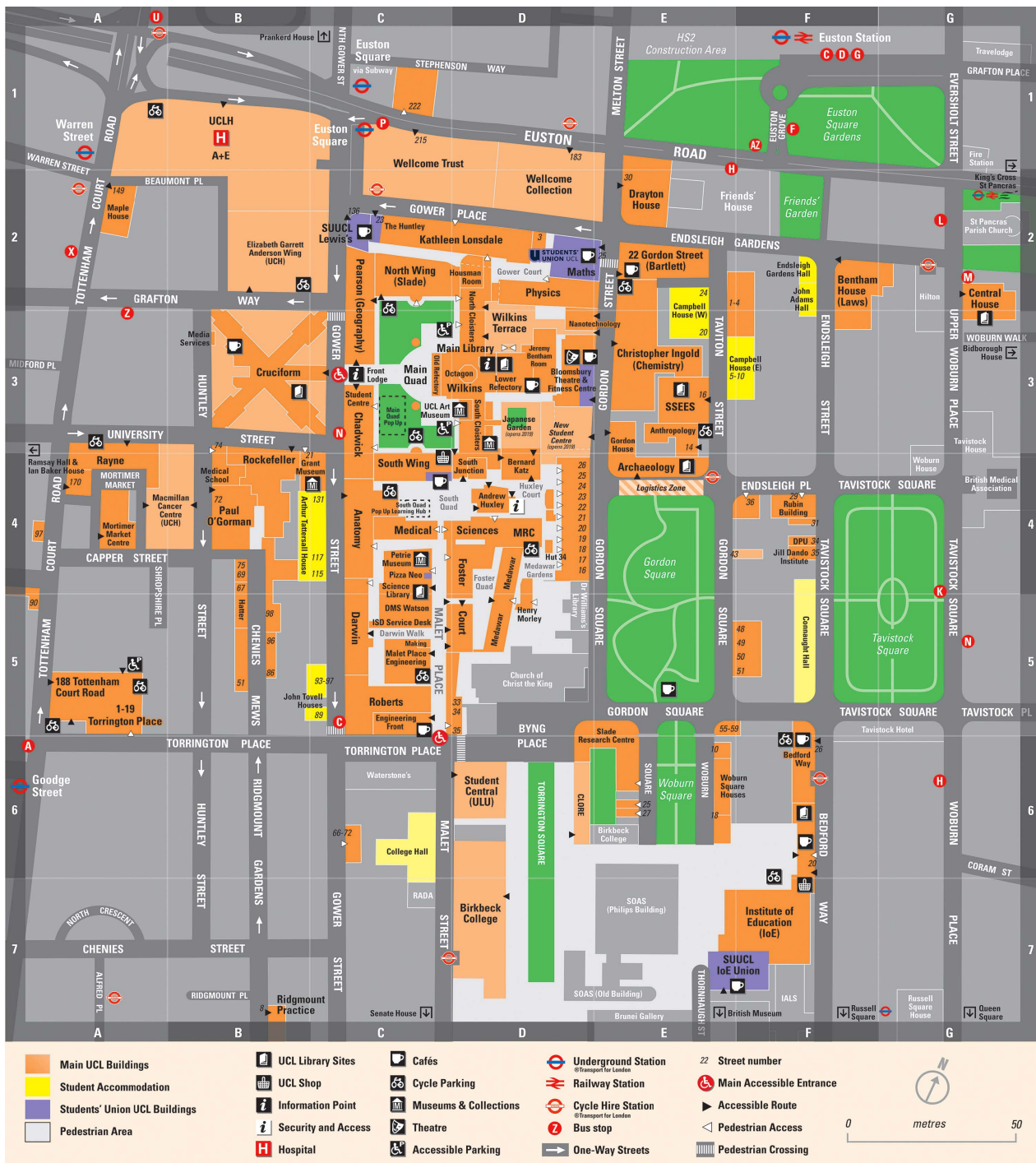
**Ilaria Di Gioia (Birmingham City University): Intergovernmental Conflicts in a Time of Pandemic: State and Municipality Power Struggles in the United States and Brazil**

**3:30-4:00pm - Tea and Coffee**

**4:00-5:30pm - Keynote: Gary Gerstle (University of Cambridge), Bringing the (Pandemic) State Back In**

Gary Gerstle is the Paul Mellon Professor of American History and Fellow of Sidney Sussex College at the University of Cambridge. He is the author of *The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: America and the World in the Free Market Era* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and *Liberty and Coercion: The Paradox of American Government from the Founding to the Present* (Princeton University Press, 2015), among other publications.

The conference will take place at UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies (South Wing, Wilkins Building, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT). It is based at the heart of UCL's Bloomsbury Campus (square 3D below):



For assistance in planning your visit to UCL please see: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/maps/publictransport/>

### **Accommodation:**

UCL is located in the heart of central London with easy access via public transport. The address is: Gower St, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 6BT.

The University of London also has a range of affordable accommodation options in halls of residence across London: <https://london.ac.uk/staycentral>

There are a number of local hotel chains including Premier Inn (Euston, Goodge Street, Holborn, St. Pancras are all close to the University): <https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/greater-london/london.html>

And there is also the Imperial hotel chain nearby: <https://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/en/imperial>