

Invitation from the School of History

Annual Nicolai Rubinstein Lecture in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History

What's the Big Idea?

Intellectual History and the Longue Durée

Professor David Armitage

Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History,
Harvard University



Thursday 29 March 2012 at 6:30pm

ArtsTwo Lecture Theatre,
ArtsTwo Building, Mile End Campus

In many realms of historical writing, big is back. Transnational history covers large expanses of space. “Deep history” treats huge stretches of time. There are even signs that intellectual historians are returning to the big picture after a long period of aversion and neglect. What are the reasons for this revival of long-range intellectual history? And how might it be rendered methodologically robust as well as historically compelling? The lecture proposes a model of *transtemporal history*, proceeding via *serial contextualism* to create a *history in ideas* spanning centuries, even millennia. Key examples come from work in progress on ideas of civil war from Rome to Iraq.

David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University, where he teaches intellectual history and international history. A prize-winning writer and teacher, he is the author or editor of twelve books, among them *The Ideological Origins of the British Empire* (2000), *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History* (2007) and *Foundations of Modern International Thought* (forthcoming). He is working on *Civil War: A History in Ideas*, an edition of John Locke’s colonial writings and a co-edited collection on Pacific History.

A reception will follow the lecture

Ticket Information

This event is free to attend, but you must book tickets online in advance if you wish to attend. Please click the button on the right and follow the instructions to make a booking. You will then be emailed an e-ticket and you should bring this with you on the day.

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Map & Directions

This event takes place at our Mile End Campus.
Please click on the icon below for the map and directions:



Mile End Campus



The nearest tube stations are Stepney Green and Mile End

ArtsTwo Lecture Theatre
ArtsTwo Building
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact the Events Office via events@qmul.ac.uk or telephone 020 7882 3477.