

Brad Simpson (History)

UConn Humanities Institute Fellows' Public Talk
MARCH 24, 2016 -- 4:30-6:00 PM
AUSTIN 301

“Reclaiming the ‘First Right:’ Self-determination and International Order in the Post-War World”



How important was the idea of self-determination to imaginings of international order in the aftermath of World War II? What did the term even mean? This talk will explore the bitter debates surrounding the extent and meaning of the idea of self-determination in the 1930s and 1940s. It will argue that contending visions of the US, Great Britain, anticolonial and nationalist movements around the world represented a form of claim-making about the scope of rights and sovereignty in the postwar international system.

Brad Simpson is associate professor of History and Asian Studies at UConn. He is the author of *Economists with Guns: Authoritarian Development and U.S.-Indonesian Relations, 1960-1968* (Stanford 2008). During his time at the Humanities Institute Brad is writing a global history of the idea of self-determination exploring its political, cultural and legal descent through post 1945 US foreign relations and international politics, to be published with Oxford University Press.