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Woody Hayes Speaker Series

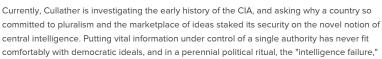
NICK CULLATHER

"Central Intelligence before the CIA"

Monday, March 02, 2015, 3:30PM - 5:00PM Mershon Center for International Security Studies 1501 Neil Ave. Columbus, OH 43201

Register for this event here.

Nick Cullather is a professor of history at the University of Indiana Bloomington and a historian of United States foreign relations, specializing in the history of intelligence, development, and nation-building. The United States uses aid, covert operations, diet, statistics, and technology to reconstruct the social reality of countries around the world, and Cullather is interested in these subtle mechanisms of power. His most recent book, *The Hungry World* (2010), explores the use of food as a tool of psychological warfare and regime change during the Cold War. Cullather's first book, *Illusions of Influence* (1994), described the process through which a former American colony negotiated its conditional independence. In the 1950s, the Central Intelligence Agency developed a capacity to replace unsuitable governments, elected or otherwise, as he shows in *Secret History* (2006).



Americans question and reaffirm the CIA compromise. His current project, First Line of Defense, follows this debate from 1947 to the present day.



"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," reads the inscription in the lobby of CIA headquarters in Langley. But how does one produce truth, what constitutes knowing, and who, exactly, is Ye? These questions preoccupied early theorists of "central intelligence," an idea that gave rise to an agency. This talk will examine the mid-century modernist ambition for a streamlined, rationalized flow of information that would remove the guesswork from foreign policy. The CIA is often seen as culminating an espionage tradition going back to Nathan Hale, but its intellectual origins have a closer kinship to Esperanto, IR theory, University Microfilms International, and other utopian schemes for comprehending a complex and violent world.

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Nick Cullather Professor of History Indiana University Bloomington

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