This workshop will explore the connections between America, liberalism (and liberal internationalism), and empire. Liberalism – as a body of ideas, interests, and practices – has clearly been on both sides of the great world-historical imperial projects. Liberal imperialism is well established as a potent ingredient and source of legitimation in the 19th and 20th century Western global expansion. But liberalism and liberal internationalism have been on both sides of the pursuit of empire – they are ideas and agendas that have propelled Western imperial projects and also propelled Western (particularly American) anti-imperial visions and actions. The papers in this workshop will probe the theoretical and historical facets of these issues.

12:30- 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 3 p.m. Panel One

Beate Jahn, “Liberal Internationalism and the Problem of Empire”

Tony Smith, “Woodrow Wilson, American Liberalism, and Empire”

Discussants: Jeremy Adelman, Atul Kohli, John Mearsheimer

3:30- 5 p.m. Panel Two

David Hendrickson, “Liberal Hegemony, Illiberal Empire: America’s Role in the World Since 1990”

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, “America and the Globalization of the Westphalian State System: The Imperial ‘Old West’ Versus the Anti-Imperial ‘New West’”

Discussants: Jeremy Adelman, Atul Kohli, and John Mearsheimer