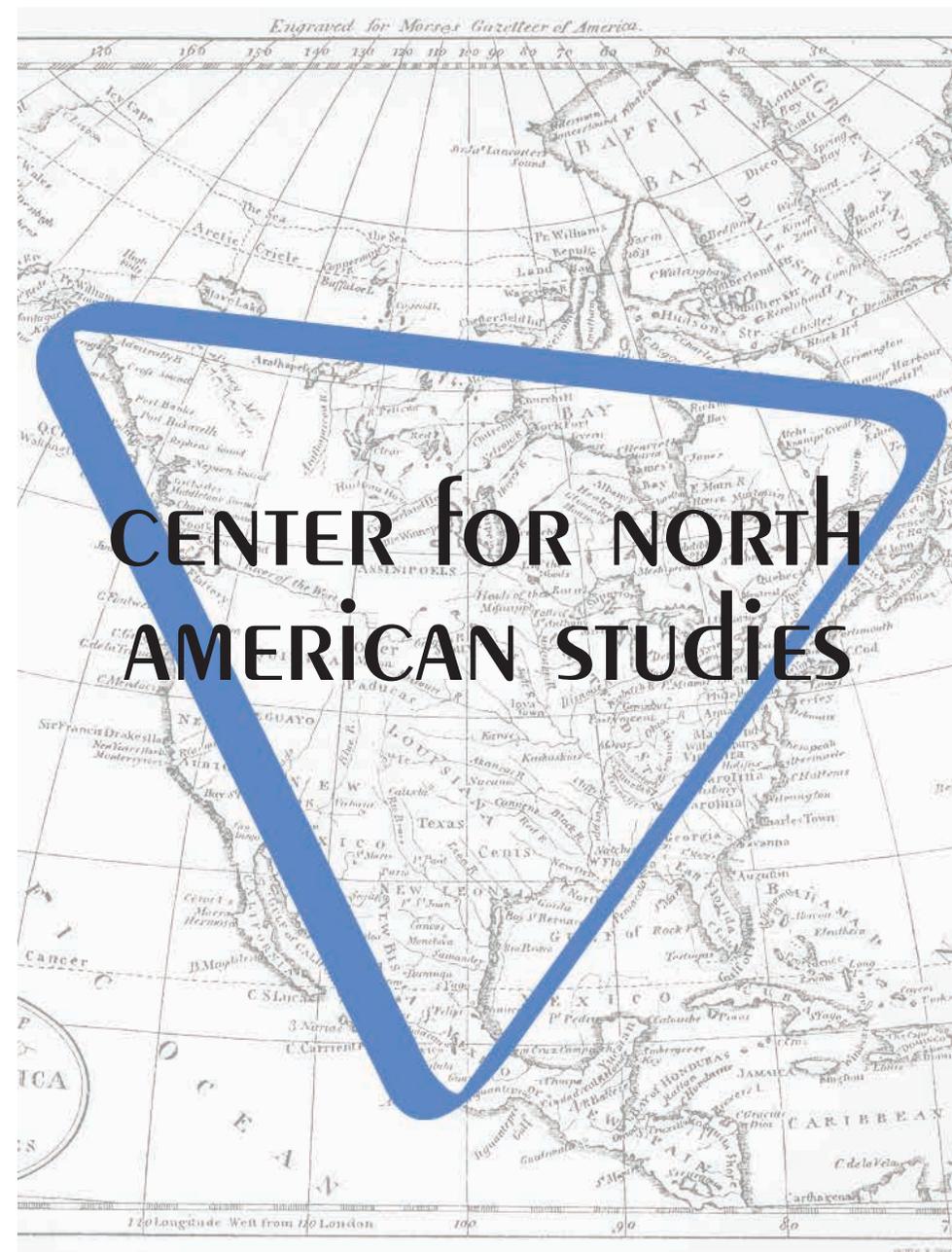




The "American Night" organized on election night in 2008.



## THIRTY YEARS OF NORTH AMERICAN STUDIES IN FRANCE

**T**he **Center for North American Studies** (CENA), an affiliate of L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS, the School of Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences) was **founded in 1980** to remedy the lack of academic studies of North America in France. Despite pioneering efforts in some English departments and the creation of the first long-term chair in North American history at the Sorbonne in 1967, there was significant disparity between the importance of the USA in the contemporary world and the weakness of North American studies in France.

Over the last thirty years, especially since **the election of a permanent full professor, Jean Heffer, in 1984**, CENA has become **one of France and Europe's leading institutions for North American scholarship**. It has established and maintained links and partnerships with many French, European and North American universities and research centers. Its members are regularly invited to serve as visiting research fellows or professors at leading North American universities, and their books are published in the USA and in Canada. The team is internationally distinguished: several of its former or present members have received a **Willi Paul Adams Award** given by the OAH for best book on American history published in a foreign language, a **David Thelen Award** for best foreign article; or the **Canada Prize in the Humanities and Social Sciences**.

CENA is dedicated to all aspects of North American history and culture with a national or transnational approach. Since its founding, its members have shared a **common scientific ambition**. They produce innovative works that cut across historiographical barriers; combine empirical findings with theoretical insights; investigate new topics; draw on methods from all the social sciences; and, finally, adopt comparative perspectives between Canada and the United States, and between North America and other areas of the world. They have developed a strong interest in Atlantic and hemispheric history.

## LIBRARY

**C**ENA has built a **library specializing in North American history and culture** with support from CNRS and EHESS. Today, the library holds more than **1,500 titles focusing on research works that are not readily available elsewhere in France**. Its policy of annual acquisitions reflects the research interests of its members: economic history; the history of the state; migration studies; urban studies; slavery and colonization; Atlantic history; ethnohistory; ethnicity and race studies; the cultural anthropology of music; and the history and anthropology of natural disasters. Although **history** is the main discipline, **anthropology and sociology** are well represented. Three kinds of titles are available: reference works, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, and archival and bibliographical guides; **general works and specialized monographs**; and **Master's theses and Ph.D. dissertations**.



The library is located in room 12, 105 blvd Raspail, 75006 Paris. It is open to the public by appointment only. The books are available on open shelves and must be consulted onsite. The catalog is accessible on line at: <http://www.ehess.fr/cena/bibli/>

## MASTER'S PROGRAM

In the French academic system, all students must earn a Master's degree in order to be accepted into a Ph.D. program. Within the History major of the Master's Program in Social Sciences at EHESS, CENA offers a **structured curriculum in North American history** that includes a **reading seminar** throughout the first year of the two-year program. Conceived as an advanced-level introduction to the most important issues and debates in North American history and historiography, it aims to confront its students with a variety of historical interpretations and to encourage them to develop critical points of view.



In addition to regular individual meetings with their advisors, students benefit from weekly **tutorials in which all CENA professors and students participate**. Master's students are also included in the **graduate student seminar**.

During their second year, Master's students write a **one-hundred page thesis** that develops the topic of their proposed Ph.D. dissertation. The thesis must include a clearly presented research problem, a critical synthesis of existing scholarship, and a plan for carrying out the research. At this stage,

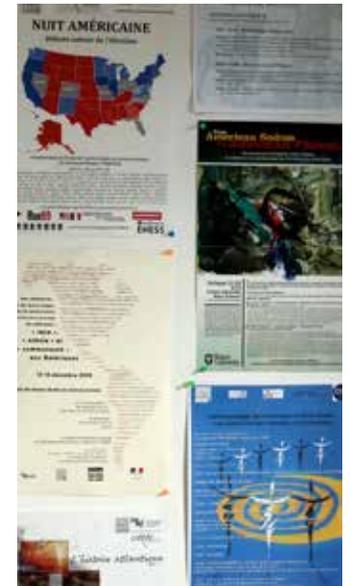


all students at CENA have the opportunity to undertake a **research trip to North America** to begin working in the most relevant archives and libraries.

## CENA AND MONDES AMÉRICAINS

In 2001, CENA, as a research center affiliated with EHESS, entered into **partnership with the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)**. Since January 1, 2006, CENA has been part of a larger research unit jointly managed and funded by EHESS and CNRS, called **Mondes Américains (American Worlds)**. The only CNRS research unit in history and anthropology that covers all of the Americas, Mondes Américains brings together with CENA four additional research centers devoted to the Caribbean and Latin America: CERMA and CRBC at EHESS; CRALMI at the University of Paris 1; and ESNA at the University of Paris Ouest. This collaboration makes Mondes Américains a **leading research institution in the developing field of hemispheric history**. It has a wide range of trans-American historical and anthropological research interests that are developed through seminars, conferences, symposia, and lecture series. For further information, see Mondes Américains's website: <http://mondes-americains.ehess.fr/>

For 2014-2018, Mondes Américains's scientific project combines **three methodological priorities: interdisciplinarity** between anthropology and history; **reflexivity** over the categories and scales of analysis we use; and **comparison** among the various American societies of the early modern and modern periods, and between the Americas and the rest of the world. A **transversal approach across periods, cultural areas, fields and disciplines** characterizes our four collective investigations: *métissage* or *mestizaje* and Americanization as a forerunner for globalization; imperial social formations; the historicity of the state and the evolving relationship between state and civil society; and social and ethnic identities and movements.



## THE NORTH AMERICANIST TEAM

**C**ENA is both a **teaching and research center and a facility for graduate and postgraduate students**. At present, it includes approximately ten professors and researchers from EHESS, CNRS, and various universities; more than fifteen Ph.D. students; and many associate members who regularly collaborate through the team's research programs and conferences. Thanks to the very important EHESS program of invitations to foreign visitors, CENA hosts one or more **visiting professors of North American studies** every year.

Full and associate members of CENA form a **national and international network** of professors, researchers, and graduate students who actively participate in North Americanist scientific organizations and professional associations in Europe and in North America, including the Fulbright Commission; the Institute of the Americas; correspondents of the Organization of American Historians and the *Journal of American History* in the USA and the *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française* in Canada.



The **scientific development and professional training of graduate students constitutes one of CENA's top priorities**. Graduate students are systematically included in all its research activities. Thanks to CENA's networks they are also encouraged to participate in both European and North American academic life. Most of its graduate students receive research grants, such as those offered by the Fulbright Commission or the Lurcy Trust, that allow them to undertake long periods of research in the USA or in Canada.

## RESEARCH SEMINARS

**T**he main goal of the CENA is to stimulate teaching and research on North America. The approach is based on **teaching research through doing research**; that is, graduate students are taught how to do research by professors presenting their work in progress in their research seminars, a principle that is as the heart of the scientific and pedagogical philosophy of EHESS. Accordingly, CENA offers **several seminars on a broad range of topics and with multiple approaches closely related to the individual and collective research** carried out by its members. The seminars are open to all graduate students and auditors of EHESS.



CENA also organizes a monthly **collective research seminar** where all its professors, researchers, graduate students and guests present their work in progress.

In addition, CENA's **graduate students** coordinate their own bi-monthly collective seminar.

All seminars take place in room 12, on the 4th floor of 105 blvd Raspail, 75006 Paris. More details on seminars can be found at: <http://www.ehess.fr/cena/seminaires/>