

International Conference

Enemy : Contemporary Societies and Domestic Threats

Historical and Sociological Perspectives

Université Paris Cité

December 1st & 2nd, 2022

This colloquium proposes to examine, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the relationship of contemporary societies to internal threats. What happens when individuals, groups, or segments of the population threaten to use violence, or in actuality attack other groups or the State ? What happens when the state itself "goes into battle" by targeting groups and confronting them as "enemies" ? This conference therefore proposes to investigate a particular type of antagonistic configuration that we will understand as bounded, on the one hand, by that moment when disagreement overflows the existing framework of political expression and resolution of disputes ; and, on the other hand, by civil war, when violence is unleashed and the State, abandoning or losing its position as a third party in the conflict, becomes a stake in the struggle.

This type of configuration covers a large number of extremely diverse historical experiences, and is all the more difficult to describe since their qualifications are almost always themselves issues of struggle between the actors involved. But it is precisely the ambition of this conference to bring these situations closer together, because of what they involve: these "intermediate" configurations of domestic conflict, which have been poorly objectified until now, cover most of the historical situations that have challenged the political frameworks of contemporary societies. There is indeed no lack of figures which have embodied the domestic enemy over the last two centuries – radical political opponents ; revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries ; revolting peasants or rural bandits ; slaves or freedmen ; rebellious *indigènes* or nationalist activists ; natives of a foreign power or hyphenated citizens ; ethnic and religious minorities ; organized criminals and terrorists.

The objective is to gather investigations devoted to sequences of this type – of varying duration, scope and intensity of conflict – in order to interrogate these situations of domestic hostility , and particularly 1) the circumstances and ways in which they take shape, the social and political fractures to which they are articulated, and the mechanisms by which conflict is progressively radicalized; 2) the transformations they generate in social relations, political practices, within institutions and in the law; and 3) what remains, once the context calms down, once the threat dissolves, in other words: when the critical conjuncture, at least momentarily, closes.



Terms of submission:

This colloquium is open to different fields of research in historical and social sciences. Proposals for papers may concern a wide variety of situations since the late XVIIIth Century.

Proposals for papers (approximately 500 words, excluding bibliography) should be sent by August 31, 2022, along with a title and a short presentation of the author (status, university or organization) to the following address: alexandre.rios-bordes@u-paris.fr.

The answers of the scientific committee will be communicated no later than September 30, 2022.

Scientific Committee :

- Laurent Bonnelli (University of Nanterre, USSP)
- Maud Chirio (University Gustave Eiffel, LACP)
- Marina Franco (Universidad Nacional de San Martin, IDAES-UNSAM)
- Dominique Linhardt (Cnrs, LIER-FYT)
- Alexandre Rios-Bordes (Université Paris Cité, ICT)

This colloquium is part of the collective research program "Enemies within – A History of the Government of the Threat (XIXth-XXIst century)", financed by the Emergences - City of Paris program (2022-2025), hosted by the Université Paris Cité.

