**Sectionalism, the American South, and the History of U.S. Foreign Policy**

# May 13 to May 17, 2019, Southwest University, Chongqing

Participants in this weeklong seminar will think broadly about the history of the American South and will give particular attention to how the South has engaged the world beyond

U.S. borders and affected U.S. foreign policy.

The seminar will include presentations by the seminar leader but will also heavily emphasize discussion of the assigned articles and book chapters and the primary sources. Reading for each day should be completed by each participant IN ADVANCE to make discussion possible. For some discussions, participants will be divided into small groups to encourage participation and to allow for everyone to become well acquainted. One session will be devote to careful consideration of how to prepare a scholarly article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

# Monday, May 13

The seminar will devote the first day to considering the history and present shape of southern history as a field of study. Why do we study the South? What and where is the South? What do we mean by sectionalism? How does the South compare with other parts of America? Readings and discussion will address the significance of regions in America, competing definitions of the South, and the origins and evolution of southern history as a field.

# Tuesday, May 14

Today’s theme is the long-term links among plantation agriculture, race, and American empire. How did slaveholders think about the world? What role did international considerations play in the American Civil War? How did race, sharecropping, and the legacy of slavery continue to affect America’s engagement with the rest of the world in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

# Wednesday, May 15

Today we will consider segregation and the civil rights movement in national and international perspective, including both political and economic aspects of the problem.

# Thursday, May 16

After World War II, southern politics continued to be led by conservative white people, but there was a realignment of conservatives’ political allegiance as they moved from the Democratic Party to the Republican Party. We will discuss the role of the South in the rise of the political Right in American politics since the mid-twentieth century. The role of evangelical religion in that process will also be discussed, along with international dimensions of southern political conservatism.

# Friday, May 17

Why is the South still important in U.S. foreign relations and in the study of U.S. history? Is the region still distinctive? We will consider international migration, global climate change, and the fossil fuel industry, among other topics. What are the most important questions emerging in the study of southern history?