

ranks that occurred when Michel Rocard, a key Second Left figure, maintained on the eve of parliamentary elections in 1978 that a socialist government would invariably preserve the free market — contributed to Foucault's outlook will be particularly emphasized.

**Biography:** I earned my doctorate at New York University, where I defended a dissertation entitled “Society Incarnate: Association, Society, and Religion in French Political Thought, 1825-1912.” It examines the ways in which nineteenth-century republican and socialist thinkers drew upon religious discourse to speculate about how a post-corporate and post-revolutionary society might foster robust social bonds. Debates about religion, I argue, become an important terrain for assessing the respective weight a modern political order should assign to the claims of “individualism” as opposed to those of “society.” In addition to nineteenth-century political philosophy, I am also interested in recent French political thought. In particular, I am working on a project that examines the role played by Michel Foucault played in ushering in the “liberal turn” in French thought during the 1970s.

### **Priscilla Roberts (Panel 18)**

Hong Kong University

#### **America, For and Against: European Faultlines in the Twentieth Century**

This paper will focus upon European elite views of the United States during the first half of the twentieth century, especially attitudes towards the possible involvement of the United States in international affairs. It will look particularly at British elites, but where possible will also bring in significant figures from other European countries. The paper will begin by discussing the British “Round Table Group” of the early twentieth century, the men often known as Lord Milner’s “kindergarten,” several of whom saw a potential alliance with the United States as the most feasible solution for keeping the British empire a strong power. It will turn to the impact of World War I upon this kind of thinking in Britain and beyond, especially the

role of the inter-Allied wartime cooperative institutions in helping to make this viewpoint popular in elite Anglophile circles in the United States, Britain, and to some degree in Europe. Jean Monnet, who was part of the wartime bureaucracy, was very much affected by the experience, which contributed to his long-time support for European unity, ideally in collaboration with the United States. British propaganda efforts to win over the United States will also feature prominently: these ranged from quiet diplomacy to the spy fiction of John Buchan, in which a cast of characters drawn from the various parts of the British empire and the United States battled shoulder to shoulder to maintain civilization and stability on a global scale. The paper will then consider how these themes played out later in the twentieth century, especially in terms of conflicting versions of European unity (with or without the United States and/or Britain) and the Anglo-American special relationship. It is worth noting, for example, that Leo Amery, a founding kindergarten member and devotee of the British Empire, had little time for the United States and after 1945 supported European unity in the hopes that this would enable the countries of Western Europe to resist US pressure. Charles de Gaulle’s vision of the European Economic Community was rather similar — as, for that matter, was Edward Heath’s. This was despite the fact that the American government — where Monnet had many powerful long-time friends — largely supported European unity as a means. The entire paper is implicitly a commentary on Geir Lundestad’s thesis that US involvement in twentieth-century European affairs represented an “empire by invitation.” Ultimately, it suggests that European faultlines on the potential role of the United States in Europe were far from clear cut, representing quite a range of different positions.

**Biography:** Priscilla Roberts is an associate professor of history and honorary director of the Centre of American Studies at the University of Hong Kong. She read history at King’s College, Cambridge, where she also earned her doctorate in history. She has