

The Ph.D. Program in History Presents

## The 10th Annual John Patrick Diggins Memorial Lecture

### Guns, Germs, and Wood: The Landscape of U.S. Settler Colonialism

March 29, 2023 from 6:30- 8:30 pm  
William P. Kelly Skylight Room (9100)  
CUNY Graduate Center, 365 5th Ave., NY, NY  
RSVP to [history@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:history@gc.cuny.edu)



In the nineteenth century, settlers spread across North America with astonishing speed, dislodging Native peoples as they did. In this lecture, Daniel Immerwahr explores the environmental dimension of that. North America was (and is) unusual for its bounty of timber; the present-day United States is where the world's tallest, oldest, and largest trees all grow. This timber, Immerwahr argues, facilitated settler colonialism in two important ways. It attracted settlers and subsidized their activities, allowing them to build up their habitations quickly and cheaply. And it allowed them to not just evacuate but annihilate Native towns, with torches.



*Daniel Immerwahr, professor of  
U.S. and global history  
at Northwestern University, is the  
author of  
How to Hide an Empire: A History  
of the Greater United States*

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