

S W E D I S H
COLLEGIUM
for ADVANCED STUDY

Lecture

MAX M. EDLING

Fellow, SCAS.
Reader in Early American History, King's College London

1787: Birth of the American Empire

Thursday, 27 October, 6:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala

The lecture will be followed by a reception. Prior registration is required.
Please contact rsvp@swedishcollegium.se no later than 21 October to sign up for the event.



ABOUT MAX EDLING

Max Edling is an expert on the American founding and state-building in the early United States. He holds Ph.Ds in History from the University of Cambridge and in Political Science from Stockholm University. Before his move to King's College London, Edling taught at Uppsala University, where he was awarded the Docent degree in History in 2012. He has held visiting appointments at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, the Stanford Humanities Center, and the École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris.

Edling is the author of two books: *A Revolution in Favor of Government: Origins of the U.S. Constitution and the Making of the American State* (2003) and *A Hercules in the Cradle: War, Money, and the American State, 1783–1867* (2014), which won the American Society for Legal History's John Phillip Reid Book Award. In his current work, Edling has returned to the founding, the subject of his first book, to apply a 'unionist' or 'internationalist' perspective to explain the genesis of the Constitution. He is also studying the American federal union as a 'composite' state similar to the empires of early modern Europe in order to develop a greater sensitivity to the jurisdictional or spatial complexities of the early United States.

At SCAS, Edling intends to continue his research into the origins and nature of the early American polity.

ABSTRACT

The ideological identity of the American founding has always been of central concern to historians of the United States. In recent decades, scholarship has made the notion that the Revolution and the adoption of the Constitution represent milestones in the global history of liberal democracy increasingly untenable. Yet there is very little consensus on how we should correctly interpret the outcome of these events. Based on the nation's organic laws and contemporary law treatises, my lecture will suggest that the American founding can be seen as the creation of a complex composite polity characterized by diversity and hierarchy in the formal ordering of territory and inhabitants.