The Liberal Arts Program presents

Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series

“Counting Flags, Making Maps: Decolonization and the Postwar World(s)"

Dr. Jason Christopher Parker

16 Feb 2012
12-1:30 pm
LH 144
Light Lunch will be served

ABSTRACT INFO: The overlapping timelines of postwar decolonization and the Cold War, with the former starting earlier and culminating as the latter entered its final phase, create a fascinating interrelationship. Decolonization entailed not just the transfer of political and juridical sovereignty but also an intellectual and cultural process that dethroned European assertions and affirmed nationalist self-rule— and it began, in fits and starts and in many places, well before the Cold War did, even if the Cold War in many of those places shaped how decolonization would end. The ultimate dimensions of the decolonization process— already underway by the time of the Cold War, which first slowed and then sped it along— make it a larger and longer-running twentieth-century story than was the superpower conflict.

BIO: Jason Parker is associate professor of history at Texas A&M University. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the University of Florida, where he studied under Bob McMahon. After teaching for four years at West Virginia University, he joined the history department at Texas A&M in 2006. He is the author of _Brother's Keeper: The United States, Race, and Empire in the British Caribbean, 1937-1962 (Oxford, 2008), which was awarded SHAFR’s Bernath Book Prize. He has also published articles in the “Journal of American History”, “Diplomatic History”, the “Journal of African American History”, and the “International History Review”. His two current projects are an analysis of U.S. Cold War public diplomacy in the “Third World,” and a comparative study of postwar federations. These projects have been supported by research fellowships from the Truman Library Institute, the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Mershon Center at Ohio State University, and the Mellon Foundation’s International Seminar on Decolonization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Khadija ElCadi
Khadija.elcadi@qatar.tamu.edu
Phone: 4423.0145