

New York University, Center for the United States and the Cold War
Alger Hiss and History, Inaugural Conference, April 5, 2007
Carol Mandel

Good morning. I'm Carol Mandel, I'm the Dean of the Division of Libraries here at New York University, and I am absolutely delighted to be welcoming you to this program, "Alger Hiss and History."

This is the inaugural conference of a new center here at NYU based in the library, Tamiment Library, the Center for the United States and the Cold War, and we're very excited about this event, and the kind of scholarship that it demonstrates and the kind of scholarship that we know is going to be a mark of the Center for the United States and the Cold War. As with everything in good scholarship and in a university, this is a collaborative event. The center itself has co-directors, Mike Nash, right here, the head of the Tamiment Library, and Professor Marilyn Young, she's raising her hand, and you'll meet her later, who is Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Hi Marilyn!

We also have cosponsors for today's event and we thank the Harvard Law School and David Warrington for his work because of course -- well, you'll find out what their role has been -- and King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center here at NYU. So thank you all who have helped to participate in this.

Now the Cold War period is really not well understood even for those of us who've lived through it. In fact, probably harder to understand in some ways, and that's about to change because Marilyn and Mike are going to foster scholarship and work and interest that's going to shed new light and understanding on what we've been doing, and you'll see -- it's outside, where the Schedule of Events of the Center is located. Make sure you pick this up, make sure you

New York University, Center for the United States and the Cold War
Alger Hiss and History, Inaugural Conference, April 5, 2007
Carol Mandel

attend every event because this is really going to be an interesting series and this will continue.

One of the things the Center does is sponsor fellowships, and we have right now our first two center fellows working in Tamiment doing research. Are they here today? Jennifer Luff of William and Mary and Ani Mukherji of Brown are going to be presenting their work later this Spring at seminars, and you'll see them on the Calendar.

Of course, research, like the work that our fellows are doing requires primary source material and that's why we're so excited that the Tamiment Library is able to support this work. I hope you've been reading in the press good and bad, whatever they want to say. The fact is, the incredible Communist Party Archive is only the most recent of the rich collections that has come to the Tamiment Library and we are really looking forward to being able to process that collection and open it up to scholars. So, that's just one example of the many archives -- it's a big one, a big example -- of the many archives that we have for work. So we're looking forward to the work that everyone is going to be doing, and let's get this program started. I'm going to introduce you to Michael Nash who is the head of, as I said, our Tamiment Library. Mike is a librarian, an archivist, a scholar. He has a PhD in American history as well as degrees in library and archival studies. His writings and scholarship span both history and his archival professional work, and most recently, he's the -- and important for this program -- the co-editor with David Warrington, of the Microfilm Collection of the Papers of Alger Hiss, and really it's to him and to David that we owe our ability to have today's program. So thank you very much, and Mike come on up. [APPLAUSE]