



Center for the Study of  
Force and Diplomacy  
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY®

Presents

**Olivier Burtin**

On

**“World War II and the Re-Invention of the  
American Legion, 1940-1945”**



Tuesday, February 24, 2015

3:30 PM

Gladfelter Hall,  
Weigley Room (914)

By focusing on the internal operations of the American Legion during World War II, Olivier Burton's talk brings to light an entirely forgotten episode in U.S history. It shows that the Legion, created in 1919 by and (only) for veterans of the Great War, opened itself to the new generation of World War II veterans after a contentious debate within its membership. It is in that light, Burton argues, that we need to see the landmark piece of legislation known as the "G.I. Bill" of 1944: as the crowning achievement of a multi-faceted recruitment campaign meant to entice the new generation to join the old—in other words, as the symbol of the re-invention of the American Legion.

Olivier Burtin is a fourth-year graduate student in History at Princeton University. He holds a Master's Degree in History from Princeton and from the Institut d'études politiques in Paris.

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